

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
November 15, 2016
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 15, 2016 at the Houston County Annex building in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Robinson and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Houston County Library Director Sara Paulk, Chief Public Defender Claudia Meier, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, Walton and Becky Wood, and James Erdmanczyk.

Commissioner Walker led the audience in the Invocation.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Alva Shell IV, US Navy (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his 10-year military career. Currently living in Kathleen and working at Robins AFB as a production supervisor he grew up in Pitts, GA and graduated in 1979 from Wilcox County High School. Enlisting late 1979 he went active duty August of 1980 and spent his career as an aviation machinist mate or jet mechanic. He served many duty stations including NAS Oceana at Virginia Beach, in Puerto Rico and had four different deployments on aircraft carriers. He is a disabled vet due to a fractured back injury he sustained while on his last carrier deployment. He shared a moving personal story of his son-in-law who was killed while serving in Iraq in 2008. He has been working at Robins since 1997.

TSgt. Christina Mabry, USAF spoke of her 14 years of service and how much she appreciated what the military has done for her personally. She works in secure communications and has had two different deployments. Her husband, who is also active duty, accompanied her.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized the scout leaders and eight members of Boy Scout Troup #550 as they attended the meeting in pursuit of their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

Chairman Stalnaker read a proclamation recognizing November as Alzheimer's Disease awareness month in Houston County and introduced Ms. Dawn Dunbar who described the efforts of the organization as they serve the community with programs, special events, lobbying for increased funding for research and a free support group for those in need. Ms. Dunbar also introduced Community Outreach Director Tara Johnson who stated that there are some 130,000 individuals suffering from the disease in Georgia with 20,000 of those within their 26-county region in central Georgia.

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Chairman Stalnaker read a proclamation recognizing November as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) awareness month for Type 1 diabetes in Houston County and introduced Belinda Enamorado who volunteers with the Middle Georgia JDRF. Ms. Enamorado explained that the JDRF is committed to finding a cure for Type 1 diabetes through education, advocacy, and the promotion of safe care for those living with the disease.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 1, 2016.

Mr. Walker presented a request from Chief Public Defender Claudia Meier to hire Sara Meyers to fill the vacant position of Senior Assistant Public Defender. Upon review staff finds that Ms. Meyers does have the necessary experience above the minimum requirement to qualify for the D-step.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the hire of Sara Meyers for the position of Senior Assistant Public Defender at a Grade 33-D effective on or after November 22, 2016.

Mr. Thomson presented a request from Public Works to release the maintenance bond for McCarley Downs Subdivision Section 1, Phase 3; and also, to extend the cul-de-sac bond for one year to give them an opportunity to extend McCarley Downs Drive. The Engineering Department is satisfied that the subdivision has been completed in accordance with the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the release of the maintenance bond (SunMark Letter of Credit #210230-1) and to extend the cul-de-sac bond (SunMark Letter of Credit #210230-2) for one year on McCarley Downs Subdivision, Section 1, Phase3.

Mr. McMichael presented a request to award the low bidder on a beautification project at the SR96 and Lake Joy Road intersection. Three bids were received with staff recommendation of low bidder Dixie Lawn & Landscaping.

Motion by Mr. McMichael second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the beautification project at the SR96 and Lake Joy Road intersection to Dixie Lawn & Landscaping of Cochran in the amount of \$99,600. This is a SPLOST 2006 funded project.

Ms. Robinson presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between Houston County, the Georgia Department of Public Safety, and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority that sets out the terms and condition under which the Georgia State Patrol Aviation Complex (land, hangar, and hangar facilities) was built by the County for use by the GSP.

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Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson.

After the motion and the second Ms. Robinson withdrew her motion and Mr. Thomson withdrew his second and then Ms. Robinson restated her motion to read:

Motion to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County, the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority concerning the County-built Georgia State Patrol Aviation Complex at the Perry-Houston County Airport for sole use by DPS. The facility shall be named "Sheriff Cullen Talton Georgia State Patrol Aviation Complex". Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of bills totaling \$1,236,341.77.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

About fifteen members of the Perry RC Flyers club gave a presentation to the Board hoping to bring attention to the fact that they are looking for a new flying site. The club recently lost their site after the owner sold the property. The club has about 65 members, is sanctioned by the American Modelers Association (AMA), and is properly insured. They are hobbyists who enjoy flying all types of RC (radio-controlled) aircraft and strive to also give back to the community with different special events. A permanent field with a runway of approximately 150 feet by 60 feet is sufficient but ideally they also need 10 to 12 acres surrounding for overflight purposes.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the Board would do their best to help the club check availability of suitable properties.

Mr. Thomson remarked that the club had been using the property adjacent to his neighborhood and that in his opinion they were a good club and good neighbors.

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen commented that the recent Georgia State Patrol Aviation Complex dedication marked the completion of a facility that the County and all of middle Georgia could be proud of. He commended the Board, specifically mentioning Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar and his public works crew for the hard work on the facility construction, and all other entities involved for the level of cooperation demonstrated in bringing the complex to the area.

Houston County Library Director Sara Paulk presented the Board with the library system Annual Report. Chairman Stalnaker commented that the report shows a donation from the Friends of the Library in excess of \$325,000 and that the number of patrons that visited the library system during the past year was in excess of 260,000 individuals. He commended the entire library system for their valuable service to the community.

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There being no further public comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Mr. Walker remarked that a lot of great individuals were honored at the meeting today.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that there would be a press conference on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. with the Board of Commissioners and the mayors and other elected officials of Warner Robins, Perry, and Centerville concerning the SPLOST.

Chairman Stalnaker also remarked that everyone was extremely proud of the new Georgia State Patrol Aviation Complex and that it will be a great asset to not only Houston County but to all of middle Georgia.

County Attorney Tom Hall asked the Board to call an Executive Session to discuss certain Attorney/Client matters.

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

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

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner