

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on March 16, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, 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. Commissioner Gloria Gaines was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the February 17th Regular Meeting and February 24th Work Session minutes.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Commissioner-elect Edward Newsome was recognized for being in attendance.

The Chairman recognized Aspire Behavior Health & Developmental Disability Services Community Support Day Coordinator Kathy Davis to accept the Proclamation recognizing March 2020 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Dougherty County. A brief update on operations was provided by Chief Executive Officer Dana Glass. The proclamation reads as follows:

Whereas: Individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people; and,

Whereas: the most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone's active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual's contribution; and,

Whereas: policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and opportunities offered for citizens with developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible in our community; and,

Whereas: we encourage all citizens to support opportunities for people with disabilities that include full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and,

Now, therefore, we, Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

and offer full support to ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and their efforts that assist people with developmental disabilities to make choices that enable them to live successful lives and realize their potential;

Furthermore, we urge all citizens to take time to get to know someone with a disability and ask ‘What’s Your Story?’ Every person’s story holds a promise to educate and inspire others.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused our seal this 16th day of March, in the year two thousand and twenty.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Christopher S. Cohilas, Chairman

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of 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.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Recreation Committee to implement Phase I of the Radium Springs Master Plan. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST V.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the 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.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and 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.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-015 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A UTILITY RELOCATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND GEORGIA
POWER COMPANY PROVIDING FOR POWER POLE
RELOCATION WORK ON CAMELLIA ROAD IN RADIUM
SPRINGS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the use of the Dougherty County Nuisance Abatement Resolution No 02-034 to address dilapidated properties located at 2902, 2912, 2914 and 2916 Leary Road.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-016 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INVESTIGATION AND/OR
INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC OFFICER AS DESIGNATED
UNDER DOUGHERTY COUNTY NUISANCE ABATEMENT
RESOLUTION NUMBER 02-034 AND/OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE
AND PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE
DOUGHERTY COUNTY NUISANCE ABATEMENT RESOLUTION
RELATIVE TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE
UNINCORPORATED AREA OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the amendment of the Dougherty County Personnel Policies & Procedures by adding the Dougherty County Planned Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic for County Employees policy to be effective March 16, 2020. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed by stating that this is a continuation plan if the government was to shut down operations. He discussed limitations pertaining to teleworking and shared asked the Commission to review the listing of essential and non-essential personnel. An update will be provided to the Commission regarding impact to service levels.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-017 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
ADOPTION OF A CONTAGIOUS SYMPTOMS AND CONTAGIOUS
CONDITION POLICY FOR DOUGHERTY COUNTY; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. McCoy requested department managers provide updates on contingency plans due to COVID-19. The following updates were provided:

Sheriff Sproul provided an update regarding Jail operations. He shared that they are following the protocols set by the Georgia Department of Corrections and the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice for operations, to include restrictions for visitation.

Voter Registrations and Elections Supervisor Ginger Nickerson provided an update on voting procedures. As of Saturday, March 14, 2020 the Governor has postponed the Presidential Preference Primary election to May 19th. There will be no additional advanced voting until April 27th.

Library Director Pauline Abidde provided an update on behalf of the Library Board's vote to close the library until April 6th which coincided with the Dougherty County School System closure. They recognize the value of the library services especially during the disaster, but social distancing is the best way of containing the pandemic and this was a tough decision made by their Board. Twenty-four library services were closed in Georgia and more are closing daily. An update on providing services and quarantining of books was provided.

EMS Director Sam Allen provided an update on the care of staff, increasing call levels and the care of patients.

Tax & Tag Director Shonna Josey provided an update that the number of individuals allowed to come into the office is being limited. However, services for registration and payments are available online. The state has not mandated closures at this time; only the limiting of interactions.

County Administrator Michael McCoy provided an update that was applicable to all departments by sharing that everyone should be practicing social distancing, work travel was banned, and encouraged individuals to use conference calls. He is prepared to use the last method for the Commission if needed.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution declaring a 2017 Ford 350 Van (from the Facilities Management Department) as surplus and authorize sale through Underwriters Safety & Claims. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-018 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A
SALVAGED 2017 FORD 350 HIGH ROOF VAN
(VIN NO. 1FTBW2XM8HKA67523)
AND HAVE SAID SURPLUSED SALVAGED VEHICLE
DISPOSED OF THROUGH UNDERWRITERS SAFETY AND CLAIMS,
DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS
OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Jones shared that the neighborhood watch meetings will be held via conference call. Commissioner Edwards asked about rental of County owned facilities. Mr. Cook shared that it is being discussed and guidance is being sought via the CDC. Chairman Cohilas provided an update from meetings with legislation, the executive order regarding COVID-19 issued from Washington, D.C. last week and the orders by the Supreme Court of Justice on behalf of the Governor for the state of emergency in Georgia.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK