

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 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 July 20, 2020. Chairman Christopher Cohilas presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 29th Special Called and July 6th Regular Meeting minutes.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the Resolutions providing for the execution of related documents pertaining to the adoption of the Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Grant for the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-038 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADOPTION OF SECTION 3 POLICY FOR
COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) GRANT.

Resolution 20-039 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND
PROGRAM DESIGN FOR
COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) GRANT.

Resolution 20-040 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADOPTION OF CHIP GRANT HOMEOWNERS ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS FOR
COMMUNITY HOME INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CHIP) GRANT.

Resolution 20-041 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ADOPTION OF THE GEORGIA STATUES POLICIES BY LOCAL
GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the Resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the proposal from Augusta University Health to provide clinical antibody testing and to provide insight into the community spread of COVID-19. The Coronavirus Task Force Sub-Committee recommended approval of the proposal for an estimated cost of \$162,000 that will be cost shared equally between the City of Albany, the Dougherty County School System and Dougherty County. The County's estimated expenditure is \$54,000 (\$144,000 for tests + \$18,000 for travel, lodging and meals). Funding will be provided from the General Fund. County Administrator Michael McCoy, Chief Cedric Scott and Augusta University Health VP/Innovation Officer, Mallary Myers, VP and Chief Medical Officer were present to address. It was shared that investing in the study will help give more insight to researchers for years to come and it is believed that the project will be a good return on investment. Dr. Cool shared that the study will provide the true impact on the community because many individuals were not included in case numbers because of testing limitations. Additionally, the study will reveal the relevance for the infection rate and assist with decision making in the future. Specialized testing, methodology and research study plans were discussed.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. A second was provided by Commissioner Johnson. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines received clarification pertaining to her questions about testing in other counties in Georgia and the cost for the study. Dr. Cool specifically stated that they recently concluded a study in an area with a lesser impact. In regard to cost, Mr. McCoy stated that the funding is covered because the Board approved an increase in our contingency funding. He added that reimbursement will be sought to reduce the economic impact through different methods (i.e. the CARES Act and FEMA). Chairman Cohilas, Mr. McCoy and Dr. Cool responded to Commissioner Johnson's questions about the study. This study is not designed to be mass testing but a schedule will be created for representatives of different demographic groups. The budget is based on 1800 tests, but the recommendation is for no less than 1000 tests to be done. Mr. McCoy assured Commissioner Jones that specific details will be provided to the Board about the study prior to funding being provided. Dr. Cool answered Commissioner Gray's concern about data ownership and utilization by sharing that the data would be co-owned by the County, but only data that can be released is that not privacy protected. After no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-042 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL AND
EXECUTION OF A PROPOSAL FROM AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH TO PROVIDE CLINICAL ANTIBODY TESTING AND
INSIGHT INTO THE COMMUNITIES SPREAD OF
COVID-19 FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$54,000; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT
HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the approval of the Alcohol Application from S&R 2020 LLC, Saif Ullah licensee, dba Pace Car Express, at 3500 Sylvester Road for Beer Package. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval. County Clerk Jawahn Ware and Chief Anthony Donaldson were available to address.

The Chairman called for consideration of the Resolution declaring three interior protective car shields (cages) and one emergency light bar as surplus and authorize the transfer at no cost of the same to the Dougherty County School System Police Department. This request was made on behalf of Chief Troy Conley to assist in the safe transportation of children due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison and County Clerk Jawahn Ware were available to address.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 20-043 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SURPLUSING OF
THREE INTERIOR PROTECTIVE CAR SHIELDS AND ONE
EMERGENCY LIGHT BAR AND AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TRANSFER OF SAID EQUIPMENT TO THE DOUGHERTY
COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS
IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for announcements. Commissioner Gaines provided a verbal tribute to Representative John Lewis for his service to citizens of the United States, announcing his recent transition. Commissioner Jones shared with the Board that he will serve as the County's delegate at the upcoming NACO virtual business meeting and will serve on the Membership Committee. Commissioner Edwards asked questions about DCP staffing and Mr. McCoy will provide a response. Commissioner Edwards also asked for an incentive package for Dougherty County employees to reduce turnover. Chairman Cohilas asked for a review of the retirement plan. Mr. McCoy responded to Commissioner Edwards' concern about a possible balloon operations company on Hwy 19.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK