DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2025 DRAFT

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

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by the Chairman, he called for approval of the minutes of February 17, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

The Chairman opened the zoning public hearing 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. It was noted that this was for business expansion. Mr. Dent was present to share the need for capacity and gave details of how his business had grown. There being no individuals present desiring to speak in support of or opposition to the proposed zoning matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

The Chairman called for consideration 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.

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

The Chairman called for consideration 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 from General Fund-Contingency.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked if there were no local contractors or vendors for this project. Commissioner Gaines said that it was a very specialized field and then asked about our relationship with the CVB to which Attorney Shalishali addressed. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed with four ayes by Commissioners Newsome, Gaines, Jones and Chairman Heard and two nays by Commissioners Edwards and Gray.

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the Consignment Agreement with Florida Auction Network, LLC to serve as the new on-line auction service for surplus heavy equipment and trucks.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Clerk Ware addressed the questions of Commissioner Gaines regarding the fees. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 25-008 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF PROPOSED CONSIGNMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN FLORIDA AUCTION NETWORK, LLC, AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY TO PROVIDE ONLINE AUCTION SERVICES FOR SURPLUS HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND TRUCKS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the proposed board appointment.

> Upon a nomination by Commissioner Jones, new applicant Katresa Daniel was recommended to the City of Albany for ratification of the appointment to fill a three-year unexpired term ending December 31, 2025, for the Fire Code Board of Appeals.

The Chairman called for consideration of the approval and execution of the Joint Resolution between Dougherty County and the City of Albany reestablishing Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful (KADB) and the administration, operation, governance, board membership, authority, and responsibilities.

Commissioner Gray moved to table this item. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gray suggested tabling this until March 31, 2025, and to publicly discuss this to allow the input of Mr. Brooks and Commissioner Johnson. There being no further questions, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of 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.

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

Mr. King reminded the Board that due to five Mondays in the month of March, there will be no Commission meeting on March 24, 2025. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 31, 2025. He shared that the Public Works Engineering Division has completed the audit review, report with the GSWCC (Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission), and the SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District) auditors and scored within the "Exceptional" range.

Mr. King provided an update on the changes to the onsite clinic prescription dispensation. HR Director Erica Potts addressed. Mrs. Potts shared that the clinic will stop dispensing as of May 1, 2025. Due to Georgia Code 43-34-23, we need to have a full-time pharmacist onsite. She shared that the nurse practitioner will still be able to write the prescriptions. Employees will be able to use mail orders or have employees use a script card to obtain medicine at no cost at 18 local pharmacies.

Commissioner Gaines asked Mr. King to have Public Works contact her when Shady Glen was paved. Commissioner Gray gave kudos to Public Works for the audit scores and Commissioner Gaines shared similar sentiments. She expressed her question on the impact of the federal funding freeze/reduction on the County. Acting Director, Disaster Recovery and Grants Harriet Hollis provided the known impact and current status of action on Putney Park. Additional information to address the questions of Commissioner Gaines will be provided in the Recreation Committee meeting and to the full Board. After a heated discussion between Commissioners Edwards and Gaines, she apologized, and Chairman Heard addressed disrespectful action that have been out of order by the Board.

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

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

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Board entered into Executive Session at 10:50 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK