



MINUTES

**STATE OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
CITIZENS HALL, COURTHOUSE**

November 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present

Phil Miller, Ricky Dobbs, Tarenia Carthan,
Mark Alcarez, Kelly Robinson, Lisa Watson,
Michael Coleman, Sherri Mathis, David Corbin,
Tiffany Stewart-Stanley

Members Absent

AGENDA ADOPTION

Chairman asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. Being none the agenda stands approved.

INVOCATION - Joe Fowler

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment allows the Board the opportunity to listen to the public. The public is invited to participate in the Work Sessions and the Commission Meetings by registering in Citizens Hall at least ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Please include your name, email address, phone # and topic. As a reminder, Comments at the Work Session may be made regarding any item of public interest. Comments at the Commission Meeting must be germane to the agenda. For more information, contact the County Clerk, Lisa Watson, lwatson@douglascountyga.gov or 770-920-7416.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. Being none they were approved.

1. Commission Meeting Minutes of October 31, 2023.
2. Work Session Minutes of October 30, 2023.
3. Executive Session Minutes of October 30, 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORT**4. Acceptance of monthly Financial/Budget Report for the month of October 2023
(Roselyn Miller)**

Commissioner Robinson - asked about the status of the Audit for 2022?

Roselyn - will be completed by the end of this year. Commissioner Robinson - what happens if we don't make it by end of year. Roselyn - we would file for an extension. From June they automatically give you till the end of the year. The delay was due to manpower and the skillset within the finance dept. One person is responsible for the entire audit and that becomes challenging.

Chairman - asked Roselyn if we have people in the govt that refused to comply with the audit.

Roselyn - yes and that caused a delay of about 3 months.

The financial report stands approved as presented.

PROCLAMATIONS**5. Proclaiming December 3, 2023 as International Day for Persons with Disabilities in Douglas County. (Jasmine Moore)**

KELLY ROBINSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION.

MARK ALCAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

6. Proclaiming the week of November 16 - 23, 2023 as Farm-City Week in Douglas County. (Joey Rainwater / Cam Floyd)

MARK ALCAREZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION.

TARENIA CARTHAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

7. Proclaiming the month of November 2023 as American Indian Heritage Month in Douglas County. (Lisa Meek)

KELLY ROBINSON MOTIONED TO THE PROCLAMATION.

TARENIA CARTHAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING**8. Public Hearing on an amendment to the Douglas County Code of Ordinances regarding Chapter 6 - Buildings; Construction and Related Activities, Article VII - Plumbing Code, Section 6-80. The purpose is to adopt a local amendment to the Georgia State Minimum Standard Plumbing Code for Chapters 2, Section 202 - General Definitions; Chapter 6, Section 604.4 - Maximum Flow and Water Consumption; Chapter 13, Section 1304 - Reclaimed Water Systems; and Appendix E, Section E101.1.2. (James Worthington)**

Chairman Miller opened the public hearing.

No public comment

Chairman Miller Closed the public hearing.

MARK ALCAREZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT.

TARENIA CARTHAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

9. 2024 Budget (Roselyn Miller)

Roselyn Mill presented

GET PRESENTATION

Chairman Miller opened the public hearing.

Rev. Michael Springer - approached by advocates on the Northside. Churches have a concern there will be cuts in Connect Douglas. Worked in City/County for years. Asking BOC not to take the services from our disabled, seniors, and citizens.

Melissa Medina - regarding public transportation. We have fought for the service for years. Need better signage, better curbside marking, and better scheduling. We oppose the cuts to the bus service. Signage is too small. Need daily trip sheets. Covered Shelters are needed with benches. Dispatchers need to maintain schedules.

Gwendolyn Parker - Sr. Citizen. Have peripheral disability and do not drive. I need services that Connect Douglas offers. Asking that for senior citizens - give us the mobility. don't cut the budget that would cut the mobility.

Ingrid Landis-Davis - regarding Coroner and Probate Judge budget - statement made in yesterday's meeting. Probate is now a full service probate court. It's been recognized for its excellence. She has done an excellent job establishing her office.

Pastor Darryl Mormon - 1964 black people were able to vote for the 1st time. After 100 years after slavery, we got our chance to vote. We want you to vote from your conscience. Don't like when a governor puts people in place.

Sharon Bachtel - Tax Commissioner budget - 1.3M increase since he took office. The population only increased by 12%. Coroner budget - 145,500 in 2018. It has grown to \$628,949. Why? 319 investigations in 1st year, 279 so far in 2023. Only 75 more per year. Saw there were over charges and double charges when looking over their receipts. Most counties our size only has 4 deputy coroners.

Chairman Miller closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Robinson - Coroner's office - move on. We will all submit our tabs. What you are looking at, cant be passed.

VC Carthan - will we have to do a TAN? Roselyn - its getting close, will need to look at it.

Capital fund - 10.2M in CTF. Right now there is \$3M. \$20M requests for Capital Improvements.

VC Carthan - CSB cut - always in favor of utilizing groups such as CSB. We only collect 27% of the tax bill you see. School Board gets the majority of the taxes. In favor of raising CSB back up to \$2M.

Chairman - if CSB will comply with what ARPA requires them to do, we will adjust their budget accordingly. There is no planned reduction in Connect Douglas. Roselyn - Finance nor CA reduced that budget. Chairman - other counties with other populations are about \$160K. We are giving her half a million dollars.

I took this job to help this county. I don't have a problem with the democratic party being in charge. We need to look to what candidate's character is.

Commissioner Alcarez - I did not ask for my budget to be cut, however I am ok with it. I have not spent, I would rather it go somewhere else. I spoke with the Coroner and discussed her new facility and have worked that out. CSB Board - we are the only ones that fund CSB, the City doesn't give them a dime. The CSB helps everyone, young and old. We need others to also assist.

Seniors - we have your best interest in mind. We want more things for our seniors in our county. There are decisions we have to make. We are a diverse community, we are going to have to co-exist. Coroner had a \$4.9M proposed bldg. We cut it to \$1.9M.

Commissioner Robinson - BOC agreed to a salary above what was asked. Roselyn - it was \$5.3M. \$5.3 was annualized. The increase was only for 6 pay periods - about \$2M.

Commissioner Robinson - I just got this budget for the 1st time last week. Where is my single view? Where is the transparency?

Tiffany Stewart-Stanley - grant funding had to be used this year. We will not have the grant funding for next year. Suleman - no change to the operation budget or services for 2024. CMAQ is a grant we get, our budget will support the match.

VC Carthan - ARPA funding is separate from what was given through the budget.

David Corbin - there is a clawback feature. We may have to use the general fund to cover the non-compliance with the ARPA fund.

Commissioner Robinson - was the issue with the Tax Commissioner resolved? Tiffany - we have a meeting with the Tax Commissioner tomorrow. This administration is in conflict.

David Corbin - we will reach out to each Commissioner and get back to the Chairman.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Reappointment of Richard Jones and John McFall to the Cemetery Preservation

Commission effective December 31, 2023.

TARENIA CARTHAN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS.

MARK ALCAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

MARK ALCAREZ MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

KELLY ROBINSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

11. Authorization to approve an annual contract with Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, Inc. (JAG) for misdemeanor probation services for State Court and authorize the Chairman to sign all related documents pending final legal review.

12. Authorization to approve an annual contract with Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, Inc. (JAG) for felony probation services for State Court and authorize the Chairman to sign all related documents pending final legal review.

13. Resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia.

14. Approval of an MOU with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) for the use of the Georgia EM Grants Manager system in relation to an upcoming Cyber Security Grant award at no cost and authorize the Chairman to sign all related documents pending final legal review.

15. Approval of Equipment Proposal #102623 with Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC to purchase two 2024 Ford ambulances at \$216,274.00 each for a total amount of \$432,548.00 in connection with the previously approved Douglas Forward Reinvestment Plan, Phase 1, and authorize the Chairman to sign all related documents pending final Legal review.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

KELLY ROBINSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE EXPENSES.

