

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 05, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 05, 2019. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, other staff and representatives of the media.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Johnson, the Chairman called for approval of the July 1 Regular Meeting and July 8 Work Session Minutes.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for the proposed tax increase of 0.59% for the County-Wide digest and the proposed tax increase of 0.13% for the Special Services digest. The millage rates remain the same as last year. The County-Wide millage rate is 15.569 and the Special Services millage rate is 9.1730. There being no one of support for or opposition to the proposed tax public hearing, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairman recognized citizen George Carter present in regards to the concern of grass cutting in East Albany. Mr. McCoy said that the area was a state right of way and this was the first complaint that had been received since allocated funds was set aside in the budget; however, the County would take action.

The Chairman recognized citizen Bruce Capps present to readdress his concerns in reference to raffling off a semi-automatic rifle in a Boys Scout of America fundraiser. He wanted the Commission to recognize this concern as a topic of public safety. Since he spoke to the Board in July, there had been 32 mass public shootings and asked the Commission to request the event sponsors to ask the Boy Scouts to remove the rifle from the auction as a fundraiser. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Capps to give him a copy of the letter to send to the Hospital Authority on his behalf.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the proposal to replace and install a HVAC system for the County owned building located at 1705 W Oakridge Dr. (the Humane Society facility) in the amount of \$155,113 to the U.S. General Service Administration (GSA) Contract holder, Johnson Controls (Albany, GA), subject to the execution by the County Administrator. Funding is available in SPLOST VII- Animal Control Shelter Improvements.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution No. 19-040 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A PROPOSAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$155,113.00 FROM JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A HVAC SYSTEM AT 1705 WEST OAKRIDGE DRIVE (HUMANE SOCIETY BUILDING); REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the transfer of \$166,209.42 from the Fund Balance of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to the Special Services District Fund for the purpose of paying the retainage payment to Ceres.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the retainage payment to Ceres Environmental Services in the amount of \$166,209.42 for services rendered for debris removal and disposal.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the annual Agreement with Turner Job Corps Center and Dougherty County outlining the assistance of the Dougherty County Police Department in performing law enforcement duties.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution No. 19-041 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURNER JOB CORPS CENTER AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING A POSITIVE AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP RELATIVE TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS ON THE JOB CORPS GROUNDS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the acceptance of the proposed TSPLOST Project Priorities & Timeline.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the acceptance of the proposed County Parks Improvements to the Robert Cross Walking Trail, Elliott Park and Pine Glen Park in the amount of \$265,546. Funding is available in SPLOST VI and SPLOST VII – County Park & Equipment Improvements.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Hudgins seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards said that our subcommittees were underutilized and would like information presented to subcommittees prior to coming to the Board because he wanted to have more input. He added that staff does not run the government, but wanted more information provided before the presentation in a Work Session. Chairman Cohilas shared that there was some value of the subcommittees and that our Board was efficient enough to address them together as a team. Commissioner Gaines suggested that at the beginning of the year, the Chairman of the committees determine what issues they would like to discuss. It was decided that this topic would be discussed at the upcoming retreat. The motion pertaining to the park improvements passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution requesting the Albany-Dougherty Voter Registration and Election Board to issue the call and conduct an election on the question for approval of sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises on Sundays between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Edwards. Resolution No. 19-042 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALBANY-DOUGHERTY VOTER
REGISTRATION AND ELECTION BOARD TO ISSUE THE CALL AND
CONDUCT AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION FOR APPROVAL OF SALES
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES
ON SUNDAYS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11:00 A.M. AND 12:00
MIDNIGHT; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution requesting the Albany-Dougherty Voter Registration and Election Board to issue the call and conduct an election on the question for approval of Sunday package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification of time. Commissioner Gray clarified that the unincorporated areas in Dougherty County does not have an ordinance that allows sales in the restaurants on Sundays. County Attorney Lee shared that the time frame coincided with the

state statute. The motion passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Edwards. Resolution No. 19-043 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALBANY-DOUGHERTY VOTER
REGISTRATION AND ELECTION BOARD TO ISSUE THE CALL AND CONDUCT
AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUNDAY PACKAGE
SALES BY RETAILERS OF MALT BEVERAGES, WINE AND DISTILLED SPIRITS
ON SUNDAYS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 12:30 P.M. AND 11:30 P.M.; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the approval of the 2019 Millage Rates for the County-Wide General Fund, Special Services District Fund, Dougherty County School System and State of Georgia.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Hudgins seconded the motion. The motion passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gaines. Resolution No. 19-044 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION ASSESSING THE RATE OF TAXATION FOR COUNTY
PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY,
GEORGIA AND ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE SPECIAL
SERVICES DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR 2019;
REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Jones recognized the citizens of the Pine Bluff subdivision who were in attendance and then provided an update from the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference and business meeting. He brought back key issues that our Commission should consider which included opportunity zones and new revenue collection. He shared information pertaining to opportunity zones in which new investments may be eligible for preferential tax treatment for economically distressed communities. He shared that Larry Johnson, the Program Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was willing to come to Albany, Georgia and speak upon receipt of an invitation. Also, he shared information regarding the potential to collect revenues from those owing back (property) taxes from those filing state income taxes. This initiative would require David Wills, ACCG Executive Director to start the discussion.

Commissioner Edwards stated that he would like more information from the County Attorney on the proposed new revenue collection and clarified his vote on alcohol sales. He believed that Dougherty County and the City of Albany could be successful without Sunday alcohol sales. Commissioner Johnson gave comments to support Commissioner Jones' presentation in reference to the opportunity zones. Commissioner Gray provided comments pertaining to Sunday's alcohol

sales by stating that our Commission did not vote to pass the sales but did vote to put it on the ballot to allow the citizens to decide what they thought would be best for their community.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN

COUNTY CLERK