

DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 24, 2019

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 120 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on June 24, 2019. Vice Chairman Anthony Jones presided. Commissioners present were Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Lamar Hudgins and Clinton Johnson. Also present were County Administrator Michael McCoy, County Attorney Spencer Lee, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, and representatives of the media. Chairman Christopher Cohilas and Assistant County Administrator Scott Addison were absent.

The Vice Chairman recognized citizen Mr. George Carter present regarding his concerns that the state had not cut the grass on Highway 82 in the eastside of Albany, Ga and wanted to know what Dougherty County planned on doing about the issue. Mr. McCoy shared that this concern would be addressed during the budget presentation later in the meeting.

The Vice Chairman recognized Public Information Officer Wendy Howell to present the revised Dougherty County logo options and introduce Marty Vanags, International Economic Development Consultant who would assist with brand strategy and economic development strategies. Mr. McCoy shared that the services of Mr. Vanags are being provided from a state grant to provide assistance for economic developmental needs and is a part of our recovery efforts due to Hurricane Michael.

The Vice Chairman asked the Commission to review the minutes of the June 3 Regular Meeting and June 10 Work Session.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to purchase radio equipment for the Jail from the lowest vendor meeting specifications Mobile Communications (Albany, GA) in the amount of \$61,750. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Chief Jailer John Ostrander was present. Chief Ostrander clarified that this was for in house radios only. Action on this item was scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting.

The Vice Chairman called for discussion to review the Stormwater Facility Maintenance Agreement between Georgia-Pacific Wood Products, LLC and Dougherty County, Georgia. County Attorney Spencer Lee and City Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed. Mr. Brown stated that this was a standard agreement that owners signed and a signature was needed from the County before being recorded. Mr. Lee added that the legal form was in order.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion to review the amended and restated Utility Easement Agreement between Georgia-Pacific Wood Products LLC and Dougherty County, Georgia. County Attorney Spencer Lee and City Engineer Jeremy Brown addressed. Mr. Brown shared that there was an existing easement that ran through the property that Georgia Pacific wanted to

develop and the easement needed to be amended for development. Mr. Lee added that the documents were in order.

The Vice Chairman called for discussion of the following proposed board appointments. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed.

Keep Albany Dougherty Beautiful – There is one appointment to fill an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2019. The incumbent would replace Shalonda Heard. KADB recommended Scott Carroll, Certified Georgia POST Instructor.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to approve one invoice from Ceres Environmental Services in the amount of \$38,674.87 for debris removal and disposal. Funding will be paid from the Special Services District Fund. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Action on this item was scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to approve two invoices from the City of Albany for the joint City-County project to upgrade P25 Motorola radios in the amount of \$299,302.07 (for the upgrade) and \$91,426.75 (for the maintenance). Funding will be paid from SPLOST VII. The invoices are due June 30, 2019. There are two other payments for the radios remaining. County Administrator Michael McCoy addressed. Last year, public safety radios were upgraded and this is our portion of the bill. He clarified that this purchase was separate from the radios the Jail requested. Also, he shared that additional radios would need to be upgraded on an as needed basis due to funding availability. Chief Ostrander explained the different radios that were required due to the public safety network upgrade. Mr. McCoy clarified that the Board previously approved the project but not the funding and this request exceeds his spending authority. Action on this item was scheduled in the following Special Called Meeting.

The Vice Chairman called for a discussion of a recommendation to continue the discussion and presentations for the proposed FY 2020 Budgets. County Administrator Michael McCoy and Finance Director Martha Hendley addressed. Mr. McCoy discussed the mowing in the unincorporated area. He recommended to revert to the original request of the selected maintenance of right of way for six roads and funding in the amount of \$15,000 based on a complaint driven program instead of mowing on a schedule. Also, he addressed an additional request of \$24,000 in the General Fund to pay half of the annual rent to house the GBI Drug Unit on Evelyn Avenue. This would be a joint venture with the City of Albany. The project has not been finalized but the County is being proactive in providing funding for the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Johnson wanted to ensure that confiscated funding is kept local because the County is paying the bills. Mr. McCoy and Commissioner Hudgins confirmed that this is a standard for the local government to house the GBI and referenced the County did the same for the State Patrol. Chief Johnson shared that this a move for the GBI high level drug enforcement unit only.

Additional clarification was provided to Commissioner Gaines regarding the budget process, proposal and questioning of the individual line items. Several Commissioners spoke about the budget process and provided suggestions for improvements in the next budget process to include providing line items during the Finance Committee meetings. Finance Committee Chairman

Lamar Hudgins was opposed to the specific suggestion and shared that the Commissioner Gaines could meet with department heads and the County Administrator as former Commissioner Lyle did during the budget season.

Mr. McCoy stated the proposed FY 19-20 budget is now \$69,829,147 plus \$15,000 if consensus for mowing was provided. The Vice Chairman polled the Board and there was unanimous consent for mowing.

Commissioner Edwards called upon Judy Bowles to speak about the City ordinance for roll off dumpsters and containers for people who were evicted. He also revisited his concerns regarding the Economic Development Commission and his viewpoints. Commissioner Johnson reminded the Board that criticism and praises would be needed that day because of the upcoming EDC meeting. Commissioner Gaines readdressed her concerns about additions to the budget and shared her concern for a potential mileage increase in the future.

After there was no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK