

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**January 17, 2023**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 17, 2023, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Community Planner Jake Cox, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Solid Waste Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Sheriff Talton, Quinn Lumpkin, Elections Supervisor Debra Presswood, Kristine Boyst.

The Invocation was given by Dr. Daryl J. Vining, Sr., Senior Pastor of Hebron Fellowship Baptist Church. Following the invocation, Pastor Vining gave a history of his church, spoke about his time in Houston County and introduced his wife who was in attendance with him. Chairman Perdue and the Commissioners presented Pastor Vining a gift of thanks for attending and giving the invocation and expressed their appreciation for he and his service to his church and the Houston County community.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Gottwals.

Two County employees were recognized for their 30 years of service with the County; Kristine Boyst who works in the Purchasing Department and Quinn Lumpkin who works with the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Perdue recognized both for their service to Houston County and presented each with recognition gifts for their many years of service with the County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 3, 2023.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request from the City of Warner Robins to annex property located on the south side of Hwy 96, 850ft from the southwest corner intersection of Hwy 96 and Houston Lake Road.

Chairman Perdue opened the meeting for comments.

As there were no comments the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to concur with the City of Warner Robins request to annex property located on the south side of Hwy 96 850ft from the southwest corner intersection of Hwy 96 and Houston Lake Road also known as Tax Parcel 000780 336000. The property is currently zoned County C-2, proposed zoning is Warner Robins C-2.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that the request application should have listed the zoning as County C-2 and Warner Robins C-2 as that was the correct zoning.

Mr. Gottwals mentioned that the property to be annexed into the City of Warner Robins was contiguous to Warner Robins city limits so no island would be created.

Mr. Gottwals presented a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Centerville.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Perdue signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Centerville regarding the protection of the integrity of the County's remote well site located on Dunbar Road.

Chairman Perdue mentioned this action was needed due to the well being built in proximity to the City of Centerville's Fire Training Center. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division had a concern about fire retardant foam seeping into the ground water from the training center. This action would reassure the GA EPD that this would not occur because fire retardant foam would not be used at this fire training location.

Mr. Byrd mentioned this was another example of cooperation between the City of Centerville and Houston County.

Mr. Talton presented a request for the abandonment of an unpaved portion of a 60' county right-of-way known as North Walnut Ridge Drive. The portion of right-of-way subject to the request is situated between the requesters properties. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2(b)(1) the property owners were notified that a public hearing regarding their request would be held today and notice of the public hearing for the purpose of discussing the abandonment was advertised in the Houston Home Journal once a week for two weeks.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened a Public Hearing.

As there were no comments Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the Board of Commissioners signing the Resolution and the Deeds of Abandonment abandoning the portion of the 60' unpaved right-of-way known as North Walnut Ridge Drive where 114 and 115 North Walnut Ridge Drive are located thereon, the portion of right-of-way to be abandoned is more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 11 of the Eleventh (11th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known as North Walnut Ridge Drive more particularly describe as an unpaved portion of a 60' right-of-way between Lot 13, Block "B" and Lot 18, Block "C", Section 2, Phase 1, Walnut Ridge Estates Subdivision, according to a Plat of Survey prepared by Story Surveying Co., Dated August 7, 1975, and recorded in Plat Book 18, Page 171, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court.

This conveyance is subject to any easements for drainage or utilities presently existing within the above-described property.

Chairman Perdue recognized the property owners who had an interest in this property and action and thanked them for their attendance.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a change order to the Parking Lot Expansion for the Houston County Courthouse contract with International Waste Services. This change order is for additional Graded Aggregate Base (GAB) and Asphalt needed to ensure positive surface water drainage from the new section of the visitor parking lot to an existing catch basin.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Change Order #1 to the Parking Lot Expansion for Houston County Courthouse contract with International Waste Services. The change order amount is \$9,493.45 added to the contract price of \$324,104.10 bringing the total contract price to \$333,597.55 with no extra time added to the contract.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of an amendment to the April 21, 2021, Payment Processing Service Agreement with Pioneer Technology Group.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of Amendment No. 1 to the April 21, 2021, Payment Processing Service Agreement with Pioneer Technology Group that will change the payment processor to nCourt, LLC, and add two additional terminals. All other conditions of the original agreement shall remain in effect.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for the disbursement of the \$450 allotted clothing allowance for eligible individuals in the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the disbursement of a \$450 clothing allowance to those twenty-seven Sheriff's Department personnel identified in a letter from Sheriff Talton dated December 1, 2022. Total disbursement is \$12,150.

Ms. Robinson presented an amendment to the food service agreement with Summit Food Service, LLC and The Houston County Detention Center.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the amendment to the food service agreement with Summit Food Service, LLC. This amendment will increase the cost \$0.1082 per meal, from \$1.0823 per meal to \$1.1905 per meal. This increase will be effective February 1, 2023.

Mr. Byrd mentioned that inflation is affecting all segments of society and this increase on the County budget is a prime example.

Ms. Robinson presented a position change to the FY23 Houston County Position Control.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve a position change to the FY23 Houston County Position Control. This change would eliminate a Sergeant's position (#231 grade 18) and add a Clerk's position (#008 grade 10). This change would also move the position from Department 3326-Jail Operations to Department 3300-Sheriff's Office.

