DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2026

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany Dougherty Government Center on September 14, 2026. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome. Also present were County Administrator Deron King, Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, Deputy County Clerk Bristeria Clark, and other staff. The public and media participated in person and via live streaming on the County's Facebook page and the government public access channel. Commissioner Russell Gray was absent.

After the invocation by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the August 31st Regular Meeting, August 31st Work Session, and August 31st Special Called Meeting.

The Chairman recognized Chief Kenneth Johnson, Dougherty County Police, and Chief Michael Persley, Albany Police Department, to discuss a juvenile curfew with the Board. Chief Johnson shared that the goal was to prevent gang activity and protect teens from harm. He added that he would like to align Dougherty County's curfew standards with the City of Albany. Chief Persley provided a brief overview of the curfew, including the hours and additional information regarding the regulations. Upon a question by Commissioner Gaines, Chief Johnson was asked to provide an update on FLOCK cameras.

The Chairman recognized Jana Dyke, President & CEO, Albany-Dougherty Economic Development Commission (EDC), to provide the quarterly update. Ms. Dyke shared an overview of business retention and expansion. She added some highlights, including securing $187,000 in the Georgia Rural Site Development Grant funding and Southern AG establishing a new location.

The Chairman recognized Vivek Bist, County Extension Coordinator, to provide the quarterly update. Mr. Bist shared various updates and upcoming events that 4H would like citizens to participate in.

The Chairman recognized Seth Lassitter, Solid Waste Director, to update the Commission on the most recent Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Inspection Report. Mr. Lassiter said that the landfill passed the EPA inspection and was issued a score of 90%. He thanked the Board for supporting their efforts and being in compliance.

The Chairman called for the zoning recommendation from Johnthan Yates (on behalf of Diamond Communications), applicant, and Gillionville Forest Baptist Church, owner (26-056), request to rezone approximately 0.23 acres from R-1 (Single-Family Residential District) to C-3c (Commercial District, Conditional). The rezoning would allow for the construction of a telecommunications (cell) tower. The property is at 4614 Gillionville Road. The Planning

Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director, addressed. Upon a question by Commissioner Johnson, Mrs. Gray will follow up to see if the County would be able to tax the property being that it was connected to the tax-exempt church.

The Chairman called for the zoning recommendation from Johnthan Yates (on behalf of Diamond Communications), applicant and Gillionville Forest Baptist Church, owner (26-057) request for Special Approval to permit a telecommunications (cell) tower. The property is at 4614 Gillionville Road. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director, addressed.

The Chairman called for the zoning recommendation from Planning Director Paul Forgey for the Albany-Dougherty Zoning Ordinance Title III, Sections 4.04(D) and (E) be amended to allow the time period to be consistent for all applicants after denial of a previous application. There is a conflict in the Ordinance regarding the timeframe between a zoning denial and reapplication. The Zoning Ordinance requires that the governing body direct the Planning Commission to consider any amendments and to make a recommendation back to the governing body. If the recommendation was supported, the County Commission would need to direct the Planning Commission to develop a draft Ordinance for review and adoption. Mr. Forgey said that previously, the State allowed 12 months in 2017; the ordinance granted 6 months but needed to be corrected officially to be between 6-12 months. The County will have to provide direction to the Planning Commission on which option they would like, and it does not have to align with the State.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to purchase furniture for the Westtown Library from the State Contract Vendor Advent Business Interiors (Leesburg, Ga) in the amount of $156,890.49. Funding will be provided by State grants, SPLOST V, SPLOST VII, and SPLOST VIII funds. The Board of Commissioners approved funding for the purchase of the furniture in the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting. County Administrator Deron King and Library Director Gail Evans addressed.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to accept two alternates for the Westtown Library Renovation in the amount of $55,836 to reduce the funding overage, the alternates were subtracted from the contractor's original bid. The final cost quoted for furniture will provide a cost savings to allow the desired work to be completed. Funding will be provided by State grants, SPLOST V, SPLOST VII, and SPLOST VIII funds. The Board of Commissioners approved funding for the renovation in the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting. County Administrator Deron King and Library Director Gail Evans addressed. Ms. Evans shared that two alternatives were taken out and since funds were available for them, they would like to add them back. Commissioner Edwards wanted the ditch cleaned, and Mr. King said that he would follow up with Public Works.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to purchase six new 2026 Ford Police Interceptor SUVs ($46,425 each) for a combined price of $278,550, and one new 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Admin/Investigation SUV for $46,556 for a total expenditure of $325,106 from State Contract Vendor Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) for the Dougherty County Police Department. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VIII. County Administrator Deron King and Captain Jason Hager addressed.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to utilize Legion Public Safety (Temple, GA) to

outfit six new 2026 Ford Police Interceptors (SUVs) and one new 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Admin Unit (SUV) for the Dougherty County Police Department in the amount of $131,926.05. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VIII. County Administrator Deron King and Captain Jason Hager addressed. It was noted that the replacements were well over the allocated mile use.

The Chairman called for the recommendation from Facilities Management to accept the quote for the Health Department HVAC from the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, SafeAire Heating and Cooling (Albany, GA) in the amount of $194,417. Two bids were received with the highest being $229,200. Funding will be provided by SPLOST VII. County Administrator Deron King and Interim Facilities Management Director Matt Idlett addressed. City of Albany Buyer Destin Adams was present.

The Chairman called for the recommendation from Solid Waste to upgrade the GPS Equipment at the Landfill from single source vendor, SITECH South, (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of $100,896.50. Funding will be provided by Solid Waste Machinery Capital. County Administrator Deron King and Solid Waste Director Seth Lassitter addressed.

The Chairman called for the recommendation from Solid Waste to accept the quote from Yancey (Albany, GA) to rebuild the existing Caterpillar 730 Articulated Offroad Dump Truck in the amount of $350,545.94. A rebuild offers significant savings compared to purchasing a new Articulated Offroad Dump Truck. Funding will be provided by the Solid Waste Machinery Capital Fund. County Administrator Deron King and Solid Waste Director Seth Lassiter addressed. Commissioner Jones asked about a crate motor option to use for the rebuilt equipment, but Mr. Lassiter reassured him that it will be remanufactured or new equipment.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to accept the resolution authorizing the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to execute and file the renewal of the annual application on behalf of Dougherty County with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance under Section 5311 Regional Transit Program. County Administrator Deron King addressed.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to accept the resolution declaring a 2024 Ford Explorer (from Dougherty County Police) and a 2015 Dodge Charger (from SIU) as surplus and authorize the sale through Charles Taylor TPA. County Administrator Deron King addressed.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to approve the revised 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 Commission approved the original contract in the May 18, 2026 Regular Meeting. The contract is being revised to allow the 3% COLA to apply to the County portion of the pay for Extension employees that the Board approved for the fiscal year. County Administrator Deron King and County Extension Coordinator Vivek Bist addressed. Commissioner Johnson wanted to know how many more State contracts were affected and needed action to be taken to ensure that they were in alignment with the County. Mr. King said that he will follow up.

Mr. King reminded the Board of the Special Called Meeting following the Work Session.

He added that he attended the Harris Home event and enjoyed it and the opportunity. The new intern, Jessica King, from ASU, who is currently completing her Master's in Public Administration was introduced. Attorney Shalishali expressed his appreciation for the first responders and veterans in honor of 9/11.

Commissioner Edwards shared that he would like to consider citizens not paying for a certain number of tires when brought to the landfill to be placed on the next Work Session for discussion. He also wanted to consider allowing department heads to be evaluated by the Board annually for the sake of accountability. Mr. King shared that he would follow up. He wanted to discuss if the County could provide a decal to assist with citizens who have to bring their trash to the landfill. Commissioner Johnson wanted to make sure we adopted the uniform ordinance and wanted to see if an agreement could be implemented where the tires that were brought to the landfill could be picked up by the tire companies, with them having full responsibility. There was a moment of silence for former Director of Community and Economic Development John Hawthorne.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK