

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

August 10, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 10, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am but delayed the meeting due to technical difficulties. Present [in the Chamber] were Commissioners Victor Edwards and Lamar Hudgins. Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray and Anthony Jones participated via the audio-conferencing feature. Also participating in the Chamber 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. Commissioner Clinton Johnson was absent.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing for the proposed tax increase of 0.57% for the County-Wide digest and the proposed tax increase of 0.39% for the Special Services digest. The millage rates remain the same as last year. The county-wide millage rate is 15.569 and the Special Services millage rate is 9.1730. Citizen Burt Newcomb expressed his concern of values increasing during the pandemic and encouraged the Commission to collect on back property taxes. Citizen William Wright questioned the value of the mill and the amount to be generated by Dougherty County. He provided a written statement in reference to his concerns. There being no additional individuals in support for or opposition to the proposed tax public hearing, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairman recognized Paul Forgey, Director of Planning & Development Services to provide an update on the 2020 Census. Mr. Forgey also serves as the Chairman of the Albany-Dougherty Census Complete Count Committee. He provided an update on why the census is important. As of August 7, 2020, our self-response rate was 56.8% and the state was slightly higher. In general, the County is doing well and better than some other counties but there needs to be an increase in our responses. The Census Bureau announced that September 30th would be the end date for collection; which is one month shorter than the original date announced. He shared some marketing plans and asked that trusted voices within the County challenge others to contact others to ensure their census was completed.

The Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the July 20th Regular Meeting and July 27th Work Session.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the bid to provide park improvements to the Turtle Grove area from the lowest responsible and responsive bidder meeting specifications, Lanier Plans, Inc. dba KORKAT (Carrollton, Ga) in the amount of \$198,449. Three bids were received with the highest base bid being \$325,199.70. The award includes the base bid, deduction of item 2 and addition of alternate 2A. Funding is budgeted in the SPLOST VII- Park Improvements. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Buyer Kimberly Allen were available. Chairman Cohilas said that these

improvements were much needed. Mr. Addison gave an overview of the improvements to include drainage and recommended moving forward.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the quotes to install a thermal temperature monitoring camera system in the Judicial Building. The recommendation is to award to the lowest responsive and responsible vendor, Coopercraft (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$27,145.14. Three quotes were received with the highest being \$52,832. Funding will be provided from the General Fund. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Assistant Chief Pamela Johnson was available. Mr. Addison discussed the two camera systems and the ability to monitor them.

The Chairman called for a discussion of the recommendation to accept the quote to purchase a 2021 Elliptical Tanker for the Albany Fire Department from the Sourcewell contract vendor Ten-8 Fire & Safety Equipment of Georgia, LLC (Forsyth, GA) in the amount of \$465,674.58. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII- County Fire Trucks and Equipment. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and Fire Chief Cedric Scott addressed. Mr. Addison said that this tanker would supplement the water needs in the County and would leave approximately \$60,000 in the account. Future SPLOST funding would be sought for new truck replacements.

Mr. McCoy reminded the Commission and all concerned citizens of the two public hearings on the proposed tax digest.

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

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK