DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2025 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center on February 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, 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 of the January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

The Chairman opened the zoning public hearing for New Seasons Church at Radium Springs, applicant and owner (25-002) request to rezone a 7.59-acre parcel from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-5 (Office-Institutional-Residential District). The property is located at 2402 Roxanna Road. The rezoning request aims to operate (a child) daycare center to serve 19+ clients. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. It was clarified that this would be a new operation. Questions by the Board were addressed. Commissioner Edwards shared that there was no opposition received at the recent Neighborhood Watch Meeting. Mrs. Gray told Commissioner Edwards that there was rectification of the sign posting and shared that the owner was available for questions. 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 opened the zoning public hearing for Jason Wiggins, applicant and Royce McCrary, owner (25-003) request to rezone a 5.53-acre parcel from R-2 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-MHS (Mobile Home Single-Family Residential District). The property is located at 3512 Staton Drive. The rezoning request will allow the development of a Manufactured Home Subdivision. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. It was noted that before any designs or construction are done, the applicant must come before the Planning team. Commissioner Gray raised concern after viewing the layout regarding the retention pond being deeded to Dougherty County. Mr. Mathis addressed and shared that the decision of pond maintenance is jointly made by Public Works and Planning team. Mr. Lanier shared that the County's ownership was on the previous plan and if Dougherty County refused ownership, then the developer would be responsible. There being no 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 resolution providing for the execution of the contract from the most responsive and responsible vendor Tetra Tech, Inc. for debris monitoring and financial recovery resulting from storm-related events subject to acceptance of the County Administrator. The contract will be for one year with four options to renew for additional one-year terms per GA Law 36-60-13. There will be no funds expended unless there is a storm requiring services.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, it was shared that the company could handle disaster recovery. Commissioner Johnson said that he would propose that specific wording be reflected. He offered a substitute motion to clarify the wording to state Presidential declared events. Prior to a second, there was a discussion held. At the conclusion, Commissioner Johnson removed his motion. There being no further discussion, the original motion for approval passed via roll call with six ayes by Commissioners Newsome, Edwards, Gray, Gaines, Jones and Chairman Heard and one nay by Commissioner Johnson. Resolution 25-005 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXECUTION OF THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT FOR DEBRIS MONITORING AND FINANCIAL RECOVERY SERVICES WITH TETRA TECH, INC.; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a drone for DCP in the amount of $28,164.80 from Axon (Scottsdale, AZ). This quote includes the Skydio X-10 drone, set-up, pilot training, cloud software service for one year, onboarding training, and a one-year warranty. The drone will be used to assist DCP with various investigations and patrol tactics. Funding is budgeted in the Special Services District Fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved to table the item. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. Under discussion, Assistant Chief Tateshea Irving addressed questions of the Board. Commissioner Johnson shared that his concern was that GEMA would be suggesting a list of manufacturers in 2026 and he would not want us to purchase the equipment and cannot utilize it. Commissioner Gray mentioned the use of drones in the other departments. Chief Irving shared concerns regarding accessibility and reliance on other entities. The Board was hesitant due to the political concerns. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Johnson clarified his motion to table due to parliamentary procedures to add a time frame of 60 days. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion to table was unanimously approved via roll call.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a 416 07A Backhoe Loader from Sourcewell Contract #011723-CAT vendor Yancey Caterpillar, (Albany, GA) in the amount of $170,685 for the Public Works Department. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase a W430B Road Widener from Sourcewell Contract #060122-WLR Yancey Caterpillar, (Albany, GA) in the amount of $246,734 for the Public Works Department. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Newsome moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Edwards asked about the list of other vendors. Mr. Brooks addressed explaining state contracts and shared if the Board desired to not utilize contracts, they can. Other procurements options were provided as a reminder. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to purchase five new 2025 Ford Police Responders from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of $258,150 for the Jail. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII and VIII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration to utilize single source provider, Dana Safety Supply, Inc. (Weston GA) to outfit five new 2025 Ford Police Responders in the amount of $42,659.40. Funding is budgeted in SPLOST VII and VIII.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution providing for the acceptance and execution of the agreement between AugustineMonica Films and Dougherty County in the amount of $190,000 to create a Black Heritage Trail in Dougherty County. Funding is available in General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Under discussion, Attorney Shalishali addressed the changes per the Board's request in the contract. Commissioner Johnson shared that this was a "kickoff" and was the foundation for a larger project for other entities to participate. Commissioner Gray motioned to the table to review changes. Commissioner Newsome seconded the motion. The substitute motion failed with two ayes by Commissioners Gray and Newsome and five nays by Commissioners Edwards, Johnson, Gaines, Jones, and Chairman Heard. There being no further discussion, the original motion for approval passed via roll call with five ayes by Commissioners Edwards, Johnson, Gaines, Jones, and

Chairman Heard and two nays by Commissioners Gray and Newsome. Commissioner Gaines shared that she would look at creating an advisory committee. Resolution 25-006 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPROVAL
AND EXECUTION OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CLENNON L. KING d/b/a AUGUSTINE
MONICA FILMS, AND DOUGHERTY COUNTY FOR
THE CREATION OF THE DOUGHERTY COUNTY
BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL; REPEALING
RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of New Seasons Church at Radium Springs, applicant and owner (25-002) request to rezone a 7.59-acre parcel from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-5 (Office-Institutional-Residential District). The property is located at 2402 Roxanna Road. The rezoning request aims to operate (a child) daycare center to serve 19+ clients. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

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

The Chairman called for the zoning consideration of Jason Wiggins, applicant and Royce McCrary, owner (25-003) request to rezone a 5.53-acre parcel from R-2 (Single-Family Residential District) to R-MHS (Mobile Home Single-Family Residential District). The property is located at 3512 Staton Drive. The rezoning request will allow the development of a Manufactured Home Subdivision. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Commissioner Gaines moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones made a substitute motion to include that the applicant will maintain the holding pond. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion to approve the substitute motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman called for consideration to apply for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Council of Accountability Courts Judges Accountability Court Operating Grant for FY 2026 in the amount of $400,000 with a 15% match. The match is traditionally met through use of DATE funds. The grant is a reimbursement grant provided by the CJCC and will be used for the Dougherty County Superior Court Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks was present to address.

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

Mr. King provided kudos to the Valentine event held by the City of Albany Recreation and Parks Department. It was noted that the Dougherty County Commission will not meet on Monday, February 24, 2025 due the ACCG Legislative Conference. It was clarified for Commissioner Gray that there would not be a quorum. Commissioner Edwards asked staff to share how many meetings a Planning Commission member could miss. Attorney Shalishali was asked to address but Mrs. Gray said per policy, they could miss three consecutive meetings with an unexcused absences. Commissioner Gaines asked about the report for Board member standing and Clerk Ware addressed by sharing that they are provided with the annual appointments.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from the County Attorney to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and then to adjourn. Chairman Heard asked for a motion to remove the Executive Session because the Attorney said that no additional information was received and the session was not needed.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval to remove the item. Upon a second by Commissioner Johnson, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

_____

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

_____

COUNTY CLERK