DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany Dougherty Government Center on May 18, 2026. Vice Chairman Ed Newsome presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, and Anthony Jones. 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 by Commissioner Jones, Vice Chairman Newsome asked the Commission to review the minutes of the April 20th Regular Meeting and April 27th Work Session.

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

On behalf of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman recognized Public Works Director Chuck Mathis to accept the proclamation recognizing May 17-23, 2026 as Public Works Week in Dougherty County. Mr. Mathis introduced the staff members present, noting that they "get the job done." He shared with the Board that citizens are not calling with complaints, but with a request for services. The Employee of the Year is Administrative Secretary Deborah Patton, and the Manager of the Year is Stormwater Manager David "Brad" Little. Kudos were provided by the Board. Commissioner Jones stressed that he has never received a complaint about Public Works because they get work done. Commissioner Jones also highlighted the service of the team, giving special thanks to the leadership of Mr. Chuck Mathis. Other Board members provided similar sentiments. The Board was invited to the official celebration on the upcoming Friday. The proclamation reads as follows:

National Public Works Week Proclamation

May 17 – 23, 2026

"Rooted in Service, Powered by Community"

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of Dougherty County, Albany, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving,

and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in Dougherty County, Albany, Georgia to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and,

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 66th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association be it now,

RESOLVED, I, Lorenzo L. Heard, Commission Chairman, do hereby designate the week May 17 – 23, 2026, as National Public Works Week; I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, (to be affixed),

DONE at the Dougherty County, Albany, Georgia this 18th day of May 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman

On behalf of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman recognized EMS Director James Gibney to accept the proclamation recognizing May 17-23, 2026 as Emergency Management Services Week in Dougherty County. Mr. Gibney introduced present staff members. He gave appreciation and noted this is the first year he has received a proclamation on behalf of the team. Kudos were provided by the Board. Commissioner Gray commended the team for setting the standard on a regional basis. Commissioner Edwards noted the professional service of EMS and not receiving complaints. Commissioner Gaines provided appreciation for the care that EMS and the Fire department provided for a family member. Mr. Gibney elaborated on the relationships between EMS and the Fire Department for Commissioners Gaines and Edwards. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Dougherty County, Georgia in recognition of this event does hereby proclaim the week of May 17–23, 2026 as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the County of Dougherty on this 18th day of May in the year of our Lord two-thousand and twenty-six.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA

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LORENZO L. HEARD, Chairman

The Vice Chairman opened the public hearing for the Albany-Dougherty Payroll Development Authority, applicant and owner (26-028) request to rezone a 358.21-acre parcel from R-2 (Single-Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial District) parcel number 00204/00001/012 (Oakhaven Drive). The rezoning would allow for the property to be used for Light Industrial purposes. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Tanner Anderson, Planner II, addressed. Questions of Commissioners Johnson and Gaines were addressed. There being no one present in favor or opposed of the request, the public hearing was closed. Chairman Heard entered the meeting at 10:51 a.m., and Vice Chairman Newsome continued to chair the meeting.

The Vice Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the FY 2027 Contract between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service and

Dougherty County Board of Commissioners. The contract is for the salary, retirement, Social Security and Medicare costs for five County Extension Agents for the fiscal year.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 26-025 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL AND EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF FY 2027 CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA ON BEHALF OF THE UGA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR COUNTY'S PORTION OF SALARY AND BENEFITS OF COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Vice Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the proposal from Mauldin & Jenkins (Atlanta, GA), CPAs and Advisors, for a Strategic Assessment of the Solid Waste (SW) Department in an amount up to $75,000 subject to execution by the County Administrator. Funding will be provided in FY26 (in the amount of $5,000) and the remainder will be provided in FY27 Professional Fees.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion Mr. Deron King addressed the time frame for the assessment and said that the Board will receive bi-weekly reports. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 26-026 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF PROPOSAL FROM MAULDIN & JENKINS FOR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Vice Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office, EMS, and Aspire Behavioral Health to accept the quote from Cardiac Solutions (Birmingham, AL) to add Opioid Response Kits, Narcan, and Zoll AED's to vehicles and buildings in the amount of $210,696. Funding is provided from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed with six ayes and one nay from Commissioner Gray.

The Vice Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the Sheriff's Office and Aspire Behavioral Health for the approval and funding of an Addictions Counselor and a Case Manager/Forensic Peer Specialist within the Dougherty County Jail to provide comprehensive substance use disorder (SUD) services, case management services and integration back to the community. The request for one-time funding in the amount of $133,187 will be provided from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. King addressed the questions of Commissioner Edwards for staffing the physical location. Ms. Oosterveen addressed the questions of Commissioner Gaines regarding funding the positions in the future. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Vice Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Public Works to apply for the 2026 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation in the amount of $9,210,800. This is a joint City and County application and requires a 20 percent match of $1,842,160 and the County's portion of the local match is $796,080 and will be funded from T-SPLOST (2023) if the grant is approved. The County's portion of the project will be for shoulder improvements along Eight Mile Road and Tarver Road. The application deadline is May 26, 2026.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion Misters Mathis and Brown addressed questions from Commissioner Johnson regarding the project. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Vice Chairman called for the zoning consideration of the Albany-Dougherty Payroll Development Authority, applicant and owner (26-028) request to rezone a 358.21-acre parcel from R-2 (Single-Family Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial District) parcel number 00204/00001/012 (Oakhaven Drive). The rezoning would allow for the property to be used for Light Industrial purposes. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Gray moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

County Administrator Deron King expressed condolences to Commissioner Gaines for the loss of her aunt. He announced that there will be a Recreation Committee meeting following the Regular Meeting in Room 120; and in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday, there will be no Commission meeting held on Monday, May 25th. The next meetings will be a Work Session followed by a Regular Meeting on June 1, 2026.

Attorney Shalishali shared the current balance for the opioid fund in the amount of $440,000 (payment received and balance allocated to Dougherty County is $512,000). In addition, $72,000 was pending receipt.

The Chairman provided an update on the Albany Museum of Art (AMA) groundbreaking and shared that he made a request for future events to not be scheduled to conflict with Commission

meetings. He reminded all of Election Day on May 19th. Commissioner Edwards requested that Mr. Mathis and the County Administrator change the direction of traffic off Radium Springs near Burger King to prevent people "cutting through" to get to the school. Mr. Mathis noted that the location was in the city, but he will speak to the engineering department on behalf of Commissioner Edwards. Mr. Mathis also provided an update on the resurfacing project. Commissioner Gaines provided positive comments of the AMA relocation, in addition to new initiatives coming downtown. She commended Commissioner Edwards for writing a book "Laugh or Go Crazy" and encouraged individuals to vote. Attorney Shalishali will follow up on the questions of Commissioner Gaines regarding potential redistricting impact. Commissioner Jones also shared his disappointment of not being able to attend the AMA groundbreaking considering Dougherty County is a significant funding partner.

Upon the recommendation of the County Attorney, the Vice Chairman announced that Item 12, Executive Session, including Items 12(a) and 12(b) will not be considered at today's meeting; and the meeting proceeded to item 13, adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK