DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2025 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany Dougherty Government Center on March 10, 2025. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome were present. Also present were the County Administrator Deron King, Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Administrator 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 by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the February 17, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Chairman recognized Coach Jesse Massey to provide an update on the State Track Meet. Georgia High School Association (GHSA) has been coming to Albany since 1983, and he would like the Board to physically be present during the event in May 2025. Additional discussion was held with the Board. Citizens and businesses were encouraged to support the initiative. He also asked for continued financial support for the ASU summer program that has been in the community since 1975.

The Chairman recognized Recreation and Parks Deputy Director Breanna Nixon to speak to the Board about the March 22, 2025 Track and Field event that will be held to honor Stanley Floyd, a local legend. The Parks and Recreation Department has requested that the Board attend the event and provide a proclamation and financial support.

The Chairman called for the zoning recommendation for David Dent, applicant, and Ivy RV Park, LLC, owner (25-011) request to rezone a 4.52-acre parcel from C-8 (Commercial Recreation District) to C-3 (Commercial Business District). The property is located at 3420 Sylvester Hwy. The rezoning would allow for the development of a parking lot for transport equipment. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. The Public Hearing and Action on this item are scheduled for the March 17, 2025 Regular Meeting. Upon the question of Commissioner Johnson, Mrs. Gray provided a high-level response on the history of the request, which will be detailed more during the public hearing. Commissioner Jones provided verbal support for the business and community.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to approve the alcohol application from Pretoria Field Farms, LLC at 5626 Walker Ducker Station Rd. for Consumption- Beer and Brewers. The Albany-Dougherty Marshal's Office recommended approval. Chief Deputy Anthony Donaldson, Code Enforcement Department, addressed. The previous location had a license, but due to the ordinance, the business had to reapply because of the time frame of no operation.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to support the funding request by the Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) for the engagement of Johnson Consulting, (Chicago, IL) to develop a comprehensive feasibility study for a conference, exhibition, and convention center in downtown Albany in the amount of $70,000. The CVB Board is requesting that the cost be divided equally between the CVB, the County, and the City. If approved by the Board of Commissioners, funding up to $23,500 will be provided by the General Fund-Contingency. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Mr. Brooks reminded the Board that this request aligned with their vision for economic development. Conversation and comments for the opportunity were provided.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to approve the Consignment Agreement with Florida Auction Network, LLC to serve as the new online auction service for surplus heavy equipment and trucks. County Clerk/Procurement Manager Jawahn Ware addressed.

The Chairman called for the board appointments.

Fire Code Board of Appeals- There is one joint appointment with a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2025. There is one new applicant: Katresa Daniel. All joint appointments must be ratified by the City of Albany. Commissioner Gaines asked about the candidate's related experience. Commissioners Jones and Gray provided comments. Commissioner Newsome asked Clerk Ware to share the insight on the vacancy.

Mr. King introduced the new Executive Assistant Kaelyn King to the Board. Commissioner Edwards asked that Mr. King and Mr. Brooks utilize The Levee to provide public service announcements for the upcoming election. He added that this request was not for a candidate [endorsement] but to boost the voting numbers. He also asked for an update from the County Attorney on the judicial consultant. Lastly, he asked the County Attorney for an update on Putney Park's quote revision for value engineering. Commissioner Newsome responded and Mr. King and Mr. Brooks gave an update. The Attorney shared that information was provided to the Board regarding judicial efficiency, but he did give a high-level overview ending that he would wait for the Board's direction. Commissioner Johnson suggested some locations for the feasibility study. Commissioner Gray mentioned that an additional review of salaries for the District Attorney's Office and Courts would need to be evaluated for competitiveness. Commissioner Gaines gave kudos to the County Attorney for work done on the Oak Haven property. Mr. King responded to the question of Commissioner Gaines regarding the procurement of health services at the Jail. Commissioner Jones also provided a concern regarding Putney Park. A lengthy conversation ensued. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK