

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2020

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on January 6, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, 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.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, the Chairman called for approval of the December 2 Regular Meeting, December 9 Work Session, December 9 State Legislative Meeting, and December 16 Regular Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Lamar Hudgins as the Vice Chairman for Calendar Year 2020 per Resolution No. 91-011.

The Chairman recognized David Hodges, Chief Ranger, to provide the Georgia Forestry Commission Annual Report. Mr. Hodges is the Chief Ranger for Dougherty County and Lee County and replaced Tommy Lambert due to retirement. He shared that there were 12 wildfires in FY 18-19 which was a decrease from the previous year. The department is now fully staffed and there should be an increase in prevention and management activities in the future. General questions posed by the Commission were answered.

The Chairman recognized Radium Springs citizen Don Dalling to address the possible restoration of the water tower in that area. The Chairman directed Mr. McCoy to find out who owns the tower and to see how this could be possibly restored.

The Chairman recognized Pastor Rance Pettibone who requested the use of the utilities at the Government Center once a month. His specific request was to use electrical power during their prayer services that normally takes place on the every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month for an hour. He shared the power was available for five years and ceased November 2019. Mr. McCoy shared that open access to the building's power was a risk management liability. Mr. McCoy was directed by the Chairman to take the request under consideration and provide a report back to the Commission. Additional discussion took place and some Commissioners suggested a policy for facility use. Mr. McCoy reminded the Board that any policies or procedures would need to involve the City of Albany because the building was jointly owned.

The Chairman recognized citizen George Carter who presented a concern pertaining to Ramsey Road.

The Chairman recognized Warren Grant who asked the Commission to consider government consolidation.

The Chairman called for consideration of a resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the proposal to complete Phase I of the Radium Springs Trailhead Project from the lowest most responsive and responsible vendor, Artesian Contracting of Albany, GA in the amount of \$474,234.70 subject to the execution of the contract by the County Administrator. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison addressed. Public Works Director Larry Cook, Project Engineer Jeremy Brown and City of Albany Buyers Kimberly Allen and Joshua Williams were present. Mr. Addison shared that this was the first project presented to the Board from Ron Huffman's proposal. He highlighted details of the second phase of the project and shared that the County received \$200,000 in grant funds towards the project. Mr. Addison stated that he would resend design plans to the Commission.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Jones the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 20-001 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION  
ENTITLED  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF  
A PROCUREMENT RECOMMENDATION DATED JANUARY 2, 2020  
PROVIDING FOR CONTRACTING WITH ARTESIAN CONTRACTING OF  
ALBANY, GEORGIA FOR WORK ON PHASE 1 OF THE RADIUM SPRINGS  
TRAILHEAD PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$474,234.70; REPEALING  
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the reappointment of the Dougherty County Police Chief through the extension of the employment agreement through January 4, 2021. County Attorney Spencer Lee addressed. Attorney Lee shared that the Commission should consider the renewal of the contracts for Dougherty County Police Chief and County Administrator annually; and added that the documents were in legal form.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of reappointment of the County Administrator through the extension of the employment agreement through January 4, 2021 per section 1-3-23 of the Dougherty County Code of Ordinances. County Attorney Spencer Lee addressed. Commissioner Edwards asked for clarification in reference to the evaluation of the Administrator. Commissioner Jones said the Board decided to conduct an evaluation during the year after the first anniversary of appointment; others provided acknowledgment of the agreement.

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

Commissioner Edwards stated that the Board should begin the process to develop the evaluation criteria for the County Administrator and requested to see an example at the retreat. Chairman Cohilas formally directed Human Resource Director Dominique Hall to do so. Commissioner Edwards reminded the board that there were two other staff members that report directly to the Board [the County Attorney and Dougherty County Police Chief].

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

---

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---

COUNTY CLERK