

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

### WORK SESSION MINUTES

March 9, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 9, 2020. 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, Administrative Specialist Bristeria Hope, other staff and representatives of the media. County Clerk Jawahn Ware was absent.

The Chairman recognized Public Works Director Larry Cook and Assistant Public Works Director Chuck Mathis to announce the 2020 Georgia Chapter APWA awards received. Dougherty County Public Works received the Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair Award for the Radium Springs Subdivision Road Improvements and Project Engineer Jeremy Brown was recognized as the Chapter Engineering and Technical Manager of the Year. Mr. Mathis informed the Commission that Mr. Brown would officially receive his award on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Gaines asked if the rewards were placed on display in the Administration office. Mr. McCoy informed her that typically individuals who received awards would normally take them to display in their office.

The Chairman recognized the 2020 Snicker Marathon water station volunteers for their hard work and dedication at the Dougherty County water station.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the February 17th Regular Meeting and February 24th Work Session.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to purchase one 40 Ton Articulated Dump Truck for the Solid Waste Department from Flint Equipment Company (Albany, GA), in the amount of \$495,415. Funding is budgeted in the Solid Waste Capital Outlay. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith and City of Albany Buyer Tina Strassenberg were present. Mr. Addison informed the Commission that this was a normal scheduled replacement.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation from the Recreation Committee to implement Phase I of the Radium Springs Master Plan. Recreation Committee Chairman Clinton Johnson, County Administrator Michael McCoy and Consultant Ron Huffman addressed. Mr. McCoy recommended that Phase I was implemented and that the focus would be on adding hook-ups for vendors, food-truck parking, canoe repairs, the beach and waterfront plaza repairs with a preliminary cost of \$396,034. If this is approved by the Commission, then implementation would start within

the next three weeks upon receiving permission from the state. Chairman Cohilas would like to update our state delegation on this implementation which could possibly open an opportunity for co-investment. Commissioner Gray suggested that line 1 item be cut out of Phase I project for lane removal of vegetation. This could possibly eliminate additional cost that the County did not budget for. Funding for this project is from SPLOST V under infrastructure improvements. Commissioner Edwards wanted to emphasize the importance of the County being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars in funding with Phase I. Mr. McCoy stated that budget numbers were not final and he would ask for permission to allocate funding if needed. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Cohilas commended the Recreation Committee for the hard work and well thought out process with Phase I. Commissioner Gray suggested that an exploratory panel be developed about the future needs of the hydrilla operations. Commissioner Johnson clarified that it was already being considered.

The Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation from Human Resources to accept the 2020 Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) Grant from the ACCG Georgia Civic Affairs Foundation in the amount of \$2,607.60. The grant will provide a summer internship for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program. County Administrator Michael McCoy and HR Director Dominique Hall addressed. Mr. McCoy said that the selected intern would have the opportunity to learn disaster relief and administrative duties. Ms. Hall mentioned that the process would be based from selecting candidates through advertisement on the County website, ACCG website and other recruitment efforts. The preference is for a candidate on a master level. Commissioner Jones wanted to aim the internship toward students who were in need of funds to help purchase books and other essential needs.

The Chairman called for a discussion to review and consider a request from Georgia Power Company providing for the execution of a Utility Relocation Agreement between Dougherty County, Georgia and Georgia Power Company relative to relocating several power poles on Camellia Drive in Radium Springs. County Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed. Attorney Lee said that Georgia Power expedited the relocation of some poles in 2019 for Dougherty County. This is the formal paperwork that needs to be signed and handled accordingly.

The Chairman called for a discussion to consider for use the Dougherty County Nuisance Abatement Resolution No 02-034 to address dilapidated properties located at 2902, 2912, 2914 and 2916 Leary Road. County Attorney Spencer Lee addressed. Attorney Lee said that the County Commission had to pass a resolution to take a look at the properties and make an assessment to bring them up to code. If not, they would be considered dilapidated and taken to court which is considered the first phase of the process.

Commissioner Jones expressed his concern for a traffic light that needs to be placed near Georgia Pacific on Sylvester Road. Mr. McCoy stated that the GDOT had been contacted in reference to this concern. Chairman Cohilas asked that a letter of request for Georgia Pacific be written with his signature and be presented to GDOT. He also mentioned that a budget was already available with allocated funds. Chairman Cohilas asked that

Mr. McCoy stay in contact with Dr. Ruiz for recent updates regarding the coronavirus. Commissioner Edwards asked that staff inform DNR Fisheries Management Supervisor Rob Weller on any future discussion about the Radium Springs Master Plan implementation.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK