

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MINUTES

August 26, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 120 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 26, 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 recognized County Extension Coordinator James Morgan present to update the Commission with the quarterly report. Commissioner Gaines, member of the Flint River Fresh Board, asked that an update be provided to the Commission. Chairman Cohilas directed Mr. McCoy to coordinate.

The Chairman recognized Fire Chief Cedric Scott present to provide an update on Dougherty County Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings and hydrant opportunities. Chief Scott introduced the fire station staff to the Commission. He noted that the ISO category "9" was no longer used and had been replaced with 2/2x. He discussed the best areas of expansion for hydrant opportunity to extend water within 5 miles of a fire station. There were four proposed areas of opportunity for ISO ratings that would include areas to maintain density with the greatest population. The four areas of opportunity with the estimated residence and business amounts as shown below:

- Area of Opportunity 1: Near Stage Coach/Phoebe Rd off Liberty Expressway: Approximately 1,875 Residences/Businesses
- Area of Opportunity 2: Liberty Expressway/Honeysuckle/Holly: Approximately 2,000 Residences/Businesses
- Area of Opportunity 3: Near 8 Mile Road/Locosta: Approximately 1,457 Residences/Businesses
- Area of Opportunity 4: Near Byron Plantation and Van Cise Ln: Approximately 1900 Residences/Businesses

The project cost for Opportunity 1 would be \$6,871,200 with the lineage of 21.68 miles (114,520 feet). Opportunity 2 cost would be \$854,000 with the lineage of 2.69 miles (14,234 feet). Opportunity 3 cost would be \$2,353,800 with the lineage of 7.43 miles (39,230 feet). Opportunity 4 cost would be \$1,989,480 with the lineage of 6.28 miles (33,158 feet). The total cost would be \$12,068,480. He shared that the County would look at each area separately or in totality. The potential benefits of adopting the ISO rating would be for individual being able to save based on the insurance company of the residence or business. However, there is no

guarantee of a rate change. Chief Scott proposed a recommendation to purchase two tanker trucks for implementation and two additional ones in the future at the cost of \$250,000-\$400,000 per truck. He stressed the need for the trucks to help reduce fires throughout Dougherty County and the trucks would be located at our local fire stations. There was consensus made from the Commission to get a report from Mr. McCoy on the amount of SPLOST funding available to possibly purchase the tanker trucks. Mr. McCoy said that it was \$1.2 million available in SPLOST VII for fire trucks. Financial Advisor Ed Wall was present and discussed the process for cost break analysis. Also, he suggested that the County consider lease purchases. Commissioner Gray left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the August 5 Regular Meeting, August 10 Midyear Commission Retreat and August 12 Work Session.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to enhance litter abatement efforts in Dougherty County. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful (KABD) Director Judy Bowles, and KADB Chairman Jeanette Henderson addressed. County Attorney Spencer Lee, Chief Code Enforcement Officer Robert Carter and Chief Kenneth Johnson were present. Mr. McCoy stated that sufficient laws were on the books to handle litter and no enforcement court was needed because it was being handled by Magistrate Court. Chairman Henderson provided a score of 1.55 (based off a scale where 1 means no litter and 4 means extremely littered) for Dougherty County which was considered a clean area but had areas of opportunity. Mrs. Henderson shared that KABD litter abatement initiatives exceeds most efforts in other communities in the state and noted that Columbus, Ga scored a 3.3 and Macon, Ga scored a 2.3. Activities conducted were shared. Judy Bowles shared that picking up trash was not the answer to teaching citizens the importance of littering. Additional recommendations and cost were provided. There were three proposed options to help reduce litter in the community which included to re-instate KADB's Code Violation Reporting Form, provide a courtesy notice to all haulers to remind them to secure their loads or hire additional personnel to remove litter. It was stated that areas with the highest level of concerns were in the City of Albany. Commissioner Edwards wanted to discuss using inmate labor to pick up litter as a possible option with Chief Jailer John Ostrander in which Mr. McCoy would follow up on. After a lengthy discussion, the Chairman directed additional discussion to continue in the next Work Session and action to follow in the latter part of September.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a presentation of the options for borrowing money to accelerate funding TSPLOST projects. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Financial Advisor Ed Wall addressed. Mr. Wall stated borrowing money to accelerate funding TSPLOST projects is not needed at this time, but the recommendation to do so can be presented case by case in the future. Based on the cash flow analysis, there is no projected negative cash flow and no need to borrow to accelerate funding. Instead of obtaining issued bonds, if needed, he suggested to consider using tax allocation note (TAN) or using the General Fund balance because borrowing money was too expensive.

Due to the observance of the Labor Day Holiday, the next Commission meeting would be a Regular Meeting held on Monday, September 9, 2019.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK