

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
August 6, 2019
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday August 6, 2019, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Thomson, Walker, Robinson and McMichael present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, County Engineer Brian Jones, Senior Engineer Ronnie Heald, Engineering Project Manager Van Herrington, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, Library System Director J. Sara Paulk, 21st Century Partnership COO Dan Rhoades, Jim Taylor, Walton and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck and James Erdmanczyk.

Commissioner McMichael led the audience in the Invocation.

Major Latoshia Wright, USAF led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed her 13-year military career. She grew up in West Palm Beach, FL but ended up in Columbus, GA for her last couple years of high school where she participated in the ROTC program. Her life plans were derailed at sixteen years old when she became pregnant with her first child and she had her second child just two years later. After a few years she received a special dispensation to return to the ROTC program and at 27 years old commissioned as an officer in the Air Force. She has served in various base level and wing level positions during her career and has been stationed in Ramstein, Germany and at the Pentagon before coming to Robins AFB about a year ago. Major Wright currently serves as the 78th Force Support Squadron Deputy Director at Robins AFB and has also been tasked with being the 2019 Air Show Director. The Thunder over Georgia air show at Robins will be held September 28th and 29th. She commented on the amazing partnership that exists between the military and our community.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

July 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Regular Board meeting
 July 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (Public Hearing #1 – Tax Digest)
 July 18, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. (Public Hearing #2 – Tax Digest)
 July 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. (Public Hearing #3 – Tax Digest)
 July 26, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. Special-Called Meeting

Chairman Stalnaker presented a request to formally name the new Lake Joy Road Fire and EMA complex, remarking that Chief Williams had been heavily engaged in the project design before his death and that Chief Stoner has continued to carry the ball forward. He commented on the recent August 1st groundbreaking ceremony that was held at the site where he announced the intention to name the facility and the entrance road after Chief Williams. This action today will officially ratify that decision.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried in unison by all to approve the naming of the new Lake Joy Road Fire and EMA complex as the "James W. Williams, Jr. Fire and Emergency Management Complex" and also to name the new roadway coming into the project from Lake Joy Road as "Chief Williams Drive" and to place it on the Houston County Road Inventory.

Mr. Walker commented that this will be a fitting honor for a dedicated public servant.

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.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2278 thru #2281.

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

#2278 – Corey & Kimberly Conger	Landscaping
#2279 – Cathryn Holt	Interior Design & Home Décor
#2280 – Rawni Sprague	Crafts
#2281 – Zachary & Jessica Paige	Landscaping

Mr. Andrews gave each applicant approved for a home occupation instruction on the next step of the process which is obtaining their occupational business license from the Commissioner's office.

Mr. Walker presented a request to hire David Newman for the vacant Assistant Fire Chief position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of David Newman to the vacant Assistant Fire Chief position at a Grade 25-C effective August 13, 2019.

Chief Stoner introduced Assistant Chief Newman to the Board and presented him with his new badge. Assistant Chief Newman began his service with Houston County Fire in 2001 as a volunteer and quickly became a full-time firefighter. He currently is a shift commander at Fire Station #6.

Mr. Walker presented a request to hire Rhett McGalliard for the vacant Heavy Equipment Mechanic position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Rhett McGalliard to the vacant Heavy Equipment Mechanic position at a Grade 17-D effective August 13, 2019.

Mr. Walker presented a request to hire Mylo Austin for the vacant Heavy Equipment Mechanic position.

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Motion by Mr. Walker second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Mylo Austin to the vacant Heavy Equipment Mechanic position at a Grade 17-D effective August 13, 2019.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for annexation of property totaling 114.6 acres into the City of Perry.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Perry annexation request for the property located at 333 Langston Road, Tax Parcel 000550 006000, comprising 114.6 acres contingent upon a water capacity study, the cost of which shall be the responsibility of either the City or the developer, to verify that the County's water system can provide service to their existing customers while providing service to any additional customers of the proposed development. If improvements to the water system are required as a result of the study the cost will be reimbursed by the City of Perry either on a lump sum basis or thru an appropriate fee structure.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for support of a roundabout at the SR247 and SR247 spur intersection.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Indication of Roundabout Support document to be submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation relative to the proposed roundabout at the SR247 and SR247 Spur intersection.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that this was the weirdest intersection in all of Houston County. He and Mr. Dunbar met with the Georgia DOT months ago and offered assistance for this project.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for a change order on the Church Street widening project.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #1 with C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc. of Marietta, GA increasing the original contract price of \$1,525,081.47 by \$171,988.70 for a new contract total of \$1,697,070.17. There is no increase in contract time. The City of Centerville will reimburse the County for the entire \$171,988.70 associated with this change order.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for the temporary closure of Lake Joy Road (between Village Boulevard and Morton Road) from October 7th thru October 11th.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the temporary closure of Lake Joy Road (between Village Boulevard and Morton Road) to allow for the reconstruction of a section of the roadway from October 7 through October 11, 2019; and, to approve Change Order #1 with C.W. Matthews Contracting Co. of Marietta, GA increasing the original contract price of \$8,298,443.82 by \$698,955.32 bringing the amended contract total to \$8,997,399.14.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that the only other option to the temporary road closure would cost nearly \$750,000 more. He reminded Mr. Dunbar to ensure that the proper notifications, publicity and signage was attended to so that citizens, law enforcement and emergency responders would be aware.

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County Attorney Hall conducted the first reading of amendments to Sections 2.2.2.; 2.3.; and 3.3. of the Houston County Local Design Manual and amendments to Section 4.d.1. of the Houston County Water Resource Protection Ordinance explaining that the amendment was necessary to comply with new EPD requirements. A second reading and public hearing will be held on August 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting at the County Annex building in Warner Robins.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for abandonment of a portion of easement in the Weatherby Plantation subdivision.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize the Board of Commissioners to sign the Resolution abandoning a portion of the Stormwater Management Easement in the Weatherby Plantation subdivision that traverses Lots 66 and 67 of the Weatherby Plantation subdivision, more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate lying and being in Land Lot 100 of the Tenth Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as "PORTION OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EASEMENT TO BE ABANDONED", affecting Lot 66, Phase No. 3 and Lot 67, Phase 1, Weatherby Plantation subdivision as shown on a plat of survey dated July 3, 2019 done by Theodore W. Waddle, Jr, G.R.L.S. No. 2139.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to convey to the current property owners of said lots having just been described and abandoned in the Resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners a portion of a Stormwater Management Easement.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the Quit Claim Deed to Gerthen Lucien Dawson, III and Amy C. Dawson, current owners of Lot 66, for the abandoned portion of the Stormwater Management Easement that traverses their property and to sign the Quit Claim Deed to William J. Partain, current owner of Lot 67, for the abandoned portion of the Stormwater Management Easement that traverses his property.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that each property owner will be responsible for the cost of recording the appropriate quit claim deeds.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for the release of a maintenance bond.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the release of maintenance bond (SunTrust Letter of Credit #70003525 expiring September 19, 2019) on the Forestbrooke Subdivision Phase 2 Lots 265-272 & 235-246 and Stratford Hills Subdivision Phase 2 Lots 264 & 247; and to accept Oakley Court, 944 feet or 0.18 mile at a speed limit of 25 mph and also Forestbrooke Way, 181 feet or 0.03 mile at a speed limit of 25 mph.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for the replacement of the fire alarm panel at the courthouse.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the courthouse fire alarm panel replacement project to Southeastern System Technologies (SST) of Macon in the amount of \$15,582. SPLOST 2018 will fund \$7,500 of this cost with the Public Buildings Repairs & Maintenance budget covering the balance of \$8,082.

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Mr. McMichael presented a request to replace the head-end device which allows our Public Buildings staff to access, view and adjust the controls on the HVAC systems at the courthouse.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Courthouse HVAC Controls replacement project to Johnson Controls, Inc. of Macon in the amount of \$23,000. SPLOST 2012 will fund the cost of this project.

Mr. McMichael presented for approval of a bid for the LMIG Safety Improvement project.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the 2019 supplemental LMIG Safety Improvement project to Mid-State Construction and Striping, Inc. of Perry in the amount of \$45,253.75 for the list of roadways totaling 14.68 miles as described in a memorandum dated July 26, 2019 from Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar; and to authorize the additional expenditure to meet the required minimum providing advanced warning signage on Houston Lake Road and Moody Road and other roads that may require striping.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that there would probably be a section of Houston Lake Road added to the list per a request from the City of Warner Robins. There will need to be a memorandum of agreement (MOA) executed whereby the City will reimburse the County for that portion within the city limits.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on two SUVs.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two new 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe's for use in the Sheriff's Department Patrol Division to Hardy Chevrolet of Dallas, GA for the unit cost of \$33,404 (Statewide contract SWC 40199-409). SPLOST 2018 will fund these vehicles for a total amount of \$66,808.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,807,374.04.

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

James Erdmanczyk, 1501 Green Street, Apartment I1, Warner Robins submitted a written request for the Board's review.

J. Sara Paulk, Houston County Library System Director, submitted copies of the library's annual report for 2018-2019 and remarked that it was the busiest year ever. She thanked the Board for their continued support.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked her for writing a recent thank you note to the entire Board that was very complimentary of the County.

Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership Chief Operating Officer, briefed the Board on the recent two-year budget bill signed by President Trump earmarking \$738 billion for defense this year. He also commented on the 5G network that is coming to Robins AFB. 5G increases bandwidth and speed of the network which will enhance countless technologies utilized by the military.

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Jamey McDaniel, Local Membership Sales Manager for AirMedCare Network, spoke to the Board about the different plans available for both individuals and groups for full coverage emergency medical helicopter evac services. Participating network providers include Air Evac Lifeteam which now has a permanent home in Perry thanks to the partnership with Houston Healthcare and the County. The new facility at the Perry Hospital will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, August 15th at 11:00 a.m.

As there were no further public comments, Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the meeting.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. McMichael remarked that it was a great meeting.

Mr. Thomson thanked everyone for coming and remarked that he was glad the Board could honor the late Jimmy Williams.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and remarked that it was indeed a great honor for Jimmy Williams and the Williams family.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that the County continues to make great progress for its citizens.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner