

## DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 31, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on August 31, 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 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 in person and 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 August 3rd Regular Meeting, August 10th Work Session and August 10th Public Hearing minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized Chief Cedric Scott and Dr. Phillip Coule, VP and Chief Medical Officer, Augusta University Health to update the Commission on the proposed antibody testing in the community. Chief Scott reminded the Board that they approved the partnership with Augusta University Health in conjunction with the City of Albany and the Dougherty County School System. Dr. Coule shared the revised proposal included testing of all Dougherty County School System staff. It was noted that some staff may reside outside of the zip codes initially listed. Augusta University Health staff Jennifer Miller shared marketing of the tests will start the week on September 9<sup>th</sup> and the team will be in Albany on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The location will be at the Thornton Community Center gym and testing will occur for ten days. Chief Scott clarified that there is no cost to participants. Additional information was provided based on the Board's questions.

The Chairman recognized Bárbara Rivera Holmes, President and CEO, Albany Area Chamber of Commerce to update the Commission on the new Stronger Together Campaign. Mrs. Holmes shared that this is a collaboration with many partners. The campaign has a regional scope with the premise of businesses making promise [for compliance]. She mentioned that businesses were provided masks, sanitizers and free certification training for the unified standards of COVID-19 safety. Blake Cooke with the Levee gave more details on the workforce training and how officers could use the information for enforcement. More information could be found at [www.unifiedstandards.com](http://www.unifiedstandards.com) and the hashtag for the campaign is #StrongerTogetherABY.

The Chairman recognized the citizens with concerns about additional drop boxes for election purposes. Attorney Lee discussed the delineation of responsibility between the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners and the Dougherty County Voter Registration and Elections Board. The Voter Registration and Elections is an autonomous board and it operates under the guidelines of the State. Attorney Lee clarified that the Dougherty County Board of Commissioner has no control

over the Voter Registration and Elections Board. It has been the practice to send all citizen concerns to all autonomous boards (i.e. the Board of Tax Assessors and the Dougherty County Health Board). However, County Attorney Spencer Lee stated that the Commissioners could hear from the citizens but cautioned the Board from interfering with the duties of the autonomous board. After clarification was provided, Chairman Cohilas recognized Election Protection Coalition representative Amna Farooqi. She shared that that they came to speak to the Board of Commissioners based off the direction given from the Voter Registration and Elections Board because their requests required funding. Albany Community Builders representative Kenneth Florence requested that four additional drop boxes be put in the community at the libraries. Based upon the request of Chairman Cohilas, Mr. McCoy clarified that 24-hour surveillance is required [for each drop box]. Mr. McCoy also stated that the Voter Registration and Elections Board would need to request the additional boxes adding that no request to date had been received. It was mentioned that the Library Board would need to be involved in the decision to add boxes at their locations. Mr. Florence shared that it is now a trend in other areas, since the primary election, to install more ballot boxes. Chairman Cohilas asked Mr. McCoy to relay the information to the Voter Registration and Elections Board.

NAACP representative James Pratt asked that the city and county be proactive about providing funding and facilitating the request of installing additional boxes. He requested seven drop boxes and provided codes that could allow the County to be a part of the solution. He felt that with legal guidance, the County could participate without overstepping their responsibilities. He asked that an elections holiday be created. Mr. McCoy said that he would relay the information presented to Voter Registration Supervisor Ginger Nickerson for a response. Mr. McCoy also stated that Mrs. Nickerson has had conversation with him and shared that they do not have funding and staff resources to fulfill their requests. Chairman Cohilas said that we do need to adhere to allowing the Voter Registration and Elections Board to make the recommendation because they have the responsibility for elections and need to ensure that the requests meet their vision. It was requested that Mr. McCoy draft a letter for the Chairman's signature for the Voter Registration and Elections Board to provide a comprehensive request within seven days. Attorney Lee reminded the Commission that the Voter Registration and Elections Board will need to meet. After hearing the Attorney's direction, the Chairman asked Attorney Lee to draft a letter with the County Administrator. Commissioner Jones encouraged the representatives present to also put a lot of effort into ensuring that all polls would be open [on election day].

NAACP member Demetrius Young shared that he spoke with the City Manager and the current topic will be on the City's agenda. Sherrell Byrd said that all present were here to be supportive and followed protocol that was given and were looking for a positive solution. She thanked the Commission for their time.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the contract to accept the bid for the installation of a concrete trail in the Radium Springs area from the lowest responsible and responsive bidder meeting specifications and accepting potential award, HTS Construction (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$332,669.44 subject to execution by the County Administrator. The award includes the base bid and addition of items 25A and 26A. Funding is budgeted in the SPLOST V and SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook and Buyer Kimberly Allen were present. Mr. Addison explained the trail enhancements and stated one bid was rescinded.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-052 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND  
EXECUTION OF AN AUGUST 20, 2020 PROCUREMENT  
RECOMMENDATION PROVIDING FOR CONTRACTING WITH HTS  
CONSTRUCTION OF ALBANY, GEORGIA FOR THE  
INSTALLATION OF A CONCRETE TRAIL IN THE RADIUM  
SPRINGS AREA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$332,669.44; 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 of the Task Order to perform the design, construction documents and construction administration needed for the Scale Replacement project at the landfill with the current vendor Atlantic Coast Consulting (Savannah, GA) in the amount of \$41,900 subject to the execution by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in the Solid Waste Capital Outlay. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Solid Waste Director Campbell Smith was present. Mr. Addison shared that the construction portion would be bid out.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-053 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF  
AN AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL CONSULTING SERVICES BETWEEN  
ATLANTIC COAST CONSULTING, INC. AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY,  
GEORGIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES RELATIVE TO  
SCALE REPLACEMENT AT THE FLEMING/GAISSERT ROAD MUNICIPAL  
SOLID WASTE LANDFILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,900.00; 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 of the Statement of Work to perform the Human Resources and Finance End of Year Updates needed for the JD Edwards system with the current vendor Brij (Greensboro, NC) in the estimated amount of \$44,100 subject to the execution by the County Administrator. Funding is available in SPLOST VI – Information Technology. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. HR Director Dominique Hall was present. Mr. Addison stated that this request was needed due to the transition to another system and information is needed from the other system.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-054 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL  
BY DOUGHERTY COUNTY OF A STATEMENT OF WORK FOR THE  
DOUGHERTY COUNTY JD EDWARDS UPGRADE PROJECT IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$44,100; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF  
RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring the listed vehicles and equipment as surplus and authorizing the sale of same via an online auction. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed.

Commissioner Hudgins moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-055 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION DECLARING AS SURPLUS THE ATTACHED  
LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR  
DISPOSAL OF OR SALE OF SAME ON VIA AN ONLINE  
AUCTION; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Chairman Cohilas informed the Board that Commissioner Clinton Johnson will serve as the Dougherty County Voting Delegate for the ACCG 2020 Business Session. Commissioner Johnson thanked Commissioner Edwards and Gaines for their cleanup project in the community. Commissioner Gaines thanked Phoebe for the masks that were donated. She also thanked the South West Georgian newspaper and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mount Olive Youth Ministry for their assistance. Commissioner Gray asked if Mr. McCoy could request that a traffic study be done based upon citizens request to increase the speed limit to be consistent on Philema Road. Chairman Cohilas reminded the Board of the County Administrator evaluation training scheduled after the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

---

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

COUNTY CLERK