Also, to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make the necessary budget adjustments.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to add Middle Flint Behavioral Health Care Crisis Stabilization Unit Repairs and Modifications as line-item number 9 under Major Category Projects of the FY23 Budget for ARPA.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the revision to the Major Category Projects of the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund FY2023 Budget as follows:

Major Category Projects

1	Phase II Gilbert Road W/L Ext	\$ 840,000
2	Phase III Sewell Road W/L Ext	\$1,404,000
3	Hwy 341 & Graham Rd W/L Ext	\$ 984,000
4	Scott Rd & Scott Rd Ext W/L Ext	\$ 806,400
5	Hwy 341/Kings Crest Sub. W/L Ext	\$2,427,000
6	Bear Branch Remote Well	\$2,500,000
7	Bear Branch Remote Well Piping	\$ 320,000
8	Dunbar Road Well Site/ Facilities	\$3,000,000
9	Middle Flint Behavioral Health Care Crisis Stabilization Unit Repairs & Modifications	\$ 220,000

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Chairman Perdue stated that the MOU is for \$200,000 and that anything more than this amount would require a new MOU being agreed upon.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on one new in-stock SUV from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one new in-stock SUV from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry for use by the Coroner's Department in the amount of \$39,700. This vehicle will be charged to the 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd advised the County was fortunate to find an in-stock vehicle that met our needs.

Chairman Perdue mentioned this action was right on time because both of the Coroner's Office vehicles were in for repairs.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on one 2022 Half Ton Crew Cab 4X4 w/6'6" Bed Truck from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one 2022 Half Ton Crew Cab 4X4 w/6'6" Bed Truck from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry for use by the Fire Department in the amount of \$45,530. This vehicle will be charged to the 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd mentioned that due to the bid process, the citizens of Houston County benefitted from an 8% savings.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,813,488.26.

Chairman Perdue expressed his appreciation to the Accounting Office for working diligently to get the bills out sooner so that the packets would be delivered to the Commissioners sooner.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Public Comments.

David Davidson, volunteer caretaker of the Bonaire Cemetery, requested the County donate a soon to be vacant fire station when a new one is built for use by those who work to maintain and provide upkeep for the Bonaire Cemetery.

Commissioner Byrd thanked him for his work and efforts to keep the Bonaire Cemetery in immaculate condition.

Commissioner Talton and Chairman Perdue both agreed with Commissioner Byrd's sentiments.

Chief Stoner spoke about the recent tornadoes that impacted the Griffin-Spalding County area and gave a rundown of the GSAR response team, 25 in total with 6 from the Houston County Fire Department. He also spoke of the team's efforts to assist in road clearing, searches and rescues.

Commissioner Byrd thanked him for his update, his work protecting Houston County residents, his work in helping others, and for the weather briefings given to the Commissioners before forecasted bad weather arrives.

Commissioner Talton commended Chief Stoner for the excellent department he runs, with a majority being volunteer firefighters.

Commissioner Robinson expressed her appreciation to Chief Stoner, and the personnel who serve with him.

Commissioner Gottwals commented that the efforts by Chief Stoner and those who serve with him are a true example of Houston County's successes.

Jackie Rozier brought to the Board's attention the need for County staff to assist in the repair of drainage pipe under Dunbar Road. She mentioned that after a major recent rainstorm, several yards and properties became flooded. She requested that additional drainage pipes be installed under Dunbar Road to help alleviate this situation in the future.

Chairman Perdue advised that County staff will visit and assess this pipe issue on Dunbar Road and will work to solve the problem.

Mr. Wilson, Mr. Alejos, Mr. Rawls, and Mr. Skinner who live on Molded Stone Place brought their concerns to the Board about a nearby neighbor target practicing for long periods of time on neighboring property and how the noise was a nuisance and a safety issue.

Mr. Hall asked what times of day the shooting was occurring.

Mr. Wilson advised after 3:00 pm on weekdays and all day on weekends. He also stated that based on this he thought it could be a school age person.

Mr. Hall asked if anyone had a chance to speak with the person doing the shooting.

Mr. Wilson said he had not so he would let someone else answer that question.

Mr. Skinner said another neighbor had spoken with him and was told that he was within his rights to shoot.

Chairman Perdue asked County Attorney Tom Hall to assist the residents with this matter and advised the residents that the County would look into the situation.

There being no further Comments Chairman Perdue closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Byrd congratulated the County employees who had been recognized earlier in the day for their 15, 20, and 25 years of service to the County and recognized again Kris Boyst and Quinn Lumpkin for their 30 years of service to the County and said that the greatest asset the County has is its employees. He recognized Sheriff Talton and Elections Supervisor Debra Presswood for attending the Commissioners meeting and thanked Pastor Vining for attending with his wife and his inspiring words.

Mr. Talton thanked Pastor Vinings for attending and his prayer and the County employees for their long service to Houston County. He also thanked the neighbors attending from the Molded Stone Place neighborhood and voicing their concerns about the gunfire near them and bringing this situation to the Board's attention.

Ms. Robinson expressed appreciation to the employees who were recognized for their years of service and for the neighbors coming together to the Board meeting to bring the situation to the Board's attention.

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Mr. Gottwals quoted from author Wendell Barry who said, *"I stand for what I stand on"* and spoke about standing for things and for principals. He also thanked Chief Stoner and his team for assisting the residents of Griffin-Spalding County.

Chairman Perdue thanked the residents for attending and sharing their concerns about the gunfire and recognized Pastor Vinings for his leadership in the community. He made mention of the large numbers of Sheriff's Deputies recognized for their longevity of service and attributed this to the leadership, example and support exhibited by Sheriff Talton and his support of those who serve with him.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

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Robbie Dunbar  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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