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**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**May 5, 2015**

**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 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, Human Resource Director Ken Carter, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, HEMA/Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, District Attorney George Hartwig, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, Houston County Tax Assessor Representative Amanda Clark, Centerville Mayor John Harley, Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Hamilton Halford and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Chief MSgt. David Buchanan, USAF, (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his 30 year military career. He joined the service in 1983 and spent his career in the personnel or human resources field. He met his wife of 20 years while in service and held duty assignments in places such as New Mexico, Amsterdam, Belgium, the Island of Crete (Greece), Florida, Texas, Okinawa, South Korea and finally Georgia. He stated that he and his family, wife and two sons, chose Georgia as their last duty assignment and stayed here based on the great school system and the community in general. Now retired, he stays active in the community working with the Keep Warner Robins Beautiful organization.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Commissioner Walker’s birthday (May 6) and presented him with a small gift.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 21, 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. The Board of Commissioners does not enforce these covenants.

Special Exception Applications #1868, #1871, and 1873 for home occupation businesses were presented by Tim Andrews. Mr. Andrews stated that application #1868 had received a vote for unanimous denial from the Zoning & Appeals Board and that the applicant subsequently withdrew the application. There is no need for action on the Board of Commissioners part. Mr. Andrews also explained that #1871 was tabled by Zoning & Appeals since the applicant was not present for the hearing and that #1873 was tabled so that the County attorney could advise them on the use of a detached garage for the business and whether they could regulate the amount of gun powder kept on site for use in the ammunition manufacturing business.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to table Applications #1871 and #1873 and send them back to Zoning & Appeals for further consideration.

Mr. Andrews explained that both #1871 and #1873 would be heard again by Zoning & Appeals at their next regularly scheduled meeting on May 26th and then the Board of Commissioners would see them back again at the June 2nd Board meeting.

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Mr. Andrews then presented Special Exception Applications #1866, #1867, #1869, #1872, and #1874 through #1878 for home occupation businesses. Mr. Andrews stated that each application complies with Section 95 of the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations and that the Board of Zoning & Appeals recommends unanimous approval of each application.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on applications #1866, #1867, #1869, #1872, and #1874 through #1878: With the exception of #1875, each applicant was present but had nothing further to add. There was no opposition to any of these applications.

Although Application #1868 was withdrawn by the applicant concerning an existing group home being granted 16 versus the current 12 children, Ms. Lillie Djurkovic, 270 Toomer Road, Perry and Ms. Ruth Getter, 274 Toomer Road, Perry both asked to be heard on why the application was withdrawn. They both had objections to the group home being there at any approved number of children. Chairman Stalnaker informed Ms. Djurkovic and Ms. Getter that the Board could not hear their objections on the matter since the application had been withdrawn. Chairman Stalnaker then asked Mr. Andrews how long it would be before the applicant could reapply. Mr. Andrews stated they would have to wait 12 months. Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Andrews, Mr. Walker and the County Attorney to set up a meeting with Ms. Djurkovic and Ms. Getter to discuss their concerns at a later date.

There being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve Application #1866 subject to no signage; Application #1867 subject to no signage; Application #1869 subject to no signage; Application #1872 subject to no signage; Application #1874 subject to no signage and with the condition to allow an 8 ft. x 16 ft. enclosed trailer to be used for the business and stored in the rear yard; Application #1875 subject to no signage and the limitation of no more than six children being kept at the home; Application #1876 subject to no signage; Application #1877 subject to no signage, no repair or maintenance of equipment at the home, no customers to the home, and no use or storage of a trailer at the home; Application #1878 subject to no signage.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for all that tract or parcel of land lying and being situated in Land Lots 88 and 95 of the 5th Land District, Houston County, Georgia, said tract or parcel of land containing 6.8 acres, as shown on a plat of survey prepared by Geo Survey, Ltd., and recorded in Plat Book 2342, Page 158, 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. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to concur with a City of Centerville annexation request for all that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 138, 5th Land District, Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lot 6, Re-subdivision of Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 26, 27 and 28, Mason Subdivision, according to a plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 247, Clerk’s Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby incorporated for all purposes.

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Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign all documents necessary to apply for the 2016 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant in the amount of $260,000 which will provide funding for a local Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) program designed to serve youth in the community who would otherwise be committed to Georgia’s Department of Juvenile Justice; and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Community Solutions, Inc. (CSI) contingent upon approval of the grant application.

Mr. Thomson asked if there was any match required in this grant. Chairman Stalnaker replied that there was no match requirement.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign all documents awarding the contract for architectural services on the Perry-Houston County airport improvements project to JMA Architecture of Perry. JMA’s fee will be $66,453 (GSP Aviation Hangar fixed fee of $49,000 and Tee Hangar fixed fee of $17,453).

Mr. Thomson remarked that this action will greatly enhance the Georgia State Patrol presence in Houston County. Chairman Stalnaker gave a brief history of the events leading up to the new hangar construction and stated that the new Georgia State Patrol aviation hangar will provide room for additional aircraft and a personnel presence 24 hours a day. Once the new hangar is constructed and the Georgia State Patrol moves from their current facility at the airport the existing Georgia State Patrol hangar will then be utilized by the airport for general aviation purposes. Chairman Stalnaker recognized Sgt. Hamilton Halford, hangar commander of the Perry Georgia State Patrol aviation unit, and thanked him, the Georgia State Patrol and Colonel McDonough, Commissioner-Georgia Department of Public Safety, for the air support they provide to law enforcement and the citizens of Houston County. Chairman Stalnaker expects a groundbreaking on the hangar within a few weeks. Sgt. Halford stated that a community with an airport helps to draw people and business to the area and is a vital organ of the County. He explained that the Georgia State Patrol has seven helicopter hangars in Georgia but none are manned around the clock. This action in Perry could be the first 24/7 unit. Sgt. Halford thanked the Board for their partnership and support. Chairman Stalnaker recognized the Airport Authority as an important partner in this venture, as well as recognizing both District Attorney Hartwig and Mayor John Harley for their participation in the endeavor.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign a letter of agreement for design services for the Georgia State Patrol Hangar Site Design at the Perry-Houston County Airport with W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc. of Atlanta in the amount of $14,659.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve District Attorney Hartwig’s request to purchase two computer servers and an upgrade to the existing security camera system at the courthouse as outlined in his letter dated April 29, 2015. 100% of the cost ($11,085) for the camera system upgrade will be reimbursed to the County from the District Attorney’s forfeiture account. The cost of the computer servers ($12,479.98) will be paid from the District Attorney’s FY15 departmental budget.

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Chairman Stalnaker recognized District Attorney Hartwig along with Sgt. Leo Frazier of the Sheriff’s courthouse security detail. District Attorney Hartwig explained that the camera system had been installed several years ago at a cost of over $100,000 utilizing grant funds and was a fantastic tool helping to keep courthouse personnel and citizens safe. This upgrade will help fill in some blind spots enhancing that security even further. He thanked Lt. Spires, Sgt. Frazier and the rest of the security staff for the excellent job they perform. Sgt. Frazier thanked the District Attorney and the Board for assisting the Sheriff’s Department with these security upgrades. Chairman Stalnaker thanked District Attorney Hartwig for utilizing forfeiture funds to make this upgrade possible. Each Board member thanked District Attorney Hartwig and Sgt. Frazier.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve a bid award for the joint 2015 LMIG road resurfacing and repair projects to Reeves Construction of Macon in the total amount of $2,136,024.95 of which Houston County’s portion is $712,603.83. The cities of Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry, Byron, Hawkinsville and Pulaski County will be responsible for the balance of $1,423,421.12. In order to meet the required 30% match, the County will also set aside $15,000 for signs and sign posts as well as add $41,000 to the scope of work.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling $2,577,488.13.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Deborah Kinlaw, Executive Director of Phoenix Center Behavioral Health, thanked the Board for Mr. Walker’s presence on the Phoenix Center Community Service Board and then addressed the Board concerning CDBG grant funds that are available for the construction of a women’s residential substance abuse facility. The grant requires the County to participate and maintain ownership of the facility for a certain period of time. The County had considered a similar request last year to build this facility at the Phoenix Center’s campus on Hwy 96 utilizing grant funds but the County was not in a position to help at the time. Ms. Kinlaw asked that the Board revisit the issue in light of the fact that the State has informed the Phoenix Center they will lose state funding for this program if a proper facility is not built. The current facility is a house in a residential neighborhood that is not conducive to the running of the program according to the State. Chairman Stalnaker asked Director of Administration Barry Holland to set up a meeting along with Mr. Walker to discuss the issue further.

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

The Chairman then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Mr. Walker recognized Mayor Harley and commented that we have three great cities within Houston County.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the EPD Burn Ban in effect from May 1st through September 30th. Chief Williams clarified that the open burning ban prohibits both citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris during those months. Mr. Thomson asked if the ban included piles of leaves as well. Chief Williams confirmed that leaves cannot be burned while the ban is in place.

There being no further comments, the meeting was continued.

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Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session for Attorney/Client matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and also Personnel matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1).

Upon returning, Chairman Stalnaker reconvened the regular Board meeting with no action taken.

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

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Director of Administration

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