

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
November 1, 2022
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday November 1, 2022, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Robinson, Talton, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/EMA Chief Chris Stoner, Community Planner Jacob Cox, Solid Waste Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Rep. Robert Dickey, Rep. Shaw Blackmon, Dan Perdue, Ned Sanders, Larry Thomson, Tom McMichael, Laura Mathis, Larry O'Neal, and Cathy O'Neal.

Chairman Stalnaker led the Invocation.

Col. Lindsay Droz led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke of her 24-year military career. Graduating in 1998 from the United States Air Force Academy, she has had many stateside and overseas assignments. Beginning her career in maintenance, Col. Droz has transitioned from that field to now being Commander of the 78th ABW. Col. Droz said that a big part of her job is to interface with those outside of the base as much as she does with those on the base. She thanked Chairman Stalnaker for making her job easier for the way he supports her work and those who work on the base. In response to his questions, Col. Droze said that coming home to America after being overseas is a joy and relief. She said that in comparison to other communities she has lived in during her service in the military, Houston County is truly an amazing place for those who are in the military and restated her appreciation to Chairman Stalnaker for his friendship and assistance whenever she needs anything off base.

Chairman Stalnaker made a special presentation to Judge Larry O'Neal for his involvement in securing State of Georgia funding to help solve the encroachment problem that Robins Air Force Base faced in the past. Chairman Stalnaker called up Representatives Shaw Blackmon and Robert Dickey to make comments in recognition to Mr. O'Neal and share their appreciation for his work in the Georgia General Assembly, especially in securing State funding through the Department of Natural Resources to help solve the encroachment issue that Robins Air Force Base faced.

Mr. O'Neal thanked Chairman Stalnaker and the others present for their kind words and for the special presentation of artwork depicting the work taken to end the encroachment issue facing Robins and the solar farm that is now located on that property which supplies renewable energy to the Base.

Chairman Stalnaker also recognized former Chairman Ned Sanders and former Commissioners Larry Thomson and Tom McMichael.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting. Upon voting Ms. Robinson, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Talton voted yes. Motion approved. As Mr. Byrd did not attend the meeting due to personal reasons he abstained.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2643, #2646, and #2647.

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

Special Exception #2643 was present, there was no opposition.
Special Exception #2646 was present, there was no opposition.
Special Exception #2647 was present, there was no opposition.

Mr. Ivey Cadle, attorney for the applicant, and Stan Shepherd with AT&T of the cell tower application #2647, thanked Chairman Stalnaker and the Commissioners for their assistance in helping this tower to be located in a different location and assistance in gaining approval.

Chairman Stalnaker commented on Mr. Shepherd and the support to the community and service that he has given.

There being no further comments 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 the presented applications to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report:

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| #2643 – Brian Stephens | Electrical Contractor |
| #2646 – Thomas & Kamerin Bazemore | Special Events Facility |
| #2647 – Tillman Inf. C/O Baker Donelson | Telecommunication Tower |

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

Mr. Talton presented a Resolution by Taking for the easement interests of parcels 36,37,38, and 45 Phase 1, Elberta Road Project.

Chairman Stalnaker said that normally the County does not condemn property, but that this is classified as a “friendly condemnation” as there is a road project in progress and there is a need to secure this property so that the project can keep progressing. There are several heirs to this property, and the County is in the process of trying to track them down as part of this road project.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve a Resolution by Taking for the easement interests of parcels 36,37,38, and 45 Phase 1, Elberta Road Project.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Robins Pharmacy to provide services to the Accountability Court.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the Chairman Stalnaker signing a Memorandum of Agreement with Robins Pharmacy to provide services to the Accountability Court. Funds billed through this Memorandum of Agreement will be paid from the Accountability Court budget 2115.

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Mr. Byrd presented a correction to the official minutes of October 18, 2022 meeting.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve a correction to the official minutes of October 18, 2022 meeting whereby the stated term of reappointment for Henry Childs, Sherman Falana, and Pamela Morgan to the Board of Elections will end on 12/31/2026.

Chairman Stalnaker also advised that Commissioner Byrd abstained from voting for approval of the October 18th 2022 Commission minutes due to his absence from the meeting due to personal reasons.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the MIS Department to hire Donald Weatherford to fill the vacant Computer Network Technician position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Donald Weatherford to fill the vacant Computer Network Technician position at a Grade 15 step C effective November 9, 2022.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Houston County Sheriff's Office to add five additional School Resource Officers to the Position Control Listing.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the addition of 5 additional School Resource Officers (Pos. #222) to the Position Control Listing. The cost of all five new positions to include salary, equipment and vehicles will be reimbursed by the Houston County Board of Education. The Comptroller is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments to Revenue and Expense of the SRO budget.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on three SUV PPV's for use by the Houston County Sheriff's Department School Resource Officers.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of three new 2022 Ford Police Interceptors for use by the Houston County Sheriff's SRO Department from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry with an expected delivery of two weeks and a purchase price of \$35,054 each for a total of \$105,162. The funds for this purchase will be reimbursed by the Houston County Board of Education. The Comptroller is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments to Revenue and Expense of the SRO budget.

Chairman Stalnaker mentioned that these three vehicles approved for purchase will be used by the SRO Deputies whose positions have just been approved.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the Fire Department for approval of a bid on two new Custom Fire Pumpers for use by the Houston County Fire Department.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of two new Custom Fire Pumpers from NAFECO of Decatur, Alabama, with an expected delivery time of 575 days and a purchase price of \$777,103 each for a total of \$1,554,206. Also, to allow the Fire Department to purchase the remainder of the loose equipment required to stock the trucks. Cost of equipment per pumper is \$76,361.08 for a total of \$853,464.08 per pumper truck and a grand total of \$1,706,928.16. Funds for this purchase will come from Insurance Premium Tax.

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Chairman Stalnaker said that the purchase of these fire trucks has been a long time coming and even though it will be over 500 days before the County takes delivery of them, it will be well worth it. Chairman Stalnaker also said these are the first of these type of fire trucks to be used by the Houston County Fire Department and will greatly improve fire protection on the eastern side of Houston County. The Commissioners each remarked that this was a great addition to the Houston County Fire Department, would improve fire services and thanked the fire fighters for the work they do to protect the citizens of Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,902,145.65.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Regular portion of the meeting and opened Public Comments.

Chief Stoner thanked Chairman Stalnaker and the Commissioners for approving the purchase of these two fire trucks and the equipment that will go on them. Chief Stoner said this purchase will carry the Houston County Fire Department into the future and is a monumental day for the department. Chief Stoner also spoke about two public events that will occur on Saturday, November 19th at Southside Baptist Church. These seminars will be about safety in churches and public places and is open to all faiths and the second seminar is about active shooter events at churches. These events are open to the public and free. Chief Stoner expressed his appreciation to Pastor Jerry Walls of Southside Baptist Church for opening his church for this event. Chairman Stalnaker stated that the thanks and appreciation for the ability of these fire trucks being purchased by the County goes to the citizens of Houston County and to the former and current Commissioners.

Terry Dietsch spoke about a Tire Amnesty event that will take place in Houston County on April 21st and April 22nd. This will take place in conjunction with Earth Day. At this event, scrap tires will be collected from private citizens. This will also be in conjunction with Keep Warner Robins Beautiful.

Chairman Stalnaker closed Public Comments and opened Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Walker expressed his thanks to Chairman Stalnaker for his leadership and said it was great recognizing so many fine Houston County residents and officials.

Commissioner Robinson thanked those who came to the meeting and is proud to represent Houston County.

Commissioner Talton thanked Chief Stoner for what he does, and the firefighters present at the meeting and said that Houston County is moving in the right direction.

Commissioner Byrd said he is happy to celebrate the partnership between Houston County and Robins Air Force Base and having Colonel Droz here at the meeting symbolizes that. He thanked all those who were involved in resolving the encroachment issue that Robins Air Force Base faced and stated that was probably the single greatest cooperative effort to date between local, state, and federal governments coming together to tackle this problem.

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Commissioner Byrd also complimented Houston Healthcare for the professional way that he was taken care of due to his recent illness that had him both in the Bonaire Med Stop and the Perry Hospital in the last two weeks. Lastly, Commissioner Byrd encouraged everyone to go vote and to get a flu shot.

Chairman Stalnaker informed the Commissioners that their presence was requested and needed at the November 8th Board of Education meeting where the Commissioners will recognize two retiring members of the Board of Education, Mr. Fred Wilson, and Mr. Hoke Morrow. This meeting will take place at the Board offices in Perry at 1:00 pm. Chairman Stalnaker also advised of the November 9th ACCG District meeting in Jones County and requested that all Commissioners attend as well. Chairman Stalnaker also invited those who will be newly elected to the Board to attend this meeting as well. Lastly, Chairman Stalnaker suggested three dates for the groundbreaking of the new fire station in Bonaire as being either November 30th, December 1st or December 2nd and asked the Commissioners to check their calendars and let him know which date would work best on their schedules. Parrish Construction will have to be consulted as well. Chairman Stalnaker also thanked Commissioner Byrd and former Commissioner Perdue for their help with this project and the purchase of additional property to include a 13,000 sq. foot medical facility that will house doctors who will be able to see patients in addition to the Sheriff's Department precinct that will also be built on site of the new fire station. Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Byrd remarked that when built, this facility will provide increased public safety protection and medical services to residents in the eastern part of Houston County. Before closing the meeting, Chairman Stalnaker recognized former Commissioner Dan Perdue for all his involvement in and on County business in preparation for being the next Chairman of the Houston County Commissioners.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

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