

Houston County Commissioners Meeting

March 1, 2022

Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 1, 2022, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Robinson, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Senior Animal Control Officer Alan Smith, Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Board of Tax Assessors Chairman Bill Fowler, Dan Perdue, Steve Williams, Mayor LaRhonda Patrick, Atlantic Coast Consulting CFO & VP of Engineering Services Robert Brown, Atlantic Coast Consulting CEO & President Richard Deason, Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Brigadier General William Kountz, Air Force Reserve Command led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his 39-year military career. A native of Columbus, Ohio he enlisted in active military service with the Air Force in 1983 as an aircraft weapons systems technician working on the A-10, F-4, and F-16 aircraft. In 1993, he was selected for a direct commission as an aircraft maintenance officer and has held many maintenance and logistics assignments at the wing, major command, and Headquarters level. He has deployed to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, as well as many non-combat assignments in various other locales. He currently serves as Commander, Logistics, Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) at Robins AFB and states that he is a proud member of Team Robins as they celebrate their 80th anniversary. Married with five children and three grandchildren Brigadier General Kountz and his family intend to retire here when the time is right.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.

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.

Chairman Stalnaker wished Ms. Robinson a Happy Birthday (March 24th) and presented her with a lunch bag cooler.

Mr. Walker presented a request from State Court Clerk Teresa Hathaway to fill the vacant Deputy Clerk position at the State Court Clerk's office.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Diamira Ortiz for the vacant Deputy Clerk position in the State Court Clerk's office at a Grade 12-C effective March 7, 2022.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2583 through #2591.

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

Special Exception Application #2583 Applicant was not present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2584 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2585 Applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2586 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2587 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2588 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2589 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2590 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2591 Applicant was present, there was no opposition.

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

Mr. Byrd thanked Mr. Andrews and his staff as well as the members of the Zoning & Appeals Board for a thorough review of these applications as it is very helpful to the Board of Commissioners as they deliberate on each one. He also asked Mr. Andrews to confirm that Ms. Kerr would be compliant with all County ordinances relative to Application #2583.

Mr. Andrews confirmed that she did comply with all County ordinances.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd 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:

Application #2583	Jennifer Kerr	Dog Breeding
Application #2584	James & Janice Clance	Kettle Corn
Application #2585	Todd McDonald	T-Shirt & Promotional Products
Application #2586	Meghan Scott	Nutritional Consulting
Application #2587	Robert & Vicki Norcott	Servsafe Training
Application #2588	Richard & Jacquelyn Whiddon	Construction
Application #2589	John & Lora Ennis	Land Development
Application #2590	Denise McKinley	Professional Drafting
Application #2591	Michael Carter	Home Security Sales

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. Byrd presented a request from the City of Warner Robins for annexation of property located at 308 Woodlands Boulevard.

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Chairman Stalnaker asked for any public comment on the request. There were no comments.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for 308 Woodlands Boulevard (Tax Parcel OP64A0 223000) consisting of 0.22 acres.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to enter into a professional services agreement on the SR247 at Old SR96 Intersection Improvement project with American Engineers, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a professional services agreement with American Engineers, Inc. of Acworth, GA for the SR247 at Old SR96 Intersection Improvement project construction plans for a lump sum fee of \$69,460. This project is funded by the 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to enter into a professional services agreement on the Flournoy Road Improvement project with Saunders Engineering.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a professional services agreement with Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc. of Centerville for the Flournoy Road Improvement project construction plans for a lump sum fee of \$81,500. This project is funded by SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to enter into a professional services agreement on the Thompson Mill Road Extension Project with Bryant Engineering.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a professional services agreement with Bryant Engineering, LLC of Forsyth for the Thompson Mill Road Extension project engineering and surveying services for a lump sum fee of \$498,500. This project funded by 2018 SPLOST CW18-3 project.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on the Probate Court Renovation Project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Probate Court Renovation Project to ICB Construction Group of Macon at a total cost of \$178,539.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Baker to elaborate on the timeline for the project.

Mr. Baker commented that although the timeline is given as forty days in the proposal, the key will be the lead time on the flooring.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid for the replacement of the Uninterrupted Power Supply at the server room in the Annex building.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Uninterrupted Power Supply replacement project at the County Annex server room to Anderson Power Services of Fort Valley in the total amount of \$53,248. SPLOST 2012 will fund this equipment purchase. The Comptroller is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustment.

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Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on the new LED-style signage at the new Houston County Government Building to N Motion Advertising, LLC.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the LED-style signage at the new Houston County Government Building to N Motion Advertising, LLC of Warner Robins in the total amount of \$33,850. The cost of the signage will be charged to the building construction project (100-1400-54. 1300).

Mr. Byrd commended the Purchasing staff for their management of the bid process which resulted in the successful bid approximately 35% lower than the next.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on one new 2023 Box Dump Truck for use in the Roads Department.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one new 2023 Freightliner M2-106 with a Godwin body for use in the Roads department to Middle Georgia Freightliner of Macon in the total amount of \$89,720. SPLOST 2012 will fund this vehicle purchase.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on one new Utility Vehicle for use at the Landfill.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one new Kubota RTV-X900 UTV to Walker Rhodes Tractor Company of Perry in the total amount of \$17,240. Landfill Capital Funds will fund this equipment purchase.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$4,575,735.63; and to authorize the Comptroller to make the necessary budget adjustment for the reimbursement of Houston Healthcare EMS from the 2018 SPLOST for two ambulances at a total cost of \$212,555.

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

Jacqueline Rozier, 317 Dunbar Road, Warner Robins announced her candidacy for County Commissioner Post 4. Ms. Rozier, a 40-year resident of Houston County, stated that her goal is to continue to grow the entire county with help from the other county commissioners; the cities of Warner Robins, Perry, and Centerville; and to include the smaller towns of Clinchfield, Elko, and Henderson.

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.

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Mr. Byrd recognized the Houston County Development Authority and all the economic development partners in our community. The Georgia Department of Economic Development released its FY21 year-end review, and five of the six economic development successes outlined for the year are in Houston County. He thought this to be a product of the hard work of both the Authority and the economic development partners which includes this Commission and all three cities and is something we can all be proud of. He then offered his thoughts and condolences to the Gann family for the loss of a legendary Houston County resident Mr. Stan Gann.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and participating in the business of Houston County.

Mr. Walker appreciated the honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Houston County and thanked the outstanding employees of Houston County for the great job they do each and every day often in very challenging circumstances.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on March 15th at 5:00 p.m. at the Warner Robins Annex building. He then recognized two other candidates for office, Mr. Steve Williams running for Post 2 Commissioner, and Mr. Dan Perdue running for Post 1 Chairman.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner