

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MINUTES

September 30, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 120 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on September 30, 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 Brad McEwen to present a check to Commissioner Gaines on behalf of AB & T Bank for Flint River Fresh. In addition to the donation, the newsletter, Beyond the Bank, that highlights community topics and individuals will be used to promote the initiative.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the September 9 Regular Meeting, September 16 Work Session, and September 16 Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman called for a discussion regarding the Robert Cross Park Multipurpose Facility One Day Rental Fee. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Chairman Cohilas recapped that the motion passed was for a \$600 fee with no refundable deposit; and shared that staff is concerned about costs being covered and the maintenance of the facility. Assistant Public Works Director Chuck Mathis provided four additional options for the Board to review. Attorney Lee shared that it is against the law for the County to “gratuitize” a public building. Mr. Mathis added that if we select or maintain an option to not clean the facility, then we would have to privatize the cleaning. Quotes were obtained ranging from \$350-\$500 for a private company to clean (per event). Commissioner Gaines wanted more clarity on the anti-gratuity clause for exclusive usage.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to approve the Merck - Flint River Site Part G Contingency Plan outlining the assistance of the Dougherty County Police Department and Dougherty County Emergency Medical Services in performing emergency response duties. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison EMS Director and Sam Allen addressed. DCP Chief Kenneth Johnson was present.

The Chairman called for discussion of the following proposed board appointment:

Retirement Fund Committee – There is one appointment with an unexpired four-year term ending December 31, 2022. This appointment must be a County retiree representative. Incumbent Gail Morrell relocated outside of Dougherty County. There is one new applicant, Grey Rowe. The Commission Chairman will make all appointments to this Committee.

Mr. McCoy shared with the Commission the passing of Dean C.W. Grant and Mr. Connie Ford.

Commissioner Jones requested that the Chairman use his contacts on the state level as a resource. and suggested that we locally put a plan in place to handle violence in the community and direct resources to take our city back from wayward use. Chairman Cohilas shared that he has been having conversations with his resources. Commissioner Jones shared that he will later present a plan to help resolve the issue. The Chairman directed Mr. McCoy to provide information on the Governor's state board initiative on gangs. The Chairman shared that ideally someone locally can serve on the Board.

Commissioner Johnson shared that he spoke to his city counter-part, (Commissioner BJ Fletcher) and requested that Mr. McCoy provide an update on the C.W. Heath Park improvements and Chairman Cohilas requested the update be provided in the next Work Session. Citizen, Ms. Hammond was recognized to invite the Commission to an upcoming community event. She also requested that the Commission have a youth center similar to Run N Shoot in Atlanta, Georgia to give the youth constant activities to participant in. Commissioner Gray reminded the Board to encourage individuals to use 229-436-TIPS which is an anonymous crime stoppers number and shared that this was an effective way to get rewards for reporting crimes.

Chairman Christopher Cohilas provided an update on the first GEMA/FEMA reimbursement check from Hurricane Michael. Dougherty County was the first in the area to receive a reimbursement check of \$1.5 million that was presented by Deputy Director Thomas Moore. Key staff was recognized for their role in the process.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK