

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**January 5, 2021**  
**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 5, 2021, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Perdue, Robinson, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, Jessica Perdue, and Keith Newton.

Commissioner Walker led those in attendance in the Invocation.

Capt. Frances "Tigger" Burress, USAF GA Air National Guard led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and detailed her military career. She grew up in small town Waleska, GA northwest of Atlanta and graduated high school in 1987. Several months later she was a brand-new active-duty Army recruit heading to Fort Dix, NJ for basic training. From there she went to Ft. Lee, VA where she earned her MOS as a Supply Specialist. While at her first duty assignment in Ft. Ord, CA she met and married her husband of 31 years who was also serving in the Army as an infantry soldier. Shortly thereafter they were stationed in Korea but separated as she was in the southern part of the country and her husband in the north. Their son was born during this time and she decided to exit the Army and attend college hoping to one day earn a medical degree. Her husband stayed in service and they found themselves in Alabama, Germany, Ft. Bragg, NC and finally Ft. Benning, GA. It was at Ft. Bragg when Capt. Burress graduated from PA school in December 2003. During this time her husband retired from the Army, and her son joined the Army serving as a sniper in Afghanistan. After a twenty year break in service she felt the pull to serve again and in August of 2017 she commissioned into the Air Force Georgia Air National Guard where she received even more medical training. She remarked that she felt grateful for the honor of serving this country for many years.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the scheduled recognition of the Sheriff's Department personnel would be postponed until the next meeting since one of the deputies was away at a training session.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Roads Department to fill the vacant Metal Fabricator position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Todd Carson for the vacant Metal Fabricator position in the Roads Department at a Grade 15-E effective January 6, 2021.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Engineering Department to fill the vacant Civil Engineer position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Allen Mason for the vacant Civil Engineer position in the Engineering Department at a Grade 25-D effective January 6, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the adjustment of all County Officials salaries to the mandated minimum effective January 1, 2021 as outlined in a memorandum from Personnel Director Ken Carter dated December 22, 2020.

Mr. Perdue presented a request for abandonment of a portion of right of way known as East Bob White Road.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the Board of Commissioners to sign the Resolution and the Deed of Abandonment abandoning sections of the East Bob White Road described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in Land Lot 247 and 248 of the 10<sup>th</sup> Land District of Houston County, Georgia, and being a portion of the right-of-way for East Bob White Road beginning 1,799.04 feet along the northerly right-of-way for East Bob White Road to the westerly right-of-way for Old Perry Road and then running west the width of said right-of-way to the point where Land Lots 233, 234, 247 and 248 intersect.

Also conveyed herewith is that certain 0.03 acres of right-of-way deeded at Deed Book 4960, Page 246, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court.

The property described herein is shown on a plat of survey for Alexis Investments, LLC, prepared by Marty A. McLeod, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2991 on November 24, 2020, a copy of which is attached to the Resolution of Road Abandonment by the Board of Commissioners of Houston County, Georgia as Exhibit "B".

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Keith Newton, representing the ASIL Group, stating that after discussions with Mr. Dunbar there is a need for additional property for some kind of turnaround on East Bob White Road.

Mr. Newton responded that he would donate the land or otherwise facilitate a solution to provide a turnaround.

Mr. Perdue presented a request from Public Works staff to approve the extension of two bonds.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the one-year extension of the maintenance bond (One South Bank Letter of Credit #410684) and the one-year extension of the cul-de-sac bond (One South Bank Letter of Credit #410683) both expiring January 11, 2021 at Southfield Plantation, Section 7. If the respective bonds are not extended by January 11, 2021 the County will draw the bond(s) and contract the work.

Mr. Byrd presented two requests to temporarily locate travel trailers.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve a temporary hardship not to exceed a period of one year allowing the use of a travel trailer as a residence at 109 Whitworth Road and also at 298 Whitworth Road.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that he appreciated Mr. Andrews assistance on facilitating the second request for hardship at 298 Whitworth Road as both applicants have a dire need for temporary housing.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson to correct the Board minutes of September 15, 2020 to change the funding mechanism from Water System Capital Funds to 2012 SPLOST funds for change order #1 with Low Tide Plumbing on the Elko Road water line extension project. Upon voting Mr. Walker, Ms. Robinson, and Chairman Stalnaker voted yes. Motion approved.

County Attorney Tom Hall conducted a second reading of an amendment to Section 2-36;(b); of the Code of Ordinances, Houston County Georgia.

The first reading was held at the December 15, 2020 Houston County Board of Commissioners meeting.

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

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

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve an amendment to Section 2-36; (b); of the Code of Ordinances, Houston County, Georgia by changing the meeting time of the Commissioners meetings on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., which section shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-36– Regular Meetings.

(b) The board shall meet at the county annex building in Warner Robins on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,795,578.74.

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

Chief Stoner announced that Houston County recently was re-certified by the National Weather Service and the Georgia Stormready Advisory Board as a Storm Ready community. The County must participate in a brief audit every three years and a comprehensive audit every six years to maintain its status. The program looks at the County's policies, procedures and plans for any severe weather event as well as our notification systems, Code Red, siren systems and weather radio program to verify that the County meets all national standards for the safety and protection of our citizens.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that we dodged a bullet with the weather this past weekend.

Chief Stoner also commented that he and his staff have completed their move from the 911 Center to the newly constructed Fire Headquarters and Emergency Management Center on Lake Joy Road. In conclusion, Chief Stoner reminded everyone that COVID is still here, is very real, and that Houston County is experiencing an average of 500 new cases per week. He asked that we all say an extra prayer for our healthcare workers, frontline personnel in fire, law enforcement and EMS and that everyone stay vigilant with handwashing, face-coverings and social distancing.

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.

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Chairman Stalnaker recognized Jessica Perdue who was in attendance and commented that he has great confidence and respect for both new commissioners as they begin their service on the Board. He also wished Mr. Newton good luck on his current development and all other future developments and thanked him for his willingness to help resolve the turnaround issue on East Bob White Road.

Mr. Walker welcomed both Mr. Byrd and Mr. Perdue to the team.

Ms. Robinson also welcomed Mr. Byrd and Mr. Perdue saying that she has every confidence they will do a great job. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded everyone to vote today if they have not already done so.

Mr. Perdue commented that it was an honor to be here at his first Board meeting. After all the training that he and Mr. Byrd have received over the last couple of months the one thing that comes to mind is that serving on the Board is a matter of public trust and that he hoped he could live up to Mr. Thomson and Mr. McMichael's legacy.

Mr. Byrd remarked that he agreed with Mr. Perdue that it is an honor to be here in service to the citizens of Houston County. He felt extremely thankful to be afforded the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The newly elected commissioner training program imparted a lot of information to both he and Mr. Perdue. There are a lot of good things happening in Houston County to be proud of with its stable local economy in large part due to Robins AFB and the County's diverse industry base including small businesses, the cooperation that exists within County government and the three cities government, and a very financially healthy and efficient County government in a large part due to the Board and the County employees.

Chairman Stalnaker presented framed photographs of the recent swearing-in ceremonies to re-elected Ms. Robinson and newly elected Mr. Byrd and Mr. Perdue. He credited Cheri Adams of the Houston Home Journal for taking the pictures of the event and Mr. and Mrs. Wood for framing them. He announced that the next Board meeting would be held on January 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the County Annex building on Carl Vinson Parkway.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson 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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