DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on December 16, 2024. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Deron King, Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark, and other staff. The public and media participated in person and via live streaming of the meeting on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Commissioner Anthony Jones and County Clerk Jawahn Ware were absent.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes of the November 18th Regular Meeting, November 25th State Delegation Meeting, November 25th Work Session, and November 25th Special Called Meeting.

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

The Chairman recognized Beulah Missionary Baptist Church Centenarian Mother Charlotte Davis to receive a proclamation recognizing her 101st birthday. Mother Lonnie Fields was not in attendance due to being ill so she sent her daughter Carolyn Brooks on her behalf to be recognized for her 100th birthday. Mother Fields shared a brief highlight of her life and Ms. Brooks mentioned some of her mother's accomplishments. The proclamation reads as follows:

A Proclamation by the Dougherty County, Georgia Board of Commissioners Celebrating the Remarkable Lives of Mother Charlotte Davis and Mother Lonnie Fields

WHEREAS, Mother Charlotte Davis and Mother Lonnie Fields, esteemed members of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, have reached the extraordinary ages of 101 and 100 years, respectively, demonstrating lives of faith, resilience, and dedication to their community; and

WHEREAS, Mother Charlotte Davis, born Charlotte Pearl Crumbley on November 16, 1923, in Elmodel, Georgia, to Jimmy Lee and Emma Robinson Crumbley, grew up in Baker County, where she gave her life to Christ at an early age; and after pursuing higher education in Macon, Georgia, and Florida, Mother Charlotte Davis married Logan Davis, with whom she raised five children.

WHEREAS, as a pillar in every community she touched, from Detroit, Michigan, where she co-founded a successful restaurant, to Newark, New Jersey, where Mother Charlotte Davis was instrumental in various community initiatives while dedicating her life to service, faith, and

family to Albany, Georgia, where she continues her legacy of spiritual leadership at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mother Lonnie Bell Fields, born on September 16, 1924, in Arlington, Georgia, devoted her life to nurturing her eight children, five of whom survive, along with her 8 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren; and as a dedicated member of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, Mother Lonnie Fields also served her community through her work at Albany State College as a short-order cook in the student center; and

WHEREAS, Mother Lonnie Field's unwavering faith and love have profoundly impacted the lives of her family, church, and community, leaving a legacy of compassion and strength; and

WHEREAS, Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. L.D. Cobb, has been honored to witness the legacies of these two remarkable women, whose unwavering faith and dedication have set an enduring example for generations to come; and the milestone birthdays of Mother Davis and Mother Fields serve as an opportunity to honor not only their longevity but also their remarkable spirits, which continue to inspire their families, church community, and the citizens of Dougherty County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the celebration of Mother Charlotte Davis' 101st birthday and Mother Lonnie Fields' 100th birthday as momentous occasions, encouraging all citizens to join in recognizing their incredible lives and contributions to our community.

This the 16th day of December, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY:_____
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman

The Chairman and the additional County Commissioners recognized Southwest Georgia Community Action Council Board member Glenn Tyler Harris for his service. Mr. Harris shared some highlights of his service on the Board and provided a few updates.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Andrew "Andy" Wulf to update the Commission on the Albany Museum of Art's (AMA) capital campaign and other initiatives. Dr. Wulf provided updates on the Albany Museum of Art and mentioned upcoming structures and job opportunities. In FY24, there were 19,592 museum visitors, and he shared EPA updates and information on the Historic Tax Credit. AMA is asking Dougherty County for $1.7 million to assist with the building of the new museum and gave a 20-24 month timeline to build. Commissioner Johnson said that he would like to discuss the item in a Finance Committee Meeting to find a funding source. It was clarified that the County has already provided $1.3 million to this project and this ask was for an additional

$1.7 million.

The Chairman recognized Chair of the KADB Board Jeannette Henderson who asked the Board to table the agenda item related to the Joint Resolution/Ordinance consideration. Some of the KADB board members were present and were introduced.

The Chairman opened the zoning public hearing for David Dent, applicant and Transport Equipment Company, owner (24-070) request to rezone a 2.9-acre parcel from C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed-Use Business District) and R-2 (Single-Family Resident District) to C-3 (Commercial Business District). The rezoning would allow for the development of a parking lot for transport equipment. The property is at 3415 Sylvester Hwy. The Planning Commission recommended approval with conditions of required buffering and fencing. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. Citizen Ronald Redine opposed the zoning consideration due to safety concerns. If approved, he suggested that:

- There be access to the property from Sylvester Hwy only, prohibiting access from Holton
- Install fence and screening along Holton
- Provide an increased 35' vegetative buffer along Holton
- Provide a hard surface (previous) parking surface so as to not create a dust nuisance

Citizens Amy Diaz and Eduardo Duran were opposed to the zoning as well due to the safety of the children in their neighborhood. There being no additional individuals present in support of or opposition to the proposed zoning matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Public Works Committee to accept the quote for professional services from Andrew, Hammock, & Powell (Macon, GA) in an amount not to exceed $500,000. The vendor will oversee the engineering, scope of work, and design for the needed mechanical upgrades at the Dougherty County Jail. Funding is available in SPLOST VII and SPLOST VIII.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked for clarity on engaging an architect. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the professional services quote from Merik Building Construction Consultants (Byron, GA) to continue the exterior waterproofing maintenance of the Albany Dougherty Government Center in the amount of $72,000. This is a SPLOST VIII project with the cost allocation to be reconciled with the City of Albany upon completion.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Newsome, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the list of roads to be resurfaced with the FY 2025

Local Maintenance & Improvements Grant (LMIG) funds ($459,427.54) and TSPLOST Resurfacing ($1,842,095.53). The total cost estimate for 10.60 miles is $2,301,523.07.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines wanted to be reassured of how the routes were selected. Mr. Mathis addressed and said that the spreadsheet was used to know what roads needed to be resurfaced. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of Amendment #1 of the Broker Services Agreement between Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. and Dougherty County Board of Commissioners. The amendment will extend the agreement for one additional year, expiring December 31, 2025. The annual fee of $69,750 will not change. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked for clarity on why this was titled as Amendment #1 and the Attorney said that this was standard. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-049 is entitled:

RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING
AMENDMENT TO BROKER SERVICES
AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY,
GEORGIA AND ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES,
INC.; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the reorganization of the Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful (KADB) Program to Dougherty County's Solid Waste Department and the establishment of the KADB Commission Board.

Commissioner Newsome moved to table the agenda item. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commissioner Gray amended the motion to table to include following up within 60 days and to ensure that KADB would not make any personnel changes. There being no further discussion, the amended motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution confirming the reappointments of George Anderson and Wayne Shaw to the Dougherty County Board of Tax Assessors for the term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027. Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gaines, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-050 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO POSTS 4 AND 5 OF THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the Zoning Consideration of David Dent, applicant and Transport Equipment Company, owner (24-070) request to rezone a 2.9-acre parcel from C-1 (Neighborhood Mixed-Use Business District) and R-2 (Single-Family Resident District) to C-3 (Commercial Business District). The rezoning would allow for the development of a parking lot for transport equipment. The property is at 3415 Sylvester Hwy. The Planning Commission recommended approval with conditions of required buffering and fencing.

Commissioner Edwards moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion to include:

- There be access to the property from Sylvester Hwy only, prohibiting access from Holton
- Install fence and screening along Holton
- Provide an increased 35' vegetative buffer along Holton

Commissioner Johnson provided a substitute motion to include providing a hard surface (previous) parking surface so as to not create a dust nuisance. Commissioner Gaines seconded the substitute motion. There being no further discussion, the substitute motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, real estate, and personnel.

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

Mr. King reminded the Board that the next County Commission meeting will be a Work Session on Monday, January 6, 2025. All Commissioners provided the same sentiment relative to the holidays and Commissioner Johnson gave kudos to Chairman Heard for his leadership.

The Chairman recognized the Albany Civics Club led by Mrs. Andrea Owens-Jones. She shared some of the accomplishments of the students and said that the engagement goal was to increase interest in government opportunities. Commissioner Gray provided kudos to the group. The Chairman recognized City Commissioner Jon Howard and others who were present to support Kwanzaa 229. A joint proclamation for Kwanzaa was read by Chairman Heard.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Board entered into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:32 p.m.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution to approve the settlement agreement between Dougherty County and Pamela Johnson and approval of Amendment Number Three to Dougherty County Defined Benefit Retirement Plan and Trust.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gaines, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-051 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION

ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGHERTY COUNTY AND PAMELA JOHNSON AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE TO DOUGHERTY COUNTY DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;

AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK