DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2024 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on October 21, 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, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Deron King, Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, County Clerk Jawahn Ware, 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.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes for the September 23rd Regular Meeting and September 30th Work Session.

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

The Chairman recognized writers Alex and Stephen Kendrick and representatives of Kendrick Brothers Production to receive a proclamation for their impact in Dougherty County. They shared the success of their latest movie "The Forge" which was filmed in Albany and shown in over 1900 theaters. The success of this film on a local and national level was noted. Several Commissioners provided kudos and accolades for this work. The proclamation reads as follows:

Proclamation Honoring the Kendrick Brothers for Their Impact in Albany and Dougherty County

WHEREAS, the Kendrick Brothers established Kendrick Brothers Productions in Albany, Georgia, in 2003 as part of Sherwood Baptist Church, producing films like Flywheel, which promotes integrity and faith; and

WHEREAS, Flywheel and subsequent films such as Facing the Giants, Fireproof, Courageous, and War Room have gained national and international attention, bringing positive messages of faith, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Kendrick Brothers returned to Albany to produce The Forge, showcasing local landmarks and earning critical acclaim worldwide, further highlighting Albany and Dougherty County on the global stage; and

WHEREAS, the Kendrick Brothers continue to contribute to the Albany community through their impactful films and dedicated service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners

honors the Kendrick Brothers for their exceptional contributions to the community and the global reach of their films.

This the 21st day of October 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman
Dougherty County Commission

The Chairman opened the zoning public hearing for Lanier Engineering, Inc., applicant and Billy Bogus Construction, LLC, owner (24-062) request to rezone a 1.012-acre parcel from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-R (Community Residential Multiple-Dwelling District). The rezoning would align with adjacent parcels and allow a single-family residential development. The property location is 1729 Beattie Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Tanner Anderson, Planner 1, and Engineer Tod Lanier addressed the concerns of the Board. Citizen Joseph MyKyten was present to request more consideration of the traffic plan and addition of sidewalks prior to action. Commissioner Gray suggested that an egress and degress solution be implemented. There was an in-depth discussion pertaining to the traffic study. 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 to accept the quote for recording equipment for Juvenile Court from BIS Digital (Ft. Lauderdale, Fl) in the amount of $27,500. Juvenile Court recently obtained new computers, and the recording system needs to be upgraded to be compatible with the equipment. Funding is budgeted in the General Fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Judge Ingrid Driskell was recognized as being in attendance. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the purchase of two Caterpillar M318 Hydraulic Excavators for Public Works from Yancey Bros. Co. (Albany, GA) in the amount of $735,486. The dealer will provide a trade in allowance of $209,000 for the existing equipment. The final expenditure will be $526,486. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, it was confirmed for Commissioner Johnson that the equipment was new. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for acceptance and execution of the contract for the FY 22/23 Road Resurfacing Project from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Reeves Construction Company Inc. (Albany, GA) in the amount of $6,620,255; subject to execution by the County Administrator. Funding will be provided by

unappropriated/unused funds in SPLOST III, IV, V, VI, VII; 2022 and 2023 LMIG; T-SPLOST-2 Roadway Improvement; T-SPLOST-2 Roadway Striping.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards reminded the Board that a priority list should be created with Pecan Lane included and listed in the top five. Commissioner Gaines requested that an update be given on SPLOST accounts. Mr. Brooks shared that as a past practice by former Administrators, older SPLOSTS were closed out [for purchases] and quarterly reports will be provided. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 24-040 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION

ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT FROM THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to accept Change Order #1 from CE Construction (Albany, GA) in the amount of $52,500 to undercut unsuitable material located in the south Barbragale Alley. Funding, if approved, will be transferred from unused funds in Radium Springs DNR Bridge and be expended from TSPLOST 2 Alley Improvements. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Mr. Brooks shared that while the crew was mobilized, the failure in the road was identified. It is more cost-effective to repair the concern while the road was uncovered.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards ask for clarification of the use of the overage in the DNR was addressed. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Library to apply for three Georgia Public Library Service Major Repair and Renovation Grants in the amount of $900,000 for renovations of the Westtown Library. The grant includes a $450,000 local match. Funding is available in SPLOST VI and VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to accept the Albany/Dougherty Resiliency Plan. The City of Albany adopted the proposed plan in their September 24, 2024 Meeting.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray asked for a printed copy of the document. Mr. Brooks shared that it would be provided by hard copy or link. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration of the ratification of the joint appointment by the City of Albany of Demetrius Love to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024 for the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Incumbent Haryl Dabney resigned. County Clerk Jawahn Ware addressed.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Clerk Ware shared that they would see the name presented again in November if the candidate wishes to continue serving for the term ending in December 2025. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of Lanier Engineering, Inc., applicant and Billy Bogus Construction, LLC, owner (24-062) request to rezone a 1.012-acre parcel from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-R (Community Residential Multiple-Dwelling District). The rezoning would align with adjacent parcels and allow a single-family residential development. The property location is 1729 Beattie Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Newsome motioned for approval and Commissioner Edwards provided a second. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray provided a substitute motion, to approve the rezoning, pending a suitable plan for deceleration and acceleration entrance into the development. He noted that this is only a 1-acre parcel, but would like to mitigate the risk of entrance into the entire development. There was not a second received. Commissioner Gaines offered an amendment to the motion for approval of the zoning by asking that the County require a traffic study to mitigate any problems that may result from this density and that the County takes responsibility for this happening. There was not a second received. Commissioner Newsome reminded the Board that the request before them is only for the one-acre parcel and that the County has plenty of time to be forward-thinking pertaining to the future plans of the 70 units. Chairman Heard confirmed that there were three motions on the table, which he recapped. Commissioner Newsome shared his desire for action to pass the consideration. Commissioner Gray noted that the other 17-acre parcel is currently zoned as CR, so development can occur [at any time]. This request is being considered to match the current zoning designation so there are no discrepancies. He added that this one acre is a small part of a bigger project and that the County is not holding up the project, but he would like for the County to use its leverage and take into consideration the future impacts that may come. He wanted to ensure that safety concerns and solutions for the egress and degress

on Beattie Road be addressed. Commissioner Gaines echoed that her motion would obligate the County and not the developer to find a solution for an existing problem. Assistant County Administrator Brooks shared that Zoning Staff can address the traffic study administratively upon direction from the Board and the consideration can be passed. Clerk Ware clarified the parliamentary inquiry pertaining to the motions on the table. Commissioner Gaines withdrew her motion with the understanding that there is a direction to staff that the traffic study be conducted as part of the permitting and development process. Commissioner Gray also withdrew his motion. After no additional discussion, the original motion passed unanimously.

Mr. King gave an update on a community meeting that Tax Director Shonna Josey and Tax Assessor Board Member Larry Thomas attended. Sentiments, prayers, and a moment of silence were provided for those impacted by the recent tragedy at Albany State University over the weekend. Commissioner Edwards recognized consultant Georgia Collier Boiling who was present. Commissioner Johnson shared information on the recent groundbreaking at Albany State University which he and Commissioner Gaines participated in. Commissioner Gray stressed the need for enforcement mechanisms to ensure the community was safe and all fees were received to ensure there was no burden on taxpayers. Commissioner Gaines requested that we ensure that there was an educational process regarding the reevaluation of property. She shared the loss of life of Mrs. Earnest Lawrence who was a staple in the community. She asked for an update on the status of the PIO position and Mr. King said that Ms. Banks would work as a consultant during the transition. A contract was being created for Ms. Banks to be a consultant via The Levee. It was suggested that the County see how they can support positive initiatives in the community pertaining to homecomings. The Chairman noted that there were participants in the audience from the 2024 Leadership Albany Class.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and then to adjourn.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Edwards, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call.

There being no further discussion, the Board entered into Executive Session at 11:39 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK