

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MINUTES

November 25, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 120 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on November 25, 2019. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, 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. Commissioner Russell Gray was absent.

The Chairman recognized citizen Henry Thomas present to thank the Commission for allowing them to have a rally for homeless and impoverished individuals. Commissioner Johnson asked that information be provided so that the Board could be responsive to constituents because there was misconception of the rally's purpose. Mr. Thomas shared additional information and events that would be held this week.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the November 4 Regular Meeting, November 6 Special and November 11 Work Session.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to replace the Entrance Columns at the former Radium Springs Golf Course from Harrell Masonry (Putney, GA) in the amount of \$23,360. Three quotes were obtained with the highest being \$28,785. Funding is available in SPLOST V- Radium Springs Roads. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed. Assistant Public Works Director Chuck Mathis was present. Mr. Brown shared a visual of the conceptual design. During discussion, Commissioner Gaines asked the opportunity to possibly bundle projects. Commissioner Edwards said that he liked that local contractors could be used and supported bundling of larger projects. Commissioner Jones asked about having lighting installed on the columns. Mr. Brown stated that there was currently no local power but provided possible alternatives. Attorney Lee shared that there was some merit to the ascetic's part and the trails would have lighting. Staff provided solar or hardwiring as lighting options.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to accept the proposal from EMC Engineering (Savannah, GA) for engineering services relating to needed repairs and improvements of the Spring Run Bridge at Radium Springs in the amount of \$38,000. Funding is available in SPLOST V – Radium Springs Improvements. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, Assistant Public Works Director Chuck Mathis and Project Engineer were present. It was shared that this is a timely request because the project can be discussed at the upcoming legislative meeting. Mr. Brown addressed questions of the Board. Chairman Cohilas requested a packet for funding be provided to the current and former DNR Chairman, current legislation, Chamber and Cornerstone. Attorney Lee and Mr. Brown reminded the Board that the state would need to be involved.

The Chairman called for a discussion regarding board qualifications. Commissioner Victor Edwards and County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed. Commissioner Edwards said that he would like to know if business owners could participate on a board and not be resident of Dougherty County. Attorney Lee shared that the residency requirements were up to the Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Ware shared the residency requirements of different boards and stated we were currently working with the City of Albany to streamline and mentioned that the City wants all appointments to be residents. She informed the Board that all desires could be taking into consideration but any changes to the boards would have to include the City of Albany. The Chairman clarified that there was no additional direction needed to be taken back for consideration and the updated was good for future board appointments.

The Chairman called for a discussion of proposed board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed. Mrs. Ware thanked the partners and the Board for support in filling the vacancies. She shared that this was highest number of vacancies since starting and shared that staff follows an extensive process to fill the vacancies for board appointments.

Joint Board of Adjustments & Appeals – There are two joint appointments with a three-year term ending October 1, 2022. Incumbent Arwena Jones (joint) desires reappointment. Incumbent Alvin Smith (joint) does not desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Air Conditioning, Heating, & Ventilation Board – There are four appointments: There is one County, two joint and one rotational, all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Incumbents Thomas Driggers (joint), Clint Newsome (joint) and Clifford Tolbert (rotational) desires reappointment. Incumbent Glenn Walker (County) does not desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Citizens Transportation Committee – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbent Dr. Surendra Pandley desires reappointment. Incumbent Walter Sharp does not desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Dougherty County Development Authority – There are three appointments to fill a four-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbents Sybil Thomas and Frank Williamson desire reappointment. There was no response from incumbent Bryan Hallman. There are five new applicants: Sherrell Byrd, Emmett Griswold III, Gloria Jefferson, Dr. Joe “Tripp” Morgan and Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyeis.

Electrical Board – There are five appointments: There is one County appointment for a Master Electrician, two joint appointments for an Electrical Supplier, one joint appointment for a Professional Engineer and one

appointment for a joint citizen member, all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Incumbents Sanford Hillsman (joint citizen member) and Edward West (joint Professional Engineer) desire reappointment. There are three vacancies: one County appointment for a Master Electrician and two appointments for joint Electrical Suppliers. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for three vacancies and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Fire Code Board of Appeals – There are four appointments: There is one County and three joint appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Bruce Campbell (joint), Rosa Malone (joint) and Charles Mitchell (joint) desire reappointment. There was no response for incumbent Zell Scott (county). There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Flood Plain Management Review Board – There is one appointment with an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2021. There is one vacancy (one Engineer or Land Surveyor). There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy. Planning & Development Director Paul Forgey addressed questions by the Commission.

Gas Board – There are three appointments: There is one County, one joint and one rotational all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Incumbents Sanford Hillsman (county), Rhett Parker (joint) and William Walker (rotational) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants and all joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany.

Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful – There are six appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Dennis Barthelemy, Scott Carroll, Joanne Conger, Lew Culpepper, Jay Smith and J.D. Sumner desire reappointment. KADB recommends reappointment.

Library Board – There are two appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Karen Liebert and Dr. Brenda Hodges Tiller desire reappointment. There is one new applicant: Christine Whatley-Wilcox.

Planning Commission – There are three appointments with a three-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Art Brown, Jimmy Hall, Jr and Billy Merritt desire reappointment. There is one new applicant: Vicki Barnhill.

Plumbing Board – There are three appointments with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Two County appointments must be a Master Plumber and one appointment represents a citizen member. Incumbents Lee Eppley

(Master Plumber), Glenn Harris (Citizen Member) and Rhett Parker (Master Plumber) desire reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Southwest Georgia Community Action Council – There is one appointment with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Incumbent Glenn Harris desires reappointment. There is one new applicant: Sherrell Byrd.

Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force – There is one appointment with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Incumbent Larry Thomas does not desire reappointment. There are no new applicants. The County will re-advertise for one vacancy.

Southwest Georgia Regional Commission – There are two appointments: one County, one joint and one Chairman designee (appointee must be a Commissioner) all with a one-year term ending December 31, 2020. Incumbents Raymond Breaux (County) and Anthony Jones (Chairman designee) desire reappointment. There is one joint ratification appointment of Vincent M. Smith, Jr. (to fill the seat vacated by Matthew Reed expiring December 31, 2019). A special approval is requested to end the term December 31, 2020. There are two new applicants: Sherrell Byrd and James “Matt” Trice. The Chairman will appoint his designee.

Stadium Authority – There is one appointment with a four-year term ending December 31, 2023. Incumbent Alistari McKendrick desires reappointment. There are no new applicants.

Tax Assessors Board – There is one appointment with a three-year term ending December 31, 2022. Incumbents Williams Ashberry desires reappointment. There are two new applicants: Dexter White and Casawn-Lhuillier Yheyais.

Attorney Lee said that the lease for the morgue with Phoebe Putney was expiring and consensus was provided for him to proceed working with the County Administrator and Phoebe. Commissioner Johnson provided an update on the recent Recreation Committee meeting.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK