

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**July 5, 2022**  
**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday July 5, 2022, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Robinson, Talton, and Walker present. Also present were Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Dan Perdue, Shane Gottwals, Billy Jerles, Meg Mehserle, Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Byrd led the audience in the Invocation.

Capt. Brayden Thomas, USAF led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his 4-year military career. He currently serves as an industrial engineer with the Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) at Robins AFB. He was raised on a farm near Lake City, FL where he concentrated on family, church, and sports. He went on to the Air Force Academy where he earned his degree in Systems Engineering and played football. After graduating in 2018, he was sent to Eglin AFB where he served as an F-16 Flight Test Engineer. He came to Robins AFB in late 2021 where his work as an industrial engineer focuses on various digital transformation projects which aim to improve the operations of five different aircraft platforms. He was recently engaged and looks forward to relocating to Florida after his military service.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 21, 2022.

County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations that even if the Board of Commissioners approves an application, neighborhood covenants may still impose certain restrictions upon or against home occupation businesses. These restrictive covenants are superior to any action taken by the Board of Commissioners. The actions taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

Mr. Hall presented Special Exception Application #2611 that was tabled at the June 7, 2022 meeting.

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

Special Exception #2611 applicant was not present and there was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Special Exception Application 2611, for Sherri and James Nance for a trucking business, to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report.

Mr. Hall presented Special Exception Applications #2619, #2620 and #2622.

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

Special Exception #2619, applicant was not present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2620, applicant was present, and had nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2622, applicant was present, and had nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the following applications as presented to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report:

Application #2619	Demetria & Alanna Bennet	Vending Machines
Application #2620	Gregory & Kimberly Dismuke	Lawn Care
Application #2622	Bryan Meeks	Photography and Web Design

Mr. Hall advised all applicants on the next step in the process which would be obtaining their business licenses through the Commissioner's office.

Mr. Hall presented Re-Zoning request submitted by William R. Jerles, Jr. on behalf of Unique Property Holdings, LLC.

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

Re-Zoning application #2621, applicant was present, and had nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Re-Zoning Application #2621 submitted by William R. Jerles, Jr. on behalf of Unique Property Holdings, LLC for a 1-acre property located at 458 Hwy. 247 also known as Lot 6 as shown on a plat of survey for E.B Weatherly Estate.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Jerles for his efforts as Chairman of the Airport Authority commending the airport on their many recent improvements and also thanking him for the recent honor bestowed upon him with the naming of the corporate hangar.

Re-Zoning Application #2623, submitted by Michael Clarke, was sent back to Planning & Zoning.

Mr. Hall clarified that the application would come back to the Board of Commissioners in August for action.

Mr. Walker presented a request to fill the vacant Utility Service Worker position in the Water Department.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Quentin Cainion for the vacant Utility Service Worker position in the Water Department at a Grade 9-D effective July 6, 2022.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Superior Court Accountability Court to renew the contract with iHOPE, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract for services with iHOPE, Inc. to provide Peer-To-Peer Transportation, Peer Recovery Phone Support Service, 12-Step Support Groups, All Recovery Meeting, Certified Recovery Coaching Services, and Evidence Based Recovery Groups for participants of the Houston County Accountability Court. The term of the contract will be effective July 1, 2022 and terminate June 30, 2023.

Mr. Byrd presented a Local Government Lighting Project Agreement for the SR11/US41 @ Lakeview Road roundabout.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Local Government Lighting Project Agreement (LGLPA) for the SR11/US41 @ Lakeview Road roundabout with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the roundabout has helped the issues at this intersection immensely but expressed concern over the future maintenance of the roundabout in addition to the lighting.

Mr. Dunbar commented that he believes the County will only be responsible for the operation, repair and maintenance of the lighting as well as the energy required for the lighting system.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid to replace two vehicles in the District Attorney's Office.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one new 2022 Ford Explorer at a cost of \$36,200 and one new 2022 Chevrolet Silverado at a cost of \$42,600 for use in the District Attorney's Office from Brannen Motor Company of Perry. The cost of these vehicles will be reimbursed 100% from DA Forfeiture Funds.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a contract with Traylor Business Services, Inc. to provide personal property verification reviews.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing an agreement (#1036) with Traylor Business Services, Inc. (TBS) for personal property audits in FY2023. Audits will only be performed when requested specifically by the Chief Tax Appraiser.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the reappointment of the following:

Central Georgia Joint Development Authority:

Rob Brooks

07/07/2022 thru 07/06/2026

And the appointment of the following:

Hamilton Halford

08/01/2022 thru 12/31/2026

(To fill the unexpired term of Ned Sanders ending 12/31/2022 and a new 4-year term beginning 1/01/2023)

Ms. Robinson presented a request to accept the FY23 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing all documents necessary to accept the 2023 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant award in the amount of \$310,000 (Grant #Y23-8-019) which will provide funding for a local Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) program designed to serve youth in the community who would otherwise be committed to Georgia's Department of Juvenile Justice; and to sign the Service Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Community Solutions, Inc.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to surplus equipment to be sold.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the designation of the following 262 radios as surplus to the County's needs and to authorize the Purchasing Department to accept bids:

139 each	XTS-5000 Portable Radio
38 each	XTS-3000 Portable Radio
54 each	XTS-2500 Portable Radio
16 each	XTS-1500 Portable Radio
15 each	XTS-1500 Model 1 Portable Radio

Chairman Stalnaker explained that this equipment would not go into our regular surplus auction but rather be held as an independent sale in an effort to obtain a higher value.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$5,921,961.86.

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

Meg Mehserle, 1016 N. Davis Drive, Perry stated that she has been researching the likelihood of election fraud here in Georgia for the last two years and she has discovered what she feels is great evidence in four areas including inflating voter rolls; electronic and illegal voter

machine fraud; drop-box stuffing fraud; and news censoring. Ms. Mehserle submitted several handouts to the Board documenting her research as well as research done by others. She feels that every state is in our same condition regarding corruption and election fraud. She strongly feels that it is up to each County to address these issues.

Chairman Stalnaker commented on the importance of engaging with our state legislators as they consider election integrity bills.

Cathy Catey, 111 Esterine Drive, Warner Robins also spoke on election integrity and submitted handouts from VoterGA which is a coalition of citizens working to restore election integrity in Georgia. She remarked that she had been engaged with legislators but that most of the good language was stripped out of Georgia's SB202 Election Integrity bill. She felt that the use of Dominion's Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) violates the law, and they should be replaced with the lawful alternative of a paper ballot system.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that although the Board of Commissioners appoint three members of the Board of Elections, it is an autonomous board which also has one member appointed by the Democratic party and one member by the Republican party.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed Public Comments and opened Commissioner's Comments.

Mr. Byrd expressed appreciation for former Chairman Ned Sanders for his service to the County both as Chairman of this commission as well as to the Airport Authority. He thanked Mr. Brooks and Sgt. Halford for their willingness to serve. He congratulated Mr. Mark Ivory on his election to the Houston County School Board. Lastly, he stated that it was just over a year ago that the County transitioned from utilizing inmate crews to utilizing a contractor for right of way maintenance on roughly 43 miles of roadways. He expressed his opinion that the maintenance of these roadways has been much improved during this period.

Chairman Stalnaker agreed that the contractor is maintaining a higher level of service compared to the inmate crews. He also commented that he and Mr. Perdue had the opportunity to meet with the Planning Director for the State last week and pointed out to her while they were riding County roads that the County is maintaining certain State routes as well. He did so to emphasize to her that the County considers itself to be a partner to GDOT as they have been to the County.

Mr. Talton thanked both the leadership of the County and the citizens as well for their efforts toward improving governance. He commented that honesty and integrity are a topmost priority in this County.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting commenting that it was important and inspiring for people to work hard toward the goal of protecting the integrity of our elections.

Mr. Walker thanked each of the outstanding County employees who serve our citizens each and every day. He also thanked Ms. Mehserle and Ms. Catey for coming to meeting and bringing forth their concerns.

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Chairman Stalnaker commented that with the change of command last week Brig. Gen. Hammerstedt is no longer at Robins AFB having moved on to her next assignment, but her replacement Brig. Gen. Eberlan has taken command and he looked forward to working with him in the future. He also mentioned the groundbreaking ceremony that was held last week for the Health Department addition and renovations which was well-attended. It is a desperately needed improvement for public health in this County and will be a great asset going forward. Lastly, he mentioned that today is the 28th anniversary of the flood of 1994 which was a catastrophic event. Sherrill Stafford was chairman of the Board of Commissioners at that time and through his leadership the County was able to expend reserve funds to restore County services and infrastructure. He, the other Commissioners, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Holland shared their experiences during that trying time.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all. Meeting adjourned.

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Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner