DOUGHERTY COUNTY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2025 DRAFT

The Dougherty County Commission met in Room 100 of the Albany Dougherty Government Center on February 10, 2025. Alex Milledge opened the meeting with a song. Commissioners Victor Edwards, Gloria Gaines, Russell Gray, Clinton Johnson, Anthony Jones, and Ed Newsome were present. Also present were 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.

The Chairman recognized Clennon L. King, AugustineMonica Films, to provide information on black pioneers and a visual of a similar potential website of his work with Dougherty County. There was a discussion from the Board regarding the importance of cultural resources and potential for tourism highlighting our area's history. Commissioner Edwards shared that for the second phase of the project pertaining to the historical markers, he would like our Historic Preservation Commission involved. Commissioner Jones stressed the need for collaborative efforts of the community. A lengthy conversation ensued.

The Chairman called for the zoning recommendation 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 daycare center to serve 19+ clients. The Planning Commission recommended approval. Angel Gray, Deputy Planning Director addressed. The Public Hearing and Action on this item are scheduled for the February 17, 2025 Regular Meeting. Under clarification for Commissioner Johnson, it was shared that this use was an adult daycare for aging adults.

The Chairman called for the zoning recommendation 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. The Public Hearing and Action on this item are scheduled for the February 17, 2025 Regular Meeting.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to accept the proposal from the most responsive and responsible vendor Tetra Tech, Inc. for debris monitoring and financial recovery resulting from storm-related events. 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. Three proposals were submitted. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks addressed. Engineering Manager Jeremy Brown and City of Albany Buyer

Takeshia Martin were present. Commissioner Edwards inquired about the process and the potential of a new company being rewarded. The Chairman reminded the Board that any bid proposal could be rejected. Commissioners Johnson and Gray reminded the Board of the difference between Ceres and Tetra Tech.

The Chairman called for the recommendation 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. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Assistant Chief of Police Tateshea Irving addressed. Commissioner Johnson asked to research if the drone was manufactured in Russia or China because there was a legislative proposal that would potentially ban the use. It was also confirmed that the Sheriff Office used the same vendor.

The Chairman called for the recommendation 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. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Mr. Mathis shared about the depreciation concerns.

The Chairman called for the recommendation 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. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Public Works Director Chuck Mathis addressed. Mr. Mathis explained the plans for use.

The Chairman called for the recommendation 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. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Colonel Pamela Coley addressed. Colonel Coley stated that some vehicles were dated due to previous availability and were primarily used for transport. She and County Clerk Ware clarified questions for Commissioner Gray.

The Chairman called for the recommendation 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. Assistant County Administrator Barry Brooks and Colonel Pamela Coley addressed.

The Chairman called for the recommendation to accept the agreement between AugustineMonica Films and Dougherty County in the amount of $190,000 to create a Black Heritage Trail in Dougherty County. The funding source is to be determined. Government Affairs Committee Chairwoman Gloria Gaines and County Attorney Alex Shalishali addressed. Commissioner Gaines shared that this topic has been discussed in depth for nine months and she wanted a funding source identified. Mr. King mentioned that after the agenda was posted, the funding source was identified as the General Fund Contingency. Attorney Shalishali highlighted the contract terms

and Commissioner Gray shared concerns in the contract, particularly the website administration. He posed concerns about the County committing to unknown costs referenced and believed additional vetting and collaboration from community partners were needed. He emphasized concerns financially and Commissioner Newsome mentioned his concerns about the creation of the project. He would like the project to be successful and suggested involvement of entities including the City of Albany and Convention & Visitors Bureau. Attorney Shalishali added that it was his opinion that this project falls under a professional service. The fee payment was discussed and Attorney Shalishali said that the County would retain 50% of the fee but the Board could propose another. Commissioner Johnson shared that there needed to be a known interface. Commissioner Gaines added that she wanted staff to have someone dedicated to ensuring the County will have an ongoing and usable project from a technology standpoint. A lengthy conversation ensued.

Mr. King shared that there will be a Special Called Meeting held immediately following the Work Session. Commissioner Johnson wanted the Board to revisit how often the drone for DCP will be used as compared to the cost. Commissioner Gaines provided kudos on the successful retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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COUNTY CLERK