

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
June 2, 2020  
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Thomson, McMichael and Robinson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Mark Byrd, Rob Tuggle, and James Erdmanczyk.

Commissioner McMichael gave the Invocation, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2020.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2355 thru #2357.

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

Special Exception Application #2355 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2356 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2357 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular meeting.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson 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 #2355	Thomas & Karen Daly	Hair Salon
Application #2356	Timothy & Heather Jordan	Painting
Application #2357	Ruben Lopez	Construction

Mr. Walker presented a request for abandonment of right of way on Grovania Road.

County Attorney Tom Hall explained that the town of Grovania was laid out in the 1940's by the railroad but the town never came to fruition. The request is to abandon the unused right of ways and alleys

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

Applicant was represented by Mr. Rob Tuggle of Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles who explained that the streets depicted on the 1949 plat were never constructed.

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There was no opposition.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the Board of Commissioners signing the Resolution abandoning the unused or unopened street right-of-ways and alleys located within the property described below, and Chairman Stalnaker signing the Deed of Abandonment abandoning the unused or unopened street right-of-ways and alleys which are described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate lying and being in Land Lot 116 of the 13<sup>th</sup> Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as any unopened street right-of-ways or alleys or portions of unopened street right-of-ways or alleys contained within tract "A" containing 161.06 acres, according to a plat of survey recorded at Plat Book 81, Page 223, Clerk's Office, Houston County Superior Court.

This conveyance is subject to any easement for utilities presently existing within the above described property.

Ms. Robinson presented three court reporter employment contracts for the Superior Court judges.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Superior Court employment contracts for court reporters Wendy Nelson, Connie Montgomery, and Joy Malone for terms beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Ms. Robinson presented contract renewals for the Superior Court Accountability Court.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract for services with NAMI of Central Georgia to provide transportation services for participants of the Houston County Accountability Court; and, to sign with NAMI of Central Georgia, the Middle Flint Area Community Service Board, and Infinite Health Wellness, LLC to provide therapeutic counseling services and healthcare education for participants of the Houston County Accountability Court. Each of the four contract terms will be effective July 1, 2020 and terminate June 30, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following reappointments:

Zoning & Appeals Board:

Arthur Clarke, Jr.	6/06/2020 thru 6/05/2024
Eddie Walker	6/06/2020 thru 6/05/2024

Region V EMS Board:

Dave Borghelli	7/01/2020 Thru 6/30/2023
Brenda Kosar	7/01/2020 Thru 6/30/2023

Mr. Thomson commented that each member being reappointed has performed their duties well for their respective boards.

Mr. Thomson presented a request from the Public Works department to add needed striping work to the 2019 Supplemental LMIG program.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the four additional roadways as listed below to the 2019 Supplemental LMIG program, and to increase the amount of the County's match total to cover the additional cost.

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Old Vienna Road	Center and Edge Line Striping
Scott Road	Center and Edge Line Striping
Rio Pinar Drive	Center Line Striping
Valley Drive	Center and Edge Line Striping

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on the Elko Road Water Line Extension project.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Elko Road Water Line Extension project to Low Tide Piping, LLC of Wrightsville, GA in the amount of \$462,703.58. This is a 2012 SPLOST funded project.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,975,836.59.

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

Lawrence Wright, 509 Pheasant Ridge, Warner Robins asked the Board to help find a way to control speeding drivers on Pheasant Ridge as there have been many incidents involving speeders, knocked down mailboxes, damaged or destroyed culverts and retaining walls, and recently on May 24th a fatality resulting from a driver running nearly 100 mph and missing the curve in the road ending up crashing in his neighbor's yard. He said that although the Sheriff's Department sends out deputies and issues citations that the small fines and warnings do not work. The neighborhood needs increased patrolling, speed bumps, or increased signage. He thought that possibly the County engineer could help.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Wright for coming and sharing his concerns and stated that unfortunately this is not a situation unique to this neighborhood. The Sheriff's Department is doing what they can and writing citations, but the Board of Commissioners does not set the fine amounts. The Engineering Department is looking at performing a traffic study in the neighborhood. He asked Mr. Walker to confer with Mr. Dunbar and the Sheriff's Department about the issue and then report back at the next Board meeting.

James Erdmanczyk, 1501 Green Street, Apartment I1, Warner Robins submitted a letter to the Board concerning the continuity of care concerning his medical records between Houston Healthcare and his primary care physician.

Chairman Stalnaker informed Mr. Erdmanczyk that the Board of Commissioners had no jurisdiction in this matter and recommended that he speak with Houston Healthcare President and CEO Charles Briscoe or someone on his executive staff.

As there were no further public comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for Commissioners Comments.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that the Board will hold a public hearing at a called meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020 in the Commissioner's Board Room at the County Annex in Warner Robins to hear public comments concerning the proposed FY21 budget. The Board will formally adopt the FY21 budget at the regularly scheduled meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 in the Jury Assembly Room at the County Courthouse in Perry. It is hoped that the Board can resume its regular schedule for meetings beginning July 7th. He announced that a called meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 26,

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2020 in the Commissioner’s Board Room at the County Annex in Warner Robins for the purpose of approving fiscal year-end bills. He passed out copies of the balanced and proposed FY21 budget to the four commissioners for their review. Although we are uncertain on many revenues, we should have a better feel by the end of the calendar year. He stated that 99% of County departments responded very well to the instructions and guidance given by the Board while submitting their FY21 budget requests. The Board is not considering raising taxes this year and intends to leave the millage rate at 9.935 mills which will fund this proposed \$60 million General Fund budget. Finally, Chairman Stalnaker wished Mr. Walker and Mr. McMichael both a belated happy birthday.

Mr. Thomson hoped that the recent violent protests would subside and that we, as a nation, would continue to help control the virus. He appreciated everyone for coming and thanked the Chairman and Mr. Holland for their efforts on the proposed FY21 budget.

Mr. McMichael agreed that the violence was unacceptable at what should be peaceful protests and marches. He thanked the Chairman, Mr. Holland, Ms. Stalnaker and Mr. Carter for their part in putting together the proposed FY21 budget and remarked that the April SPLOST proceeds were encouraging.

Ms. Robinson expressed her hope for peace and non-violent protests and thanked all involved for their part in putting together the proposed FY21 budget.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and remarked that the proposed budget is developed with the Chairman’s dynamic leadership and the efforts of all the elected officials and department heads.

Chairman Stalnaker briefed the Board on several properties that had been brought to his attention recently. One property located on Green Street has a tremendous amount of debris on the property and action is being taken. The Enterprise Rental property on Watson Blvd. has vehicles in the street blocking traffic and access to the dumpster on Mauk Circle. They have been told to move the vehicles or they will be towed. Lastly, a property on Nelson Drive has a lot of debris piled up on the lot and the street and needs some attention. Mr. Andrews has identified the property owner and is attempting to make contact about resolving the issue.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson 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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