TARENIA CARTHAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

16. Approval of Vice Chair Carthan's reimbursable expenses for the month of October 2023 in the total amount of \$179.43 (ACCG Conference).
17. Approval of Commissioner Ricky Dobbs' reimbursable expenses for the month of October 2023 in the total amount of \$45.92 (NACO Conference).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

18. Proposed ordinance regarding Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program.

VC Carthan asked to postpone the item until we have a chance to discuss with the attorney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join District 2 Commissioner Kelly Robinson for his annual State of the District Address on Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m. The event will be live-streamed and air live on DCTV 23. Links for direct access to the live programming will be provided via Douglas County social media at Douglas County Happenings and the county's website: celebratedouglascountyga.gov. Tune-in as Commissioner Robinson reflects on his legislative priorities, past, present and future and shares his vision for the future of District 2 and Douglas County at-large.

Vice Chair and District 3 Commissioner Tarenia Carthan, in collaboration with Splendors of Africa Inc, is hosting a FREE Turkey Giveaway on Saturday, November 18th, from 7 AM to 2 PM, right in front of the Douglas County courthouse. This Thanksgiving season, let's come together as a community to ensure that every table is graced with a delicious turkey. Turkeys will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so mark your calendars and arrive early to secure yours! Let's make this holiday season a special one for all our Douglas County families. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mark your calendars! Don't miss Connect Douglas's Transit Master Plan Open House on Thursday, 11/16 at 6:00pm. Learn more about the proposed transit recommendations that will help shape the future of mobility in the County. The event will be held at the Multi Modal Transportation Center located at 8800 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134. Light refreshments will be served.

Volunteer Douglas and the Youth Commission are joining forces for our annual Give Drive to support those facing food insecurity. Decorated boxes can be found at the following locations: Lithia Springs Library, Douglas County Library, Dog River Library, Community Services Board and the Douglas County Courthouse. Donations will be accepted now through December 16th. Non-perishable items such as hygiene products, diapers, baby formula, baby food, dry goods and canned foods are needed. For more information, contact externalaffairs@douglascountyga.gov.

“Keep Douglas County Beautiful” presents the 2nd annual battery recycle. Citizens are encouraged to bring unwanted batteries to be properly discarded. Batteries cannot simply be thrown away as they pose environmental problems and risk harmful exposure to crops and drinking water. Please gather unwanted household, car, and electronic batteries, as well as battery packs, and bring them to the Douglas County Courthouse on November 13-17 from 9am until 1pm. The address is 8700 Hospital Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134, For more information, please contact Image Stewart at (770)309-1212 or istewart@douglascountyga.gov.”

Douglas County would like to invite you to our annual 'Christmas Concerts at the Courthouse'. The event is scheduled for Weekdays, December 1st through December 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The concerts will take place in the first-floor atrium of the Courthouse, 8700 Hospital Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134. For more information, contact Wendy Caudle, kcaudle@douglascountyga.gov or (770)920-7440.

The annual Douglas County Christmas Tree Lighting will take place in front of the Courthouse on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Wendy Caudle, kcaudle@douglascountyga.gov.

Winter Wonderland Weddings officiated by Judge Christina J. Peterson. The Douglas County Probate Court is hosting a complimentary Group Wedding Ceremony with a reception to follow. All participants must be a resident of Douglas County. To register, please email swallace@douglascountyga.gov This will be on December 12th at 12:00 pm in Citizens Hall, 8700 Hospital Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134. The ceremony is open to the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECONVENE AS NECESSARY

ADJOURN

WITH REGARDS TO ALL MOTIONS PASSED, THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:
TO WHATEVER EXTENT THIS RESOLUTION (MOTION AND ORDINANCE)
AFFECTS COUNTY REVENUES AND/OR EXPENDITURES THEN THE OFFICIAL
COUNTY BUDGET IS HEREBY AMENDED TO GIVE EFFECT TO THIS
RESOLUTION (MOTION AND ORDINANCE).

RESPECTFULLY,

PHIL D. MILLER, CHAIRMAN

RICKY DOBBS, JR., MEMBER

KELLY ROBINSON, MEMBER

TARENIA CARTHAN, VICE CHAIRMAN

MARK ALCAREZ, MEMBER

LISA WATSON, COUNTY CLERK