

Houston County Commissioners Meeting April 23, 2024 Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

Commissioner Byrd led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Henry Childs, Retired USAF Colonel and Board of Elections Member gave the invocation.

Chairman Perdue recognized Board of Elections Director Debra Presswood, the members of the Houston County Board of Elections, and the Board of Elections staff present for recently being awarded the EAGLE Award. This award given by the Georgia Secretary of State's Office is given to those Boards of Election in Georgia who exhibit excellence in their operations and are recognized for achievements in election security, innovation, accuracy, accessibility, and voter education.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to enter into an Option to Purchase with David and Jocelyn Daniell for property located on Old Perry Road.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of an Option to Purchase with David and Jocelyn Daniell, for purchase of property described below:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 12 of the 11th Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Tract 2, containing 2.19 acres of land, according to a plat of survey entitled "Plat of Mrs. C.G. Galletly Property" prepared by J.B. Lovell and Assoc, dated October 31, 1951 a copy of which is of record in Plat Book 2, Page 429, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof for a more complete and accurate description.

Less and except all that tract or parcel of land shown in Right of Way deed recorded in Deed Book 5068, Page 46, Clerk's Office Houston Superior Court.

The above-described property is conveyed subject to easements and rights-of-way for public roads and utilities as they now exist and building lines and other matters shown on the aforesaid recorded plat of survey.

Chairman Perdue thanked Director of Operations Brian Jones, Utility Director Terry Dietsch and the County's engineering consulting firm Carter and Sloop for assisting with this project. He then described the increase in water usage over a 10-year period in millions of gallons used per year and stressed that having this additional water tower will ensure that firefighting and seasonal water needs will be met. He mentioned that this will be the first water tower built in Houston County on the Feagin Mill system since 1998. He finished by saying that ARPA grant funds will be used to build the tower.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to extend the current agreement with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc., and add Lake Joy Road from Houston Lake Road to Langston Road to the agreement.

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Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of an Addendum to the contract with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc., of Cochran, Georgia with a 2% increase per renewal term year covered in the Addendum.

Mr. Byrd expressed his appreciation to Dixie Lawn and Landscaping staff for the great job the company is doing on the 43 miles of Right of Way they are taking care of.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that Covid-19 greatly reduced the efficacy of using inmate crews to maintain the County's Right of Way and that the County had to look to the private sector to get this work done. He also mentioned that there are plans for a litter cleanup crew to work on the Right of Way leading to the landfill.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the City of Warner Robins to annex the property located at 100 Glenwood Ave.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to concur with the annexation, to the City of Warner Robins, of property located at 100 Glenwood Avenue, also known as Tax Parcel 00075A 012000, containing 0.59 acres. The current zoning of the property is County RMH the proposed zoning is City of Warner Robins C-2.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval to hire poll workers for the upcoming May 21, 2024 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring the following poll workers for the May 21, 2024 General Primary/Nonpartisan Election, and for the Accounting Department to make any and all budget adjustments:

	AMOUNT	TOTAL	
17	Managers (Precinct)	\$175.00	\$2975.00
34	Assistant Managers (Precinct)	\$125.00	\$4250.00
103	Clerks	\$115.00	\$11,845.00
154	Training	\$25.00	\$3850.00
5	Janitors	\$15.50	\$77.50
1	Janitor	\$25.00	\$25.00
233	BMD (Ballot Marking Device)	\$2.00	\$466.00
3	Election Supply Load Out Help	\$75.00	\$225.00
3	Election Night Equipment Return Help	\$75.00	\$225.00
3	Election Night Check-In Clerks	\$75.00	\$225.00
17	Supply pick-up/return supplies (Managers)	\$10.00	\$170.00
17	Cell Phones	\$10.00	\$170.00
2	Ballot Scan Clerks	\$100.00	\$200.00
	TOTAL		\$24,703.50

Chairman Perdue expressed his appreciation to the Board of Elections, and staff for the very important work they do.

Mr. Talton presented a request to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Mr. Charles Powers to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position at the Landfill at Grade 13 Step C. Staff has reviewed his qualifications and he has the experience to merit the step and grade. The effective date will be April 24, 2024.

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Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Assistant District Attorney position in the District Attorney's Office.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Ms. Maggie Dixon to fill the vacant Assistant District Attorney position at a Grade 30 Step E effective April 24, 2024. Staff have reviewed her qualifications, and she does exceed the requirements for the E Step.

Chairman Perdue explained that Ms. Dixon currently works at the District Attorney's Office but as a state employee. He continued saying that right now it was more advantageous for her to be a county employee but that at some point in the future she would transfer back to being a state employee.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,668,912.10.

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

Shirlyn Johnson-Granville expressed her appreciation to the Commissioners for recognizing the Board of Elections and staff for their work and congratulated them for receiving the EAGLE Award.

Bobby Walker spoke about animal control and having problems receiving help on weekends with trapped dogs

Chairman Perdue recognized Animal Control Director Alan Smith and recommended a meeting.

Jacquelyn Rozier asked a question about the Bonaire Water Tank property acreage.

Chairman Perdue replied that it contained 2.19 acres.

Jim Taylor, Museum of Aviation volunteer, spoke about the upcoming auction and Taste of Local set for Saturday, July 13th at the Museum of Aviation. He spoke about the 500,000 visitors that come to the Museum annually, and that the Museum of Aviation is the 2nd most visited museum in the Air Force. He concluded by speaking about the upcoming summer camps for students to be held at the Museum.

Ms. Meg Mehserle spoke about election integrity.

Dr. Henry Childs recognized Debra Presswood and the Elections Staff for receiving the Eagle Award from the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. He commented that during the last audit of the Board of Elections by the Secretary of State's Office, Houston County had 0 errors or discrepancies.

There being no further comments, Chairman Perdue closed Public Comments and opened Commissioner's Comments.

Mr. Gottwals thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He commented about a book he is currently reading, *The Yearling*, and about how tough life was during the time period of the book. He concluded by saying he is very thankful for how well-run Houston County is in supplying basics such as running water.

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Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for being at the meeting, for caring enough about their county to attend the meeting. She recognized the Board of Elections staff for winning such a prestigious award. She concluded her comments by encouraging everyone to early vote beginning next Monday, April 29th for the upcoming May 21st General Primary/Nonpartisan Election.

Mr. Talton recognized the Board of Elections staff for their hard work and receiving such a deserving award. He thanked those who came and expressed their concerns and appreciated their involvement and investment of time to attend the meeting. He concluded by recognizing Captain Quinones, Director of the 911 Center for her work and her staff's work and commented that last week was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Mr. Byrd thanked Elections Supervisor Debra Presswood and her staff for their excellent job and efforts in running safe and secure elections in Houston County. He concluded by expressing birthday wishes to his mother, Mrs. Betty Byrd.

Chairman Perdue thanked Mr. Byrd for recognizing his mother's birthday and for recognizing people of note in his comments on a regular basis. He spoke about mental health issues and encouraged everyone to reach out to someone if they were facing something bigger than they could handle. He thanked everyone for a good meeting and for attending.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner