DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

DRAFT

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

August 31, 2026

The Dougherty County Commission met for a Special Called Meeting on August 31, 2026 immediately following the Work Session in Room 100 of the Albany-Dougherty Government Center. Chairman Lorenzo Heard presided and called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. Present were Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, Ed Newsome, and Russell Gray. Also present were County Administrator Deron King, Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks, County Attorney Alex Shalishali, and County Clerk Jawahn Ware. 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 roll call by Chairman Heard, he asked the Commission to review the minutes of the August 3rd Regular Meeting and August 10th Work Session.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation to accept the amendment to the Contract for professional services from Andrew, Hammock & Powell (Macon, GA) for an additional cost amount of $43,050. The Board of Commissioners originally approved a Contract for Services with the firm on December 16, 2024 for a cost not to exceed $500,000. Currently, the firm has spent $250,000 of the $500,000 amount for professional services. However, the firm has provided a revised quote for the Design Cost Estimate and Construction Administration fees (Design: $234,450, Construction Services: $58,600) for the Jail HVAC Project and has also provided a revised estimated completion date of March 31, 2028. Funding is available in SPLOST VII.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson made a motion for staff and the Sheriff's Office to procure work to be done in the mechanical room. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commissioner Gaines made another substitute motion to table for lack of understanding. It failed due to a lack of a second. Prior to the vote for the substitute motion, Commissioner Newsome asked for clarity on the work that staff would complete. Commissioner Johnson responded that it [the vote] would be on the work approved. Attorney Shalishali spoke on the question of Commissioner Gaines regarding the contract. Commissioner Edwards shared that there will be a cost savings of over $2 million by not using the vendor and the delivery date of the services will be sooner. Interim Facilities Management Deputy Director Mark Patton provided additional clarity. Commissioner Gray was concerned because he noted that the warranty was for the rebuilt chillers and the Board was missing that the decision should be focused on the professional services in the scope for the mechanical room overhaul and noted that someone will need to have a mechanical engineer to oversee the project. It was stressed that the Board had approved moving forward.

The substitute motion made by Commissioner Johnson failed with a vote of three ayes by the Chairman, Commissioners Edwards and Johnson, three nays by Commissioners Newsome, Gray and Jones, and one abstain due to failure to understand by Commissioner Gaines. The Chairman called for consideration of the original motion, and it failed with a vote of three ayes by Commissioners Newsome, Gray, and Jones, three nays by the Chairman, Commissioners Edwards and Johnson, and one abstain due to failure to understand by Commissioner Gaines.

The Chairman called for consideration of the recommendation from Public Works to apply for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection Program (EWP) Grant in the amount of $554,278. There is a local match required in the amount of $128,900.75. The local match will be a provided by in-kind services (~$35,000) and the Special Services District Fund Balance (~$93,901). The grant will be utilized for the acquisition and demolition of a flood prone property located at 4919 Van Cise Lane, Albany, GA. The NRCS has reviewed and approved the project for funding.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson asked that staff look at a plan for the entire County for the watershed. There being no further discussion, the motion for approval passed unanimously via roll call.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the acceptance of the Grants and Agreements Division Submission Memo (GADSUM9) to be utilized for the acquisition and the demolition of a flood prone property located at 4919 Van Cise Lane, Albany, GA.

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

The Chairman called for consideration of the resolution declaring a 2019 Ford F150 (from Facilities Management) as surplus and authorize the sale through Charles Taylor TPA.

Commissioner Johnson moved for approval. Upon a second by Commissioner Gray, the motion for approval passed unanimously. Resolution 26-052 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SALVAGED A 2023 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY (VIN NO. 1FM5K8AB5PGA33393) AND HAVE SAID SURPLUSED SALVAGED VEHICLE DISPOSED OF THROUGH CHARLES TAYLOR TPA, DOUGHERTY COUNTY'S THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chairman called for consideration of the nomination for the County Voting Delegate at the ACCG Legislative Conference Business Session on October 8, 2026 in Athens, GA.

Upon nomination by Chairman Heard, Commissioner Anthony Jones was selected as the voting delegate for the ACCG Legislative Conference Business Session. Under discussion, Commissioner Johnson noted that he was going to nominate Commissioner Ed Newsome. After the discussion, the nomination for Commissioner Jones was considered. There being no further comments, the original nomination passed unanimously via roll call.

The Chairman called for the consideration of the resolution to impose, continue, and extend the temporary review period and moratorium on the establishment of new large-scale data centers in Dougherty County up to 180 days.

Commissioner Jones moved for approval. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion. Under discussion, Commissioner Gaines asked for the definition of large-scale. Attorney Shalishali mentioned that he will provide additional information to Commissioner Gaines. Commissioner Jones made a motion to include the word "all". It failed due to a lack of a second. Commissioner Gaines then made a motion to remove the word "large" and it was seconded by Commissioner Gray. Commissioner Johnson noted that there should be no changes because the Board was extending something that has already been established. The motion for approval passed with six ayes and one nay by Commissioner Johnson. After the passage, the Attorney shared that it was his opinion that the Board could change wording. Resolution 26-053 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION
ENTITLED
A RESOLUTION TO IMPOSE, CONTINUE, AND EXTEND THE TEMPORARY REVIEW PERIOD AND MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW
DATA CENTERS IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY UP TO 180 DAYS; REPEALING RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

_____

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

_____

COUNTY CLERK