

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 17, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Russell Gray and Lamar Hudgins. Commissioners Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson and Anthony Jones participated via the audio-conferencing feature. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware and other staff. The public and representatives of the media participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. County Administrator Michael McCoy was absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the July 20th Regular Meeting and July 27th Work Session minutes.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards second the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed with six ayes. Commissioner Gaines was not online at the time to vote but she later joined the meeting.

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing and explained the process 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 Dr. Amanda Green spoke in opposition of the tax digest. She encouraged the Commission to look at other cities and counties that did not have property taxes. Citizen Mr. Ken Dukes spoke in opposition of the tax digest. He felt that citizens with properties in pristine condition were being penalized and he felt that the Commission should pay more attention to blighted areas. He mentioned that he feels as if there is "taxation without representation". He is concerned about code enforcement and provided an option that the Commissioners should consider to prevent urban sprawl and wasted resources in the community. Citizen Gloria Bridges spoke in opposition of the tax digest. She stated that she and her mother could not afford a tax increase. There being no additional citizens to speak in support for or opposition to the proposed tax public hearing, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairman recognized and allowed Ms. Bebe Watson to speak after the public hearing in opposition of the proposed tax increase. She expressed her concerns that most individuals in the community were senior citizens and could not afford a tax increase.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the contract 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 subject to execution by the

County Administrator. The award includes the base bid, deduction of item 2 and addition of alternate 2A. Funding is budgeted in the SPLOST VII- Park Improvements.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-050 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND
EXECUTION OF A PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATION
PROVIDING FOR THE CONTRACTING WITH LANIER PLANS, INC.
D/B/A KORKAT RELATIVE TO IMPROVEMENTS TO TURTLE
GROVE PARK FOR A TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF \$198,449.00;
REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the installation of 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. Funding will be provided from the General Fund.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray second the motion. Mr. Addison clarified that this request would be submitted for reimbursement. Commissioner Johnson asked for clarification on the different types of reimbursement opportunities. The Chairman asked Mr. Addison to provide an overview at a future meeting about the interplay between the different funds and reimbursements so that the Commission could have more knowledge of the funding sources. The motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the purchase of 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.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the approval of the 2020 Millage Rates for the County-Wide General Fund, Special Services District Fund, Dougherty County School System and State of Georgia.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-051 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION ASSESSING THE RATE OF TAXATION FOR
COUNTY PURPOSES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA AND ON ALL TAXABLE
PROPERTY IN THE SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT OF DOUGHERTY
COUNTY, GEORGIA FOR 2020;
REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Assistant County Administrator Addison reminded the Commission that there would not be a meeting on August 24th due to five Mondays in the month.

Commissioner Gaines asked if Dougherty County had been impacted by the new order that was issued by the Governor and Chairman Cohilas stated that he is currently evaluating the document. Commissioner Johnson thanked the Commission for their support during the time of his loss. He asked the Chairman to re-clarify how taxes went up for certain citizens if the value of the millage increased even though the rate was still the same. Commissioner Johnson said he always wants to ensure that citizens can have a platform to voice their concerns; and that citizens know their concerns have been heard and the Board understands. Commissioner Jones wanted the Commission to request another traffic study at Georgia Pacific be designated to staff. Mr. Addison will follow up with a status report to the Chairman and Mr. McCoy so a course of action can be charted.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK