

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
June 27, 2017
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a special called session at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 27, 2017 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Robinson, McMichael and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Community Planner Jake Cox, Walton and Becky Wood, and Ansel Peck.

County Attorney Tom Hall led the audience in the Invocation.

Director of Administration Barry Holland led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$361,576.46.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the end of year budget adjustments would be made at the second meeting in July.

Chairman Stalnaker spoke of the FY2018 budget and thanked the employees, department heads, elected officials and the Commissioners for their combined efforts during the budget process. He thanked Director of Administration Barry Holland, County Comptroller Sandi Stalnaker, and her staff for their long hours and hard work helping to put together the budget. He explained that the FY18 budget does not rely on a millage rate increase. The millage will remain at 9.95 mills with the fire tax millage also remaining at 1.18 for a total of 11.13 mills in the unincorporated area. The millage has remained at 9.95 for eight years in a row and the fire tax has remained at 1.18 mills for eleven years. In 1990, the millage rate was 8.97 and twenty-seven years later, there has been less than one mill increase.

Chairman Stalnaker then read the FY2018 Budget Resolution into the record.

WHEREAS, the Houston County Board of Commissioners has prepared a line-item budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County Board of Commissioners has adhered to the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 36-81-3, as amended; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on June 20, 2017, and it is now in the best interest of the County that the budget be adopted,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Houston County Board of Commissioners that the annual budget for Houston County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is hereby approved and adopted in the amount of:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 55,371,345 |
| E911 Telephone Fund | \$ 4,030,667 |
| Fire District Fund | \$ 2,467,661 |
| SPLOST Fund | \$ 19,806,240 |
| Water Fund | \$ 6,997,500 |
| Solid Waste Fund | \$ 7,685,973 |
| Internal Service Fund | \$ 11,435,000 |
| Special Revenue Funds | <u>\$ 680,000</u> |
| | \$108,474,386 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, the General Fund shall appropriate \$45,200 from prior year fund balance for the County's "Code Red" early warning communications system and outdoor siren maintenance. The Solid Waste Fund shall appropriate \$15,000 in prior year host fees for equipment to be transferred out to the General Fund. The Solid Waste Fund shall also appropriate \$108,173 in prior year fund balance for Closure/Post Closure of Landfill cells and other costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual budget beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018 includes a two (2) percent cost-of-living adjustment (effective July 4, 2017 pay period) for all merit system employees, full-time county elected and appointed officials, and COLA's on supplements for all full-time employees receiving county supplements. Merit and longevity pay increases remain suspended for all employees. The FY2018 Position Control listing, attached hereto, is hereby approved and adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any increase in appropriation for any department or salary line-item in excess of the approved budget shall require approval by the Board of Commissioners authorizing said funds to be expended.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the FY2018 Budget Resolution adopting the FY2018 budget totaling \$108,474,386 as presented.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the Code Red funds were raised during the 2009 tax year through a one year millage rate increase voted upon by the citizens. These funds remain and are available to cover the operating and maintenance costs of the early warning communications system and are appropriated each year from those available funds.

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Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments.

Mr. Ansel Peck, 109 Latham Drive, Warner Robins stated that he wished all department heads could be at the meeting so that they could be congratulated on their dedication and hard work.

On behalf of the employees, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews expressed appreciation for the Commissioner's support of its employees and pledged that they would continue to do the best job possible in return.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Andrews to take the opportunity to brief the Board on improvements that will soon be made in the Building Inspection department.

Mr. Andrews briefly touched on the IT improvements that will soon enable the Building Inspection department to make inspection reports available real-time to contractors as well as proposed online permit applications and payment options.

Mr. Walker passed on a recent compliment that was relayed to him involving Mr. Andrews.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Commissioners Comments.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that at 9:30 a.m. on July 10th there would be a dedication ceremony for the two new parks at the intersection of Hwy. 96 and Lake Joy Road. He thanked Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar and everyone else involved with the project. He commented that it has been accomplished through a partnership with the City of Warner Robins and that the City would maintain the parks in the future. He recommended that those attending the ceremony park at the Publix shopping area as the dedication would be held on that side of the intersection.

He also reminded everyone that the next Commissioner's meeting would be held on Wednesday, July 5th at 9:00 a.m. in the Perry Courthouse due to the holiday on July 4th.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that at 9:30 a.m. on July 31st there would be a dedication ceremony for the new County fire station and Houston Healthcare EMS unit on the 247 Spur next to the Perdue Farms chicken plant.

Ms. Robinson commented that she was appreciative of all the hard work that went into the budget process and that she hoped the coming year was as fruitful and successful as the current.

Mr. Thomson remarked that it has been another great year in Houston County and thanked the Chairman, the other Commissioners, Barry Holland, each department head and, most of all, the taxpayers.

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Mr. McMichael remarked that it has been a good fiscal year for the County and thanked everyone for their involvement.

Mr. Walker commented that this is an outstanding County because it is well-managed and operated, that the citizens support the Board, and that it is a team effort led by a great leader, Chairman Stalnaker.

Chairman Stalnaker offered condolences to Barry Holland on the recent loss of his mother-in-law and also to the families of the individuals who lost their lives in the recent traffic accident on Highway 96.

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