

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

June 29, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met via a video conferencing platform to be in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order and the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in regard to the Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic and social distancing on June 29, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Commissioners participating were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins, Clinton Johnson, and Anthony Jones. Also participating were County Administrator Michael McCoy, Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. The public and representatives of the media participated via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance the Chairman called for approval of the June 15th Regular Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the Resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of a Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge Grant Agreement between the American Public Health Association (APHA) and Dougherty County in the amount of \$100,000 in support of Dougherty County's partnership with Flint River Fresh, Inc. and the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Office. The Challenge will be from July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. The Chairman thanked staff for bringing the opportunity to the community. Mr. McCoy shared that this was a competitive grant and if approved by the Board, it will accomplish many of the Commission's priorities. It was noted that this grant would be an extension of the proposal of the Extension Service where Flint River Fresh was created. Mr. McCoy added that project priorities will be developed and shared with the Commission and will involve community partners.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-034 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF A HEALTHIEST CITIES & COUNTIES CHALLENGE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00 IN SUPPORT OF DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH FLINT RIVER FRESH, INC. AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE

EXTENSION OFFICE; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the Resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of a Lease and Custodial Care Agreement between the Albany Humane Society, Inc. and Dougherty County effective July 1, 2020. The agreement is effective for ten years unless a notice of termination is provided for the custodial care of animals (including all disposal services) in the amount of \$77,000 per year. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Attorney Joseph Dent, on behalf of the Humane Society was present. Mr. McCoy shared that this request for disposal fees increased from \$54,000 and is reflected in the proposed budget. The care is for approximately 700 animals and includes a CPI (consumer price index). Commissioner Gray moved for approval and a second was received by Commissioner Edwards.

Under discussion, Mr. McCoy clarified that the cost was for animals in the unincorporated area and there was no budgetary cap; however, the fee imposed above the stated number is \$55 per case. Attorney Dent addressed and shared that adoption does offset the costs and there was not an increase for additional animals because the fee rarely exceeded the threshold. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously with six Commissioners voting. Procedures did not require the Chairman to recuse himself from the vote, but he did so stating that his law partner was working on this case. Resolution 20-035 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION
OF A LEASE AND CUSTODIAL CARE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND THE ALBANY HUMANE
SOCIETY, INC; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the annual agreement with Turner Job Corps Center and Dougherty County outlining the assistance of the Dougherty County Police Department in performing law enforcement duties. Chief Kenneth Johnson addressed.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-036 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL
AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
TURNER JOB CORPS CENTER AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA
FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING A POSITIVE AND
COLLABORATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP RELATIVE TO THE
SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS ON THE

JOB CORPS GROUNDS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed. The following board appointments were made:

Albany-Dougherty Land Bank – There was one County appointment to fill a two–year term ending July 31, 2022. Incumbent Robert J. Middleton desired reappointment. There was one new applicant Doug Wilson. The County Administrator recommended the reappointment of the incumbent.

Mrs. Ware clarified that the Intergovernmental Agreement outlines that applications are reviewed by the City Manager (for applications of citizens residing in the city limits) and the County Administrator (for applications of citizens residing in the unincorporated area) for recommendation to the respective Commissions. Upon nomination by Commissioner Hudgins, incumbent Robert J. Middleton was unanimously reappointed to the Albany – Dougherty Land Bank Board for a two-year term ending July 31, 2022.

ASPIRE Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Services- There were two County appointments for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Incumbents Leonard Minter and Richard Ware, Jr. desired reappointment. There were no new applicants. There was also one County appointment for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023 with the stipulation that the position must be filled by an elected official. Incumbent Coroner Michael Fowler desired reappointment.

Upon the nomination of the slate by Commissioner Johnson, incumbents Leonard Minter, Richard Ware, Jr. and Michael Fowler were unanimously reappointed to the ASPIRE Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023.

Department of Family & Children Services – There were two appointments to fill a five–year term ending June 30, 2025. Incumbents Dr. Bill Edge and Catherine Hill desired reappointment. There are two new applicants: Rosalynn Fowler-Fliggins and Dr. Larry McClain.

Upon nomination of the slate by Commissioner Gray, incumbents Dr. Bill Edge and Catherine Hill were unanimously reappointed to the Department of Family & Children Services Board for a five-year term ending June 30, 2025.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed FY 2020-21 Budgets. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Consultant Ed Wall addressed. Finance Director Martha Hendley was present. Mr. McCoy first thanked the Finance Committee for their leadership and commended staff for their hard work. The proposal from FY20 to FY21 is a 1.5% increase to reflect the requested amount of \$70,925,367 with the budget being reviewed in the fall.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval and a second was received by Commissioner Gray. Under discussion, Mr. Wall addressed Commissioner Gaines' concerns about budget deficits. After no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for announcements. Mr. McCoy shared that on July 6th, the Commission will transition back to in person meetings with a platform for Commissioners to call in if desired. Chairman Cohilas recognized County Administrator McCoy's birthday. Commissioner Hudgins shared he appreciated the kind words shared about him. Commissioner Johnson recognized the work done by staff to recognize those marginalized (by increasing the pay of workers to the base line of \$10 per hour) and he provided updates from the ACCG Board. Chief Kenneth Johnson answered Commissioner Johnson's concerns pertaining to paper unlicensed tags and firework use. Commissioners Gray and Johnson asked citizens to be considerate when using fireworks. Chairman Cohilas shared that \$1.25M in funding for the Radium Springs improvement and trail system will be received. This money will be paired with SPLOST dollars. He asked that Mr. McCoy host the delegation to provide thanks for their support.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK