

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 12, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 120 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 12, 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.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the July 15 Regular Meeting, July 29 Work Session and July 29 Public Hearing.

The Chairman called for discussion of the zoning consideration of Danny L. Redding, Jr., owner & applicant; requests to rezone 2.573 acres from C-5 (Office-Institutional-Residential District) to M-2 (Heavy Industrial District). The property fronts S. Mock Rd at its western boundary and the Georgia and Florida Railway at its eastern boundary; the property address is 1434 S. Mock Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval to rezone to M-1 (Restricted Industrial District) and the following condition: the use of the property is restricted to motor vehicle repossession, not to include selling of motor vehicle parts and/or motor vehicle repairs. Mary Teter, Planning Manager, addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for August 19, 2019. Commissioner Jones spoke about complaints received on business activities and current usage. Mary Teter clarified that the complaints were for a different property and shared emails regarding the applicant's plans to take action for the trespassing of the adjacent landowner. Chief Carter spoke about the cease and desist letter and planned citation for the property with complaints. Additional concerns were addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to purchase seven F150 Pickup Trucks for Facilities Management from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA). Three trucks are priced at \$25,898 each and four trucks are priced at \$25,645 each for a total expenditure of \$180,274. Pricing for the vehicles are "piggy-backed" from the City of Atlanta's vehicle purchasing contract. Funding is available in SPLOST VII – County Department Vehicles. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Facilities Management Director Heidi Minnick and City of Albany Central Services Procurement Manager Mike Trotter were present. Mr. Addison said that these vehicles were aged over 15 years old and were not on a scheduled replacement plan. Mr. McCoy added the vehicles were available for immediate delivery.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a presentation of the proposed recommendations for the City of Albany's consideration to improve recreation. Recreation Committee Chairman Clinton Johnson addressed. Commissioner Johnson identified \$90,000 worth of improvements at C.W. Heath Park but funding would have to come from the General Fund. The request was for policy and project implementations. Mr. McCoy outlined the five recommendations as follows:

- The recommendation to consider expanding the Fitness Center Building size at Heath Park by an area comparable to the event space in the Flint River Golf Course Clubhouse for a Yoga Room.
- The recommendation to consider making Carver Gym available for community group meeting space.
- The recommendation to consider improving lighting at basketball and tennis courts.
- The recommendation to consider developing a water park (comparable to Wild Adventures) at Paul Eames.
- The recommendation to consider developing a baseball complex at the brownfield site located at 1010 N. Front Street.

Mr. McCoy suggested the consideration of the improvements at C.W. Heath Park be delayed to mid-year because funding was not budgeted for this fiscal year. It was clarified that the list of recommendations were to be funded by the City of Albany (COA) unless joint funding was sought. The funding for C.W. Heath Park was to jointly fund improvements. The other option would be to use SPLOST funding (for improvements) if the City of Albany gave us ownership of the park. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Hudgins cautioned the Commission about setting precedence. There was consensus for Mr. McCoy to speak to the City Manager in regards to ownership. Commissioner Gaines was against ownership at this time but was in favor of asking the COA for the suggested recommended updates to be done at C.W. Heath Park.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a presentation of the County's proposed Public Service Announcement (PSA) on the Dougherty Green, Dougherty Clean litter campaign. Public Information Officer Wendy Howell addressed.

The Chairman called for a discussion on litter enforcement and fines. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. County Attorney Spencer Lee, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Robert Carter, KADB Director Judy Bowles and Chief Kenneth Johnson were present. Attorney Lee provided a recommendation on litter and enforcement but stressed working with the landfill was critical. Mr. Carter spoke about the need for citizens to testify in regards to the complaints. Attorney Lee shared that we have all requirements in place and that offenders needed to be "caught." He added that there were no cases for litter in Dougherty County. Mr. Addison addressed the legal requirements in place for tarping of commercial vehicles. A lengthy discussion was held on the potential recommendations. Consensus were provided for a recommendation to be brought back to the Commission in three weeks by Mr. McCoy and stakeholders on a reward program (for citizens turning in complaints), possible mandatory employee reporting (of violators) and a potential joint resolution with the City of Albany to have zero tolerance on litter. As discussion ensued, the topic was referred to the Government Affairs Committee for adding vetting.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a nomination for the County Voting Delegate at the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference Business Session on October 3, 2019 in Athens, GA. Chairman Cohilas addressed.

Mr. McCoy provided an update on the West Parking Deck and the planned date for completion is September 4th. He also provided an update on additional lots secured during renovation.

Commission Johnson requested aerial pictures of the current property owned in Columbus, GA by Danny Redding who requested to rezone the area at 1434 S. Mock Road.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK