

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 19, 2019. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins and Clinton Johnson. Commissioner Anthony Jones was absent. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, Administrative Specialist Bristeria Hope, other staff and representatives of the media.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the July 15 Regular Meeting, July 29 Work Session and July 29 Public Hearing Minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized representatives from SOWEGA Rising to provide a project overview to the Commission. Citizen Bruce Capps introduced the organization's members. The representatives gave an overview on economic justice, food insecurity/ food deserts/ hunger, criminal justice reform, cultural and historical preservations, rural health and ways to help prevent gang violence. Commissioner Gaines mentioned that she wanted to work with the organization especially on emphasizing the shortages of food. The Chairman encouraged the SOWEGA Rising Committee to partner with Flint River Fresh to teach children the importance of having fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Chairman recognized Assistant Chief Deputy Pamela Johnson to provide an update on the Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety (CHAMPS) Summer Camp Program. Lieutenant Terron Hayes expressed thanks to the Commission for a successful summer program. He mentioned that 200 students benefitted and were taught about bullying, gang resistance and suicide prevention. Commissioner Edwards asked the Sheriff's Office to consider hosting an additional summer program next year for students who were between the ages of 15-18 to provide sufficient education on similar topics.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for Danny L. Redding, Jr., owner & applicant request 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) with 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. Citizen Chris Quinn spoke in opposition of the request due to concerns of loud noise in the area that could possibly disturb the current residents. Owner Danny L. Redding, Jr spoke in

regards to his request. He mentioned that transport companies have an economic impact and that he has a site plan for the area; which was shared with Mr. Quinn, to ensure that the resident's concerns were met. There being no one to speak further in favor of or opposition to the proposal, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of 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.

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

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

Upon nomination by Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Edwards was unanimously appointed as the County Voting Delegate.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed recommendations for the City of Albany's consideration to improve recreation.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Hudgins seconded the motion. Under discussion, the Chairman made a substitute motion to change the wording from "asking for your assistance" to "attention and call to action" and to take out joint plan within the draft letter to the City of Albany. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution authorizing the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Albany for the 2019 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in the amount of \$14,447.20. The Agreement stipulates that the County will receive 20% of the total award (\$72,236). Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Hudgins, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution No. 19-045 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE CITY OF
ALBANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REALLOCATING BETWEEN
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FUNDS PROVIDED THROUGH THE
2019 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM
AWARD; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF

RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and recording on the land records of Dougherty County a quit claim deed from the Albany/Dougherty County Land Bank relative to real property in Putney, Georgia known as 1108 Antioch Road. County Attorney Spencer Lee addressed. Planning Director Paul Forgey provided an update on the Land Bank's role in this acquisition. Public Works Director Larry Cook was present. Mr. Forgey stated that the Albany Land Bank was able to acquire property and give it to Dougherty County for public use.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution No. 19-046 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
RECORDING ON THE LAND RECORDS OF DOUGHERTY
COUNTY A QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM THE
ALBANY/DOUGHERTY COUNTY LAND BANK RELATIVE TO
REAL PROPERTY IN PUTNEY GEORGIA KNOWN AS
1108 ANTIOCH ROAD; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS
OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance of prior recorded deeds providing land and easements for the purpose of widening the county road system in the Radium Springs Subdivision. County Attorney Spencer Lee and Public Works Director Larry Cook addressed. Mr. Cook provided updates on upgrades of County roads in the area on Skywater and Azalea Blvd.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution No. 19-047 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF
PRIOR RECORDED DEEDS PROVIDING LAND AND
EASEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WIDENING THE
COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM IN THE RADIUM SPRINGS
SUBDIVISION; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the abandonment of a section of the county road system known as a part of Wildfair Road and Blue Springs Road and authorizing

the execution and filing of a quit claim deed transferring the subject abandoned property to the adjoining land owner. County Attorney Spencer Lee and Public Works Director Larry Cook addressed. Commissioner Gaines asked about an attempt to sell the property. Attorney Lee explained that the property was not being given to the County so the transfer would suffice.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Commissioner Hudgins seconded the motion. The motion passed with five ayes and one nay by Commissioner Gaines. Resolution No. 19-048 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF A
SECTION OF THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM KNOWN AS A PART
OF WILDFAIR ROAD AND BLUE SPRINGS ROAD AND
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND FILING OF A QUIT CLAIM
DEED TRANSFERRING THE SUBJECT ABANDONED PROPERTY
TO THE ADJOINING LAND OWNER; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS
OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Gray provided an update from the recent Georgia Association of Chief of Police conference on ways to build trust among the community between law enforcement and community relations. Commissioner Edwards wanted an update on the active shooting that took place in Dougherty County; to which Chief Kenneth Johnson provided and the Chief also gave an update on the curfew hours for children ages 18 and under on the weekday and weekend. Commissioner Johnson shared he had a meeting with Dr. Parker and suggested that our Board continue the conversation by hosting a commission meeting offsite at Albany Technical College. Commissioner Edwards asked about compensation for crime stoppers and Chairman Cohilas addressed the concern.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN

COUNTY CLERK