

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2022

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 1, 2022. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Hope, and other staff. County Attorney Spencer Lee participated via teleconference and County Clerk Jawahn Ware participated remotely. The public and representatives of the media participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the July 11th Regular Meeting and the July 11th Work Session.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Charles Ruis, Director of the Southwest Georgia District for the Department of Public Health, to provide information on monkeypox. Dr. Ruis thanked the Commission for their support in the community. He also said that monkeypox was primarily a disease of the skin that is spread by skin-to-skin contact. He added that there is an antiviral for severe monkeypox available and contrasted the difference between monkey pox and covid. Commissioner Jones requested pictures to identify monkeypox be sent to the Commission.

The Chairman recognized James Morgan, County Extension Coordinator, to update the Commission with the quarterly report. Mr. Morgan shared a Farm Gate survey handout and mentioned that this was the value of agriculture in our County. He shared the assessed value of \$65,544,098.68 and mentioned that pecans were the bulk of our survey value. He also said that they have two vacancies for staff positions in his office that he is trying to fill.

The Chairman recognized William Wright, the representative for AFRAM Tech, Inc. to speak on his concerns about vague issues. Chairman Cohilas clarified for the public, based upon Mr. Wright's statements that no one is paid \$600/hr by the County.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase one 2022 Ford Police Interceptor in the amount of \$38,201 and one 2022 Ford Police Responder in the amount of \$37,951 from State Contract holder, Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) for a total expenditure of \$76,152. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Deputy

Chief Terron Hayes, Captain Ken Faust and City of Albany Buyer Corey Gamble were present. Mr. Addison said he recommended approval.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the service agreement renewal by the County Administrator with Ambulance Medical Billing (AMB), (Paducah, Kentucky) for EMS billing.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-035a is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND  
EXECUTION OF THE JUNE 27, 2022 AMB SERVICE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY EMS AND CREDIT BUREAU  
SYSTEMS, INC., D/B/A AMBULANCE MEDICAL BILLING;  
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN  
CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration the submittal of a letter of support from the Chairman to the Judicial Council of Georgia for a fourth Superior Court Judge for the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Mr. McCoy said that the request is for Judge Lockette and he is asking for a letter of support that is due by August 3, 2022. If approved, the County will receive a new Superior Court Judge, Public Defender, District Attorney, Judicial Assistant and Staff Attorney and the State will fund all of the listed positions.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Chairman Cohilas clarified that the County only has discretion in writing the letter of support. Mr. McCoy said that the Judicial Circuit has made Dougherty County eligible due to the high level of cases in our area. The Chairman said that we will move forward with supporting the letter but requested for Judge Lockette to present at the next meeting and address the questions of the Board. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gray.

The Chairman called for consideration to adopt a resolution filing for the execution of an intergovernmental agreement and calling for the imposition of SPLOST VIII and apportioning the estimated \$100 million in projected SPLOST proceeds over a six-year period at 36/64 between Dougherty County and the City of Albany. County Administrator Michael McCoy and County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed. Mr. McCoy said that he recommended approval and said that the County is on a time-sensitive schedule which makes action vital. He added that action today would be based on SPLOST law and recommended that we move forward with the

36/64 split which means 36% will go to the County and 64% will go to the City. If approved, the City of Albany will have to react and move forward to send a letter to the Secretary of State. If not, we have two options as follows:

1. Dougherty County can move forward without an intergovernmental agreement and cap a 5-year collection with the projection of \$83 million as opposed to a 6-year collection of \$100 million or more.
2. Dougherty County can choose from scenario A 36/64 where 36% will go to Dougherty County and 64 will go to the City with no agreement or Scenario B 44/56 where 44% will go to Dougherty County and 56% will go to the City of Albany with no agreement.

Mr. Addison provided an overview of the SPLOST VIII summary table. Chairman Cohilas provided information about the legislature insight for Tier 1 projects. He added that we will have enough time to make a decision if the City chooses not to accept our offer by calling a Special Called Meeting. Attorney Lee explained how important it is for the citizens to vote for SPLOST. Chairman Cohilas thanked Mr. McCoy, Attorney Shalishali, Attorney Lee and Mr. Addison for all of their hard work done throughout this process. Commissioner Gaines suggested that we do a proportional reduction in some of the level 2 projects. Commissioner Jones asked if the City Manager and County Administrator could meet and negotiate.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 22-035b is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE CITY OF ALBANY; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed millage rate for advertising. The final adoption of the 2022 rate will be set on August 29, 2022. Public Hearings will be held on August 15, 2022 (10 am and 6 pm) and August 29th (10 am). Commissioner Newsome provided a recommendation on behalf of the Finance Committee and Mr. Wall to advertise at a 3.5 millage rate. The Chairman confirmed that the advertisements will reflect 22.87% Countywide and .23% in the Special Service District.

The Board recessed from 11:53 am-11:57 am.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed with four ayes and three nays by Commissioners Edwards, Gaines and Johnson.

Attorney Shalishali addressed Commissioner Gaines' earlier concern by sharing that the Judicial Council's primary factor in determining a need for an additional judgeship is based upon the docket level of the judge despite the population. Commissioner Johnson asked for an update from the Sheriff's Office pertaining to the jail's most recent death case. Chairman Cohilas suggested that an email be sent to update the Board to prevent an impact on potential litigation. Commissioner Johnson said that he would forego the request. Commissioner Edwards asked if inmate labor could be used again to assist Public Works and the Chairman asked Mr. McCoy to get more information. Commissioner Gray thanked the staff for looking at the citizens' best interest regarding the millage rate and SPLOST information. Chairman Cohilas said that he wanted to extend thanks to the Commission for all the work that has been completed.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

---

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

COUNTY CLERK