

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
December 21, 2021  
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 21, 2021, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Perdue, Robinson, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Community Planner Jake Cox, Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling, Development Authority Communications & Operations Coordinator Amelia Spinks, Warner Robins Mayor Randy Toms, Advanced Disposal Services Operations Manager Jeanne Moyer, and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Robinson gave the invocation and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Dr. Rhonda Moulder, Executive Director for the Miss Warner Robins and Miss International City Scholarship Pageant who then introduced Miss International City's Outstanding Teen Addie Freeman, Miss International City Jilian Hanna, Miss Warner Robins' Outstanding Teen Molly Brown, and Miss Warner Robins Hannah Peterson. The Chairman and each of the Board members congratulated the young ladies on their success.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Mayor Randy Toms thanking him for his service to the City of Warner Robins and our community and presenting him with a gift from all citizens of the County. Each Board member, Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, and Ms. Elaine Hollis spoke of Mayor Tom's service as well

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Ms. Gheesling, her staff member Amelia Spinks, and Jake Cox for their efforts during the year on the 200th Anniversary celebration events. Each played a vital role ensuring that the citizens could recognize and participate in the on-going celebration. He presented each with a small thank you gift.

Miss Warner Robins Hannah Peterson then read the Resolution Recognizing the 200th Anniversary of Houston County into the official minutes. Chairman Stalnaker presented her with a signed copy of the resolution as a memento. The original resolution is an exhibit to these minutes as Exhibit "A".

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 7, 2021.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker to approve the appointment of Dan Perdue as Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners for 2022. Upon voting Ms. Robinson, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Byrd voted yes. Mr. Perdue abstained. Motion carried.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Ms. Robinson for her service as Vice-Chair during the 2021 year.

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Mr. Walker presented a request to adjust two part-time Magistrates so that they will meet the mandatory minimum salary guidelines as set by the State of Georgia.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the adjustment of Sherry Campbell's and Brenda Morton's salaries to reflect the minimum salary of \$8,650.32 effective January 1, 2022 as mandated by the State of Georgia guidelines.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of an addendum to the Solid Waste Collection Service contract.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Addendum #2 to the Solid Waste Collection Service contract with Advanced Disposal Services Macon, LLC changing the collection of recyclable materials schedule to every other week.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to renew the professional agreement with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping Inc. of Cochran for roadside maintenance.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the renewal of the professional agreement with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc. of Cochran for the roadside maintenance of various county roads totaling 41.43 miles as shown on the contract extension dated December 7, 2021.

Mr. Perdue asked Mr. Dunbar if the contractor was all caught up.

Mr. Dunbar responded that for the most part they had caught up.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that without the contractor Houston County personnel could not have kept up with the roadside maintenance in the absence of the inmate work details.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the following re-appointment to the Development Authority of Houston County:

Steve Davison

1/01/2022 thru 12/31/2027

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a Change Order with Reeves Construction on the 2021 LMIG project.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #1 with Reeves Construction Company on the 2021 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) project increasing the contract price by \$110,874.63 thereby amending the contract price from \$999,045.69 to \$1,109,920.32; and increasing the contract time by 30 days.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on gasoline and diesel fuel covering the period beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.



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Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of a bid for gasoline and diesel fuel requirements covering the period beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022 to Campbell Oil Co. of Elizabethtown, NC at -0.1005 and -0.0596 OPIS markup for gasoline and diesel fuel, respectively.

Ms. Robinson presented a correction to the pricing and funding of a purchase for a new 2022 Ford Explorer approved at the December 7, 2021 meeting.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve a correction to the award of one new 2022 Ford Explorer SUV-Interceptor for use in the Patrol Division from Phil Brannen Ford with the unit cost of \$38,418. After the law enforcement grant contribution and the insurance settlement, the balance will be covered by the General Fund (100-3300-54.2200).

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve setting the qualifying fees for the March 15, 2022 Special Election for Probate Judge at \$2,768.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that Judge Harris has hit the ground running in her new role as Probate Judge.

Mr. Byrd stated that he recently had the occasion to contact the Probate Office and the process for online scheduling an appointment and the appointment itself were handled very efficiently.

Mr. Walker remarked that his law office utilizes the services at the Probate Office a good bit and they are always very proficient.

Mr. Perdue presented a request for approval to enter into professional services agreements with Houston Janitorial Supply and Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the entering into professional services agreements with Houston Janitorial Supply, Inc. of Bonaire for janitorial services at the State Court/Sheriff's Office for the period of January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022; and with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc. of Cochran for landscaping maintenance services at the Houston County Magistrate Court, the Houston County Health Department and the Houston County Annex Building for the period of January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$901,449.82.

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

Don Cofer, 305 Twelve Oaks Drive, asked the Board to consider a change to the water system billing to help mitigate the slow service of the postal service delivering bills to customers.

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Chairman Stalnaker commented that staff would investigate possible process improvements.

Mr. Cofer also asked if there was any possibility of a traffic signal being placed at the intersection of Hwy. 96 and Scarlett Drive to help the residents of Tara Estates.

Chairman Stalnaker answered that any new signalization on Hwy. 96 would have to be approved by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The County had looked at this possibility years ago when the Hwy. 96 widening project was in process, but the DOT declined at that time to place a traffic signal at this intersection. County staff could ask the DOT if a traffic study would be warranted today to see if it could be done now.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed Public Comments and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

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

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone that County offices would be closed on Thursday December 23rd, Friday December 24th, and Friday December 31st in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The next Board meeting is Tuesday, January 4th at 9:00 a.m. at the Perry Courthouse. He commented that the 2022 Board meeting scheduled had been posted as well. He thanked Community Planner Jake Cox for his leadership of the County's United Way campaign which raised a new record of \$34,247. He then announced that the Department of Revenue will be conducting a system upgrade to the state's DRIVES (Driver Record and Integrated Vehicle Enterprise System known as the vehicle tag system) on Thursday, December 30th at 7:00 p.m. through January 3rd. During this time the County Tag Office will be unable to process any online or in-person motor vehicle related services including tag renewals. The self-service kiosk at Kroger will also be off-line during this time.

Mr. Holland clarified that the Tax Commissioner's Office would be open on Monday January 3rd and could process property tax matters just not tag renewals.

Lastly, Chairman Stalnaker wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, thanking both his fellow Board members and all County employees for their efforts during this year.

Ms. Robinson commented that her prayer from the beginning of the meeting was written by poet Robert Louis Stevenson. She thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting and wished everyone a great holiday season commenting that there has been a lot of progress made during this year.

Mr. Walker thanked Chairman Stalnaker for his leadership, his fellow Board members for their service, and also each County employee. He wished everyone a safe holiday.



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Mr. Perdue wished a Merry Christmas to all citizens and employees and acknowledged his wife and children who were in attendance.

Mr. Byrd expressed appreciation for recently retired Lt. Tommy Spires' 42-years of service to the Sheriff's Office and our community. He also offered condolences to the family and friends of recently deceased Lt. Jeffery Wade Stewart of the Warner Robins Fire Department. He remarked that he was thankful to serve the citizens of Houston County alongside each of the other Board members. He also commented that the resolution offered tonight recognizing the 200th Anniversary of Houston County was very well-written and complimented Jake Cox and others for the effort.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson 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



## A Resolution Recognizing the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Houston County

**WHEREAS**, Houston County, in central Georgia was created by an Act of the General Assembly on May 15, 1821 and named for Governor John Houstoun with the spelling of the county later evolving to “Houston”; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization of Houston County was authorized by an Act of the Georgia General Assembly on December 21, 1821; and

**WHEREAS**, the geographic center of the county was given the name Wattsville, what was later changed to Perry, the county seat, and incorporated in 1824 and Warner Robins, the largest city, was incorporated in 1943, when a major military base was established nearby during World War II and Centerville was incorporated in 1958; and

**WHEREAS**, as time has progressed over the last two hundred years, so has Houston County with the largest population in Middle Georgia, home to the largest industrial complex in the State of Georgia – Robins Air Force Base, the lowest millage rate in the region while remaining fiscally strong with no debt, and a quality of life, public school system and healthcare facilities that are a magnet for growth, optimism, and success; and

**WHEREAS**, even during the COVID-19 pandemic which has gripped our world, nation, state and county, several large County projects have been completed or started during this year to include the State Court Expansion on the courthouse in Perry, the construction of the Houston County Government Building, construction on the Bear Branch Water Treatment Plant, landfill expansion, various road improvement projects and the sale of the historic courthouse to the City of Perry to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, as we recognize the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Houston County – to the day of its establishment by the Georgia General Assembly on December 21, 1821 – let us endeavor to continue to build on the foundation and shoulders of those who have come before us and make the next chapter in Houston County even brighter, ever bolder and always progressing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Houston County – along with each citizen of Houston County – reflect upon the creation, early history and present-day Houston County and recognize what a true blessing it is to live, work and be in Houston County.

**SO RESOLVED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2021

Attested By:

Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman

Gail Robinson

Mark Byrd

Dan Perdue

H. Jay Walker, III

