

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
August 18, 2020
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 18, 2020, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, 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, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Fire /HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews and Dan Perdue.

Commissioner McMichael gave the Invocation and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the following:

11:00 a.m. on July 30, 2020	Public Hearing #1 – Tax Digest
9:00 a.m. on August 4, 2020	Regular Board Meeting
10:30 a.m. on August 4, 2020	Public Hearing #2 – Tax Digest
6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2020	Public Hearing #3 – Tax Digest

Mr. Walker presented a request from the City of Perry for annexation of property located at 1999 Sam Nunn Blvd. that had received concurrence at the July 7, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. The applicant then withdrew his application after the meeting but before the City of Perry met. He has now resubmitted it.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to reaffirm the County’s concurrence with a City of Perry annexation request for the property described as:

A 0.24-acre portion of Tax Parcel OP0380 036000 located at 1999 Sam Nunn Blvd. as shown on a zoning plat drawn by Story, Clarke & Associates as Parcel “Z”.

Mr. Walker presented a request from Public Works for approval of the proposed LMIG priority list.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the proposed LMIG priority list to be submitted to Georgia D.O.T. The estimated grant funding would total \$801,638 and the 30% mandatory match from the County is \$240,491.40. The road names and mileage are as follows:

<u>Road Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Length/Miles</u>
1 st Street (Elko)	Pine Street	Plum Street	0.18
Eastwick Drive	GA Hwy 127	Moody Road	0.40
Duke Lane	Grove Lane	Cul-de-sac	0.89
County Line Road	Loggins Road	Dooly County Line	0.75
Briarmoor Drive	Pheasant Ridge	Pheasant Ridge	0.77
Shady Grove Lane	Sandefur Road	Cul-de-sac	0.31
Sweetwater Drive	Feagin Mill Road	Warner Robins City Limit	0.56

Fairways Drive	Statham's Way	Statham's Way	1.22
Grovania Road	US 341	RR Crossing	3.40
Quail Run Drive	Tharpe Road	Cul-de-sac	0.53
Esterine Drive	Houston Lake Road	Crystal Court	0.55
A.E. Harris Road	GA Hwy 247	End of Pavement	0.75

Mr. Thomson presented a request from the public Works department for approval on an amendment to the "Major Thoroughfare Plan".

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve an amendment to the "Major Thoroughfare Plan" adding Henson Road and Wimberly Road as collector routes.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval of an amendment to JMA Architecture's professional services agreement on the State Court Expansion project.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing an amendment to JMA Architecture's professional services agreement for additional services on the State Court Expansion project in the amount of \$10,700.

Mr. McMichael commended each of the County staff members who have worked with JMA on this state court project for their efforts.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval of a professional services agreement with NBP Engineers of Macon.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a professional services agreement with NBP Engineers of Macon for delivery of mechanical and electrical construction documents and construction administration services for the 2018 SPLOST courthouse chillers replacement project in the amount of \$19,000.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this was a very time sensitive project given that we are operating with two temporary chiller plants that are very expensive to lease. The new equipment will be custom-built to our specs and will have a long lead time.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on the Landfill Phase 6, Stage 1, Cells 1-3 Access Road Paving project.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the MSW Landfill Phase 6, Stage 1, Cells 1-3 Access Road Paving project to Houston Asphalt of Macon in the amount of \$183,617 funded by Solid Waste Capital Funds.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on the Landfill, Phase 6, Stage 1, Cells 1-3 fencing project.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the perimeter fence installation for the Landfill, Phase 6, Stage 1, Cells 1-3 project to National Fence Company, LLC of Kathleen in the amount of \$16,995 funded by Solid Waste Capital Funds.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the Superior Court to continue the contract with Scott Barfield to serve as a surveillance officer.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract for services with Scott Barfield to perform the duties of Accountability Court Surveillance Officer for the period ending June 30, 2021.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,819,585.20.

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

Rob Braley, 139 Old Perry Road, Bonaire thanked Chairman Stalnaker remarking that big changes have occurred in the County since he became Chairman. In light of a recent house fire in Bonaire that occurred during a weekend while only volunteer firefighters were on staff he asked if the Board would consider changes to the department structure that would allow at least two full-time firefighters on duty at any given time for each station to improve response times.

Chief Stoner said that his comments in a news article about the fire which occurred on Saturday, July 25th were unintentionally misleading. His comment was that the millage rate which generates the unincorporated fire tax had not been increased for many years not that the departments' budget had not been increased. On the contrary, the fire departments budget has been increased roughly \$1,000,000 for personnel and approximately \$6,000,000 in capital equipment over the last six years. The new station at Lake Joy is soon to be opened and will be staffed 24-7 as will the planned new Bonaire station on Highway 96. The fire station on the 247 Spur is already 24-7. Response times average about 13 minutes for volunteers while full-time personnel response time is 7 minutes. Houston County is always looking for more volunteers since the volunteer base saves the taxpayers a lot of money given the value that they bring to the department.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Braley for his input and remarked that although the department has come a long way in the last five to six years, there is still more progress that needs to be made in the near future.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and reopened the regular meeting.

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

Chairman Stalnaker recognized the military member who was in attendance and also thanked the deputy providing security for the meeting for his service.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and asked everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming remarking that it was great to live in Houston County.

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Mr. McMichael likewise thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Thomson recognized Mr. Dan Perdue who was in attendance.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone once again of the importance of participating in the 2020 Census. Houston County's response rate of 66.9% surpasses our 2010 census response and is the current highest in middle Georgia. Door-to-door census takers have begun knocking on doors as of last week to reach those who have yet to participate. He also announced that the next Board meeting would be on Tuesday, September 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse in Perry in the Jury Assembly Room and that the County will observe Monday, September 7th as a holiday for Labor Day. Lastly, he apologized for the last couple of meetings that were not live-streamed due to technical difficulties.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Commissioners Comments portion of the meeting.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner