

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
January 19, 2021  
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 19, 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 Purchasing Mark Baker, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Capt. Randy Banks, Lt. Brian Blanton, Corp. Shay Little, Coroner Danny Galpin, Deputy John Stinson Jr., Jimmie Mace, Ellis Manson Jr., Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare CEO Angela Holt, Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare Executive Secretary Karen Lynch, Flint Energies COO Ty Diamond, Flint Energies V.P. of Member Solutions Rogee Roberson, Walton Wood, Kristin Moriarty.

Commissioner Byrd led those in attendance in the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Flint Energies COO Ty Diamond on the occasion of his retirement after thirty-three years of service presenting him with several tokens of appreciation from the citizens of the County. The Chairman, each Board member, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Dunbar each expressed their appreciation to Mr. Diamond for his service to the community and great spirit of cooperation with the different County offices and the general public.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Deputy John Stinson Jr. and Roads Department employee Jimmie Mace for their 30-year service anniversaries with the County and Coroner Danny Galpin and Roads Department employee Ellis Manson Jr. for their 40-year service anniversaries with the County presenting each with a certificate of achievement, a service pin and a check. The Board of Commissioners and each employee's department head or supervisor thanked all for their exemplary service to our community.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 30, 2020. Upon voting Ms. Robinson, Mr. Walker and Chairman Stalnaker voted yes; motion approved.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 5, 2021.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that Item #4 concerning a Memorandum of Agreement would not be ready for presentation tonight as there appear to be minor changes necessary to the agreement. This item will be taken up at a later date.

County Attorney Tom Hall presented information on a distressed property at 303 Silver Circle, explaining that he has made multiple attempts over the past two years to have the owner, who lives in Gwinnett County, abate the nuisance but that there has been no reply or action to this point. The house and property are in an extreme state of disrepair, is a nuisance to the surrounding community, and he requested the Board to authorize him filing an in-rem action in Superior Court against the property. This type of action has been successful in the past on other properties. In addition, he would ask for an injunction to abate the nuisance which would require by court order for the owner to repair or demolish the property.

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Chairman Stalnaker explained that this is a last resort in these types of cases where there has been a total lack of response from the property owner.

Mr. Walker disclosed that he lives fairly close to this property but felt that he does not have a conflict.

Mr. Perdue asked for clarification on whether or not there had been any response from the property owner.

Mr. Hall confirmed that there had been zero communications from the property owner.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize the County Attorney to file an in-rem action and to seek an injunction through Superior Court compelling repair or demolition of the property at 303 Silver Circle.

Mr. Perdue presented a request for approval of a bid on the fencing project at the old Lake Joy Road Fire Station.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the fencing project at the old Lake Joy Road Fire Station (410 Lake Joy Road) to National Fence Company, LLC of Kathleen in the amount of \$17,750. This is a SPLOST-funded project.

Mr. Perdue presented a request from Purchasing to cancel a vehicle order and the award of a new order to replace it.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the cancellation of one new 2020 Ford F-550 2-ton extended cab truck and chassis from Brannen Ford of Perry initially placed in October of 2019 at a cost of \$41,991.90; and the award of one new 2020 Ford F-550 2-ton extended cab truck and chassis from Wade Ford of Smyrna at a unit cost of \$47,048. SPLOST 2012 will fund the purchase of this vehicle.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Baker if Brannen Ford was aware of the cancellation of this order yet.

Mr. Baker replied that they were not since he was waiting for the action to be approved from the Board before cancelling the order and placing the new one with Wade Ford.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$894,331.85.

After presenting a summary of the bills Mr. Byrd explained that he had conferred with Mr. Holland about the County's bill process and felt that it was a very good and thorough system with checks and balances.

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

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

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

Mr. Byrd expressed that this meeting is a celebration of service to others which is part of what makes our Houston County community special. He remarked that he and Mr. Perdue had the opportunity last week to participate in two ACCG-sponsored trainings with one on Public Safety and the other on Economic Development. From interactions with other participants throughout the state on that same training call it is readily apparent that Houston County is held in high regard in both of those areas in large part due to our esteemed Sheriff Cullen Talton and our Economic Development Director Angie Gheesling.

Mr. Perdue remarked that recognizing Mr. Diamond, each of the 30 and 40-year service County employees, and Ms. Holt embodies both loyalty and service to our community which is to be very much commended.

Ms. Robinson thanked each of the individuals recognized tonight for contributing to the well-being of the community. She thanked each for their work and dedication.

Mr. Walker remarked that each of these individuals make Houston County the great place it is to work, live and play. He commended all County employees for the great job that they do every day.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a letter from Rebuilding Together Warner Robins President Jerome Stephens soliciting personal donations from the Commissioners. His non-profit organization provides low-income homeowners with critical home repairs, accessibility modifications, energy-efficient upgrades as well as painting and landscape services.

Chairman Stalnaker then briefed the other Board members on the County-owned property at 305 Story Road which is an old fire station currently being utilized by another department of the County. These personnel will be moving out soon to relocate at the old Lake Joy Road fire station that is being renovated for that purpose. He explained that because of the deteriorating condition of the building, the failed septic system, and the fact that this property was once part of the old Elberta Landfill the County is not in a position to sell it. Staff has recommended that the building be demolished upon the current tenants vacating it and the lot leveled and the entranceway secured. Although no official action is necessary, Chairman Stalnaker asked, and received, concurrence from the rest of the Board to accept this staff recommendation.

He then thanked everyone for attending and thanked all County employees for hanging in there during this long pandemic providing necessary services to our citizens.

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Lastly, Chairman Stalnaker presented the Board with a thank you gift from the newly formed Houston County Lions Club which recently held a Poker Run fundraiser to benefit children in hospitals battling cancer. The Club used the parking lot of the Annex building collecting twelve Lego's kits and \$700 to purchase more.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Perdue 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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