

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 10, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 120 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 10, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, 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 was absent.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the January 13th Work Session and January 31st Annual Retreat.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to purchase one Ford Transit Connect XL LWB 7 – Passenger Wagon in the amount of \$23,830.88 and one Ford F150 4X2 Super Crew SSV Pickup Truck in the amount of \$28,780.76 for the Jail from the only bidder meeting specifications, Sunbelt Ford Lincoln (Albany, Ga) for a total expenditure of \$52,611.64. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII-Jail Vehicles. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Chief Jailer John Ostrander and City of Albany buyer Christina Strassenberg was present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to purchase one 2020 Arrow XT side mount pumper and equipment from Ten-8 Fire & Safety Equipment of Georgia, LLC (Forsyth, GA) in the amount of \$713,688. Funding is available in SPLOST VII-County Fire Trucks and Equipment. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Fire Chief Cedric Scott addressed. City of Albany Fire Department staff and buyer Christina Strassenberg were present. Mr. Addison shared that this is the same truck that the City of Albany is purchasing. The last one that the County purchased is no longer manufactured. Chief Scott shared that due to price increase, we can no longer purchase the number of trucks initially planned. He said that there would be a request for future purchase opportunities of pumpers in SPLOST VIII and mentioned that this truck had more safety and operational enhancements. The budget for firetruck and equipment is \$1.2 million so the plan is to request to purchase the first tanker truck with the remaining balance. During discussion, Commissioner Gaines and Commissioner Gray shared their concerns about the fleet life cycle since there is a reduced purchase.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to purchase playground equipment for County Park Improvements. The recommendation is to purchase equipment for Pine Glen Park from Game Time (Longwood, FL) in the amount of \$24,932.22 and Elliott Park from Bliss Products (Lithia Springs, GA) in the amount of \$25,154 for a total expenditure of \$50,086.22. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VI (Pine Glen Park) and SPLOST VII (Elliott Park). The Commission approved funding for the

County Park Improvements in the August 5, 2019 Regular Meeting. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to accept the change order to the Storm Memorial Project with the awarded vendor, LRA Constructors (Albany, GA) for electrical infrastructure upgrades necessary at Radium Springs in the amount of \$63,926. Funding is available in SPLOST V – Radium Springs Improvements. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown were present.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to accept a successful petition for an Installation of a Traffic Calming Device for the 800 Block of River Pointe Drive. Funding is available in TSPLOST. Public Works Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed. The Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for February 17, 2020.

The Chairman called for a discussion on blighted areas and unauthorized mechanics. Commissioner Jones and Chief Robert Carter addressed. Chief Kenneth Johnson and KADB Director Judy Bowles were present. Commissioner Jones said that he wanted “shade tree mechanics” listed in the same category as blighted property and wants the process of reporting to be complaint driven. Chief Carter outlined the process of enforcement. Attorney Lee shared some legal insight and recent cases. Mr. Addison was asked by the Chairman for a fact sheet to be distributed to the Commissioners on the complaint process. Mr. Carter said that anonymous complaints can be provided through 311. Commissioner Edwards asked about a policy attached with a fine [being created]. Attorney Lee suggested that this request be addressed during budget season. After a lengthy discussion, Attorney Lee stated that he would do research regarding assessing fees and a civil enforcement provision. The Chairman requested an update from Chief Cater on financial options from a financial standpoint during budget season. He also asked that an educational video informing citizens on the proper way to report blighted property or unauthorized mechanics be created.

Commissioner Gaines was recognized for her birthday. She and Commissioner Gray left the meeting at 11:04 a.m. Commissioner Jones inquired about street lighting on Highway 133. Mr. Brown provided an update by providing options and stating that that this property belongs to DOT.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK