

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 21, 2019. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, other staff and representatives of the media. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Commissioner Gloria Gaines were absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the September 23 Regular Meeting and September 30 Work Session Minutes.

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

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for two zoning considerations. The first was for Willis John Wright, Jr, applicant, MRA Concrete/Precast, LLC owner; request to rezone 1.73 acres from C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed-Use Business District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The property fronts the south side of Leary Rd., approximately 235 ft. to the west of the intersection of Leary Rd. and Vanderbilt Dr; the property address is 3108 Leary Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial. The second was for Willis John Wright, Jr, applicant, MRA Concrete/Precast, LLC owner; Special Approval request to operate a precast concrete facility in the C-3 (Commercial District). The property fronts the south side of Leary Rd., approximately 235 ft. to the west of the intersection of Leary Rd. and Vanderbilt Dr; the property address is 3108 Leary Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial. Mary Teter, Planning Manager, addressed both.

Upon a question by Commissioner Johnson, Mary confirmed that the planning staff recommended approval with prohibited use but the Planning Commission recommended denial to the County Commission. She also clarified for Commissioner Hudgins that Code Enforcement monitors special zoning conditions. Citizen Mary Watson spoke in opposition of the approval. She presented to the Commission pictures of the potential dangerous intersection and a petition with signatures of 50 people in opposition to the change. Billy Wright with MRA Construction Inc. spoke in favor of the approval because of existing manufacturing use. He provided pictures and supportive information regarding the existing neighborhood and asked for it be noted that Ms. Watson's neighborhood is 1.2 miles away from the facility. He presented diagrams of the process, equipment and the facility. Also, he provided information that countered Ms. Watson's concerns. Citizen Michelle Lambert did not sign the sign in sheet; but lives behind the proposed facility and opposed the approval due to safety and noise and believed that this would cause a negative impact to the residential area. She stated existing companies were on the other side of the road. Matt Austin spoke in favor of the rezone due to the operations that were already occurring

in the neighborhood. After viewing the area, he discovered several operations similar to what was being presented for rezoning and felt that the rezone use would blend in with the current flow of operations. 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 two 2020 Ford F150 Crew Cab SSV Pickups for the Sheriff's Office Juvenile Court deputies from the state contract holder Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA), in the amount of \$28,484 each for a total expenditure of \$56,968. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII –Department Vehicles.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of two 2020 Ford F150 Crew Cab SSV Pickups in the amount of \$28,484 each, two Pursuit Explorers in the amount of \$35,404 each and one 2020 Explorer 4dr in the amount of \$38,000 for the Sheriff's Office from the state contract holder Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) for a total expenditure of \$165,776. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – Sheriff's Department Vehicles.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of five Pursuit Utility Vehicle Explorers in the amount of \$32,686 each and one 2020 Explorer 4dr in the amount of \$38,000 for the Dougherty County Police Department from the state contract holder Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) for a total expenditure of \$201,430. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII – County Police Vehicles.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of furniture for the Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office from Flint Office Furniture (Albany, GA) for state contract pricing in the amount of \$25,490.95. Funding is reimbursable from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Grant. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked if this would be County furniture in which Mr. Addison would provide clarification for at a later time. The motion passed unanimously. Later, GBI Special Agent Joe Chesnut clarified that the furniture would belong to the County.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Superior Court to apply for the FY 2020 accountability court funding program reimbursement grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council agency in the amount of \$48,450.85 for the mental health treatment of ASPIRE participants.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the acceptance of the proposed joint City/County C.W. Heath Park Capital Improvement project in the amount of \$123,400. The County will provide \$89,400 from CIP and the City will contribute \$34,000. The parking lot costs are based on the current material pricing for crushed asphalt and does not include any drainage or potential utility concerns.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commissioner Gray offered an alternative motion to cap the County's portion at \$89,400 because of the additional cost. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The substitute motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution authorizing the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGRC) to apply for grant resources for the FY 2020 Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) on behalf of Dougherty County.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 19-060 is entitled:

**A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR A FY 2020 COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) GRANT; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE SERVICES OF THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION OF THE FY 2020 COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM CHIP GRANT APPLICATION; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE SERVICES OF THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER SAID GRANT APPLICATION, IF AWARDED; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the approval of the Subrecipient Agreement between the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Dougherty County for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program in the amount of \$300,000. DCA is the Grantee for the CDBG-DR Grant funds and will distribute money to eligible counties and cities as Subrecipients to directly administer programs and activities. There was several comments made commending a job well done from staff.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 19-061 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION BY DOUGHERTY COUNTY OF A SUBRECIPIENT
AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY AND THE
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE
PROVISION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
– DISASTER RECOVERY HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION AND
RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR
PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of two zoning considerations. The first was for the zoning application of Willis John Wright, Jr, applicant, MRA Concrete/Precast, LLC owner; request to rezone 1.73 acres from C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed-Use Business District) to C-3 (Commercial District). The property fronts the south side of Leary Rd., approximately 235 ft. to the west of the intersection of Leary Rd. and Vanderbilt Dr; the property address is 3108 Leary Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial. The second was for the Special Approval request of Willis John Wright, Jr, applicant, MRA Concrete/Precast, LLC owner; to operate a precast concrete facility in the C-3 (Commercial District). The property fronts the south side of Leary Rd., approximately 235 ft. to the west of the intersection of Leary Rd. and Vanderbilt Dr; the property address is 3108 Leary Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial.

Commissioner Johnson motioned to table due to the additional information provided. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Attorney Lee provided clarification of the time frame for these items to be voted on. The motion to table was passed with five ayes and one nay by Commissioner Hudgins. After the vote, it was clarified that the considerations will to be brought back to the Board at the next Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Jones announced the Paint the City Pink event sponsored by the City of Albany Parks & Recreation Department on the upcoming Friday. The parking deck is a potential contingent rain location.

Commissioner Edwards asked Chief Johnson to address concerns regarding Dougherty County Police Department officers parking in remote/closed business locations and requested that the officers park in existing businesses to complete paperwork. Chief Johnson shared that this request can be done immediately. Commissioner Edwards also asked that lights be placed on Mac Ewen Dr. /Caldwell Dr. or for the County owned road to be closed.

Commissioner Johnson asked if there was a countywide jay walking policy. Chairman Cohilas said we could revisit this issue later and shared that pedestrian education will be needed especially with the planned trails.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

ATTEST:

CHAIRMAN

COUNTY CLERK