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**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**July 7, 2015**

**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Thomson, McMichael, Walker and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, HEMA/Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Walt and Becky Wood and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner Thomson led the audience in the Invocation.

Former MSgt. Harold Bruce USAF Reserves led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his 26-year military career. After working briefly for a major oil company he joined the Kansas National Guard in 1986. Having had several mentors during his career he had a desire to pay back everything that he learned to others in the service. In 1991 he switched to the Air Force Reserve and spent nearly twenty years as a recruiter. Mr. Bruce has been a Deputy with the Houston County Sheriff’s office since shortly after his retirement in 2012 and currently manages the County warehouse.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 16, 2015 and June 23, 2015.

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 action taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

Special Exception Applications #1880 for a home occupation business was presented by Tim Andrews. Mr. Andrews explained that this application was tabled at the June 2nd Board meeting and was sent back to Zoning & Appeals since the applicant was not present at the original Zoning & Appeals hearing held on May 26th. The applicant also failed to appear at the second Zoning & Appeals hearing held on June 22nd and therefore was subsequently unanimously denied by the Zoning & Appeals Board.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to deny Application #1880.

Special Exception Application #1889 through #1895 for home occupation businesses were presented by Tim Andrews. Mr. Andrews explained that Application #1889 and #1893 were recommended for unanimous denial because both were internet sales business involving retail product sales from the home. He stated that all other applications comply with Section 95 of the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations and that the Board of Zoning & Appeals recommends unanimous approval of each.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on Applications #1889 through #1995.

Mr. James Patterson spoke in favor of Application #1889 and requested that the Board send his application back to the Zoning & Appeals Board for reconsideration. He indicated that he has changed his business model and believes that it will now meet the Section 95 criteria.

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John & Allison Canceran were present and Mr. Canceran spoke in favor of Application #1890 and explained the various means by which they would dispose of the hog carcasses and also stated that he does hold all necessary DNR permits for this business operation.

#1891 - Applicant Derrick Fisher was present with no further information to add.

#1892 - Applicant Justin Crosby was present with no further information to add.

#1893 – Applicant Rhonda Giza was not present but her husband Mr. Charles Giza stated that his wife understood that the application was recommended for denial by Zoning & Appeals based on the Section 95 criteria not being met.

#1894 – Applicants Tony & Tammy Hill were present with no further information to add. Mr. Walker commented that he lived around the corner from the applicants but felt that he had no conflict in voting. County Attorney Hall agreed that there was no conflict.

#1895 – Applicant Daniel Huffman was present with no further information to add.

There was no opposition to any of the applications.

There being no further public comments, the meeting was continued.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to send Special Exception Application #1889 submitted by James Patterson back to Zoning & Appeals for further consideration.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to deny Special Exception Application #1893 submitted by Rhonda Giza.

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

Application # 1890 submitted by John & Allison Canceran; Application #1891 submitted by Derrick Fisher; Application #1892 submitted by Justin Crosby; Application #1894 submitted by Tony & Tammy Hill; and Application #1895 by Daniel Huffman.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to concur with a City of Perry annexation request for all that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 189 of the 13th Land District, Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Parcel 1, containing 5.000 acres, as shown on a plat of survey prepared by Lee R. Jones, Registered Land Surveyor No. 2680, dated July 21, 1998 and recorded in Plat Book 53, Page 9, Clerk’s Office Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the temporary closure and detour of Gunn Road between Willow Way and Eagle Parkway, by contractor C.W. Matthews who is performing the Gunn Road widening project on, or after, July 13, 2015, for no more than seven (7) days.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that although this temporary detour would be an inconvenience for the immediate neighborhoods that it was necessary to accommodate the cutting of the road and installation of the pipe.

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Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign a ten year Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement for fire support between the Houston County Fire Department and the Dooly State Prison Fire Services.

Mr. McMichael asked if Dooly County had a 911 system in place. Chief Williams replied that they were a part of the seven county Middle Flint Regional E-911 Authority. Chairman Stalnaker remarked that this agreement is simply a renewal of an existing agreement that had expired.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the hiring of the following workers for the upcoming July 14, 2015 Special Election for State House District 146:

 **Amount Total**

 8 Managers $130.00 $1,040.00

 16 Assistant Managers 90.00 1,440.00

 10 Clerks 80.00 800.00

 31 Training 25.00 775.00

 4 Janitors 15.50 62.00

 2 Janitors 25.00 50.00

 35 TS Units 3.00 105.00

 1 Election Night Helper 50.00 50.00

 1 Supply Pick Up Helper 50.00 50.00

 2 Election Night Check In 50.00 100.00

 7 Supply Pick Up/Return Supplies 10.00 70.00

 8 Cell Phones 10.00 80.00

 **Total $ 4,622.00**

Mr. Stalnaker commented that this cost was only for the workers on Election Day and not the total cost of the election. He estimated that the total cost was approximately $16,000. He also predicted that voter turnout for this election would be extremely low.

County Attorney Tom Hall presented a Second Reading of an Amendment to The Water Resources Protection Ordinance.

The amendment would add Section 8.8 ‘Residential Stormwater Management Facilities’ which provides guidelines for the proper construction of any stormwater management facility for a new residential subdivision to include a new section or phase of an existing subdivision. Once the County has accepted the subdivision and its improvements, and after the one year maintenance period, the facility will be conveyed to the County. The County will then provide for the proper maintenance and repair of these stormwater management facilities and in return each owner of a lot in the subdivision will pay up to $10 per month (which will be included on their County utility bill.) The amendment will also alter Section 3.2.1 of the Stormwater Local Design Manual as it relates to Stormwater Management Facilities. It will change the required fencing from a “standard four” to a “vinyl-coated six” foot chain link fence to be constructed around a detention pond.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Macon Telegraph reporter Wayne Crenshaw for his recent in-depth article concerning this proposed amendment.

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Mr. Thomson asked what criteria would apply to older existing subdivisions that wanted to be included. Chairman Stalnaker replied that there are several methods by which the older subdivisions could be included but that the Board would have to address this issue in the near future.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling $2,653,071.96.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar introduced Engineering Department summer interns Ryan Adams and Ken Robinson. Both young men are engineering students. Ryan is attending Southern Poly Technical University at Kennesaw and Ken is attending Middle Georgia State University in Macon.

There being no further public comments, the meeting was continued.

The Chairman then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Mr. Thomson stated that he is proud to be an American.

Mr. McMichael stated that he is also proud to be an American and also proud to live in Houston County. He urged everyone to please get out and vote in the special election for State House District 146.

Ms. Robinson stated that she is also proud to be an American and thankful for the citizens of Houston County.

Mr. Walker echoed the same sentiment and commended the employees of Houston County for doing a great job.

Chairman Stalnaker congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Wood on their 50th anniversary and thanked them for their service to the community. He also thanked Chief Williams and the Sheriff’s office as well as all other agencies involved for the great job they did supporting the July 4th concert and fireworks celebration.

There being no further comments, the meeting was continued.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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