

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 24, 2017
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 24, 2017 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Robinson and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Senior Animal Control Officer Alan Smith, Keith Story, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, Flint Energies VP of Member Solutions Rogie Roberson, James Erdmanczyk, Cynthia Malone, Walton and Becky Wood and Ansel Peck.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation.

CMSgt. Jack Steed, USAF (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his 33-year military career. Joining the Air Force in 1949 he wanted to be a pilot but was disqualified due to medical reasons. He redirected his goals to trying to be the best enlisted man that he could be and eventually achieved the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. He held this rank for 19 years until his retirement in 1982. During his service, he saw duty in such places as Korea and Europe as well as many stateside duty stations including frequent TDY's to the Pentagon. His goal in life has been to 'leave this place better than I found it' and his lifetime of service to the military and community has allowed him to achieve exactly that. After retirement, he worked for Bank South and has worked with countless community organizations such as the United Way, the Museum of Aviation, the 21st Century Partnership, Keep Warner Robins Beautiful and many others.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Cynthia Malone, Chip'n Away at Heart Disease co-founder, and read a resolution proclaiming February 2017 as American Heart Month and February 3, 2017 as National Wear Red Day which strives to raise awareness of heart disease and stroke in women. Ms. Malone explained that Chip'n Away at Heart Disease is a non-profit organization that promotes heart-health education and prevention measures. She shared the touching story of her husband's history with heart disease, transplant and of his untimely passing. She urged everyone to support and participate in the various programs that her organization and the America Heart Association offer to the public.

Chairman Stalnaker introduced new County employee Blake Studstill who was recently hired as a Civil Engineer working at Public Works. Mr. Studstill briefly shared his background and thanked the Board for the opportunity to work for Houston County.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 10, 2017.

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County Attorney Tom Hall presented a first reading of an amendment to the Houston County Code of Ordinances concerning timber operations in Houston County requiring landowners and/or timber buyers to give notice prior to harvesting timber ensuring that ad valorem taxes due to the County are tracked as well as controlling roadway access points for maintenance purposes. The new section would be added as Chapter 30 - Environment and be titled as Article X – Houston County Timber Ordinance. A second reading and public hearing will be held at the February 7, 2017 Board meeting after which action may be taken.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that County staff has been working through the logistics of the process and asked that the Board be updated before the second reading and public hearing so that each department involved would understand their responsibilities.

Mr. Walker presented a right of way easement for Flint EMC that will accommodate the site lighting for the new Perdue fire station. The County will be responsible for the construction charge of \$6,408. Flint will maintain ownership of the LED lights with the County paying a monthly service/maintenance charge.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the underground Right of Way easement with Flint Electric Membership Corporation for the underground powerline for facility lighting at the Perdue Fire Station on the Highway 247 Spur; and to sign the Service Quotation Agreement for the installation of said lights at a cost of \$6,408.

Mr. Walker explained that the original proposal of \$10,413 included fiberglass poles in the lighting plan but it has been decided that we will have Flint install timber poles instead thereby saving \$4,005 and making the new agreement \$6,408.

Mr. Thomson presented a change order on the Carl Vinson Parkway Phase 3 2001 SPLOST project that will add \$180,000 to the existing contract amount of \$3,146,690.24 and will cover the cost of improving drainage and structural integrity of the road, and additional drainage in yards and areas adjacent to the roadway.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #4 with Reeves Construction Company on the Carl Vinson Parkway Phase 3 project increasing the contract amount by \$180,000 from \$3,146,690.24 to \$3,326,690.24. The contract time period for completion will not increase.

Chairman Stalnaker clarified that the change order was largely due to additional quantities of pipe and paving necessary to complete the job. The unit cost bid for these materials did not increase, only the actual quantities necessary.

Mr. McMichael presented a recommendation to award Perry Ford the bid on one new pick-up truck for use by Courthouse Security. Six bids were received and Purchasing recommends award to Perry Ford since they are within the 3% local vendor preference.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one new 2017 Ford F-150 crew cab truck for use by Courthouse Security to Perry Ford in the amount of \$26,076.56. The District Attorney will reimburse 100% of the cost of the vehicle to the County from forfeiture funds.

Mr. McMichael presented a request from the Patrol Division of the Sheriff's Department for the emergency purchase of two new Dodge Charger replacement vehicles. Purchasing has found two new 2016 vehicles that will meet our needs in stock at Butler Dodge in Beaufort, South Carolina. The unit cost for the 2016 vehicles is actually less than the new 2017 vehicles which would also be 10 to 12 weeks for delivery. Purchasing recommends buying these two 2016 Chargers from Butler Dodge.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two (2) new 2016 Dodge Chargers for use by the Sheriff Department Patrol Division from Butler Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep in Beaufort, South Carolina at a unit cost of \$23,265. Total cost of \$46,530 will be funded by the 2012 SPLOST.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Purchasing Director Mark Baker for his efforts locating these needed vehicles.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$811,301.86.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments.

Jessica Mitchell, 417 Story Road, Warner Robins spoke to the Board about the litter being scattered all over Story Road by the trucks hauling to the Trans Waste transfer station located at the lower end of Story Road near Hwy. 247. She explained that it was a daily chore to pick-up the litter and garbage that falls from these trucks, that the smell is unbearable and that the trucks routinely exceed the posted speed limit of 35 mph.

Chairman Stalnaker explained Trans Waste operates the transfer station as a contractor for the City of Warner Robins and that he has already had discussions with Mr. Dunbar and Sheriff Talton about these issues affecting County residents along Story Road. He indicated that he plans to have a conversation with Mayor Toms as well. Chairman Stalnaker asked County Attorney Tom Hall to look into whether the County could prohibit the trucks from using the entire length of Story road to approach the transfer station and limit them to an approach from the Hwy 247 end of the road. He indicated that the Sheriff may be willing to enforce such an action if the restriction could be put into place.

Mr. Thomson asked if the transfer station was zoned industrial.

Chairman Stalnaker indicated that it was zoned industrial.

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William Hardy, 425 Story Road, Warner Robins also spoke to the issue created by the waste trucks and commented on the trucks excessive speed. He indicated that an alternate route could possibly solve the problem.

Chairman Stalnaker agreed that if the traffic could be moved to an alternate route that would have them traverse roadways more suitable for heavy truck traffic. He promised to try to help resolve the issue for the residents of Story Road.

There being no further public comments, the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting to Commissioners Comments.

Mr. McMichael thanked everyone for coming and expressed his appreciation for Ms. Malone's presentation and also Mr. Steed's military story.

Mr. Thomson asked everyone to keep both the storm victim's and our community's homeless in their prayers.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked both Ms. Malone and Mr. Steed and also commended all first responders and citizen volunteers for their efforts in the aftermath of the recent storms. He commented on the cooperation between Chief Williams, law enforcement and public works staff including each of the cities

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone involved in the clean-up effort.

Mr. Walker likewise thanked everyone, especially public safety personnel and asked for prayers for those victimized by the storms.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

