

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
April 21, 2020
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 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 Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, and District Attorney George Hartwig.

Commissioner Robinson gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the regularly scheduled meeting in Warner Robins at the Annex building for 6:00 p.m. was changed to 3:00 p.m. at the Perry Courthouse Jury Assembly Room out of necessity to maintain the proper social distancing required during this pandemic. He thanked Lt. Spires and other staff for accommodating the change.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2020.

Chairman Stalnaker asked the Board to consider adding three different items to the agenda including a sales contract with the City of Perry concerning the Houston County Government Building as Item 8; authorizing County Attorney Hall to file suit in Superior Court on a blighted property if it becomes necessary as Item 9; and some public building restrictions adjustments due to the COVID-19 and Governor Kemp's recent announcement implementing new guidance for reopening the economy as Item 10.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to add three different items to the agenda.

Mr. Walker presented a request for a change in the position title and responsibilities for the vacant CAD Operator position with the Tax Assessors Office.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the changing of the Tax Assessors vacant CAD Operator position title to Administrative Supervisor effective April 22, 2020. The pay grade will remain unchanged at Grade 15.

Mr. Walker presented a request to reorganize positions within the Water Department.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the requested reorganization of the positions within the Water Department as outlined in a memorandum from Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar dated April 15, 2020 to be effective May 5, 2020.

Director of Personnel Ken Carter and Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar exited the meeting.

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Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval to submit four projects for the 2023 Federal Off-System Safety Program.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve Public Works submitting the following projects to the Georgia Department of Transportation for consideration in the 2023 Federal Off-System Safety Program and to make any necessary adjustments to the list to meet the requirements:

Old Perry Road	Pavement Markings and Signs	Est. Cost \$63,700
Moody Road	Pavement Markings	Est. Cost \$75,700
Houston Lake Road	Pavement Markings	Est. Cost \$79,500
Saddle Creek Road	2-Foot Widening	Est. Cost \$114,750

Mr. Thompson presented a request for approval of a bid for the 2020 Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance Program.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the 2020 Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance Program contract to Dixie Lawn and Landscaping, Inc. of Cochran for the yearly amount of \$17,300 to include an option to renew for one additional year. Billing is to be done monthly in arrears.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on the Terrell Road project.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Terrell Road – Base, Grading and Paving project to Middle Georgia Paving, Inc. of Cochran in the amount of \$789,048.50. SPLOST 2006 will fund this project.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the late Mr. Bill Parker had worked extremely hard on obtaining the ROW for this project.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to extend three bonds.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the extension of the cul-de-sac bond (Persons Banking Company Letter of Credit #432946 expiring May 1, 2020) at Rosales Drive of Harley Estates Extension Subdivision, Phase 2 for one year to give them an opportunity to extend Rosales Drive; the extension of the cul-de-sac bond (SunMark Bank Letter of Credit #210230-9 expiring May 2, 2020) at McCarley Downs Drive of McCarley Downs Subdivision, Section 1 Phase 3 for one year to give them the opportunity to extend McCarley Downs Drive; and the extension of the maintenance bond (SunMark Bank Letter of Credit #210230-10 expiring May 2, 2020) at McCarley Downs Subdivision, Section 1, Phase 3 for one year to give the developer an opportunity to perform the required work to meet the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,023,135.39.

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Chairman Stalnaker presented a sales contract between the County and the City of Perry for the sale of the Houston County Government Building stating that this is the culmination of a long effort between the two entities. The County has already engaged an architect and engineers for a new facility to be built on Kings Chapel Road to house the current tenants of the building. He stated that the County intends to be out of the building by late December 2021. Mayor Walker and Council intend to take action on the contract tonight at their meeting and therefore the Board needed to take action today as well.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the contract on the sale of the Houston County Government Building to the City of Perry.

Chairman Stalnaker briefed the Board on a blighted property on Virginia Dare that the County has been endeavoring to have the property owner clean-up. County Attorney Tom Hall sent them a registered letter giving them 60 days to clean up the property, but that time period has passed, and the property is still in disarray. He asked that the Board give Mr. Hall the authority to file suit in Superior Court if the property owner does not comply immediately. He explained that legal action will be a last-ditch effort only in the event the owner does not act swiftly.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize the County Attorney to file litigation in the Superior Court, in the event it becomes necessary, against the property owners at 201 Virginia Dare Drive for code violations.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that since the Shelter-in-Place order expires on Thursday April 30th, and since Governor Kemp has announced plans to open certain businesses with restrictions in place, that beginning next week the County will resume a normal work week Monday thru Friday. Also, beginning Friday May 1st buildings under County control will reopen to the public but with certain restrictions maintaining social distancing, sanitary procedures and limiting the number of people allowed inside at the same time. For example, the Annex Building will operate with one front door open with personnel stationed inside the door screening individuals and taking temperatures with infrared thermometers. If conditions then warrant, a week or two later, possibly certain restrictions could be further relaxed. He commended all County employees for continuing to serve the public during this crisis. He also announced that the next Commissioner's meeting would be held at the Perry courthouse in the Jury Assembly Room on May 5th at 9:00 a.m. and also tentatively announced that the second meeting in May would be held at the same location on May 19th at 3:00 p.m. if necessary. The City of Perry will hold their Council meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. in this same room, and if there are no scheduling conflicts, will also hold their meetings in the same location on May 5th and May 19th.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve resuming normal work week Monday thru Friday beginning the week of April 27, 2020; and to re-open County controlled buildings to the public with certain restrictions in place maintaining the appropriate social distancing, sanitary procedures and limiting the number of people inside each building at one time.

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Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Commissioners Comments.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked all County employees for their efforts continuing to serve the public during these trying times.

Mr. Walker thanked the County employees for the outstanding job during this crisis.

Ms. Robinson likewise thanked each employee and asked everyone to take the proper precautions and stay safe.

Mr. Thomson thanked Lt. Spires for providing security during the meeting.

Mr. McMichael thanked the employees and expressed his appreciation for everyone's continuing thoughts and prayers for his wife as she is still recovering from her illness.

Chairman Stalnaker remembered Mr. Bill Parker who passed away on April 12th while in Asheville, NC. Mr. Parker spent fifteen years as a right-of-way contractor for Houston County Public Works, was well-respected and will be missed by all.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner