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**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**October 6, 2015**

**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Thomson, McMichael, and Walker present. Commissioner Robinson was absent on vacation. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Human Resources Director Ken Carter, HEMA/Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, 4-H Youth Development Agent April Baggs, 4-H Program Assistant Vincent Thomas, Rodney Pickle, Walt & Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, Senior Vice-President of Flint Energies Jimmy Autry, Centerville Mayor John Harley, President/CEO Perry Chamber Darlene McLendon, Kimberly Gunn-Robins Regional Chamber Leadership Class and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that Commissioner Robinson was absent due to a family vacation.

Col. Dawn Lancaster, USAF led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed her 22-year military career. After joining the junior ROTC in high school, she graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1993 and was sent to Korea on her first assignment. She is currently on her 12th assignment and has been deployed four times during her career. She is the Vice Commander of the 78th Air Base Wing at Robins AFB providing facilities and equipment support for the base’s 37 hosted units, including a major command headquarters, an air logistics complex and four wings. The responsibility of training thousands of airmen also involves keeping up the morale and welfare of those airmen and their families. She spoke of her most recent assignment before coming to Robins where she served as the Air Force Senate Liaison with Senators and the Senate Armed Services Budget and Appropriations committee. She enjoys the teamwork and camaraderie in service to her country and appreciates the support from and interaction with the local County and City governments.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a proclamation recognizing the Houston County Habitat for Humanity and declaring October as Affordable Housing Month. Executive Director Jeff Abbott and Board Member Tom Zigrino accepted the proclamation and briefed the Board on the work being done by the organization in the local community as well as world-wide. The organization has helped 52 families in Houston County build and own their own home, as well as 50 additional homes around the world. Mr. Abbott stated that construction on the next new home in Houston County was starting this week and he thanked the many volunteers, donators and also recognized Robins AFB for their contributions. Chairman Stalnaker recognized the former Program Services Coordinator for the Habitat for Humanity Hope Hicks for her past efforts and accomplishments.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a proclamation recognizing October 4-10 as National 4-H Week. April Baggs, 4-H Youth Development Agent, accepted the proclamation and briefed the Board on the activities and accomplishments of the group.

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She introduced 4-H Program Assistant Vincent Thomas, AmeriCorps Community Service Specialist Katherine Kirby, 4-H Council President from Northside High Brittany Jones, and Corey Burks from Perry Middle School. Manuel Becerra, District 4-H Officer representing Houston County spoke of how the 4-H program has impacted his life. Volunteer leaders Andy Rodriguez and Paula Thomas were also recognized for their devotion to the 4-H program. Ms. Baggs also invited everyone attending the Georgia National Fair to patronize the Clover Café 4-H food truck since proceeds will go directly to benefit 4-H programs in Georgia. She further explained that a portion of the proceeds from October 10th and 17th will directly benefit Houston’s program. The Clover Café will be located near the North Gate next to Poultry World.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2015. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Walker and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

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. These restrictive covenants are superior to any action taken by the Board of Commissioners. The action taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

Special Exception Applications #1907, #1909, #1910, #1911, #1912, #1914 and #1915 for home occupation businesses were presented by Tim Andrews. Mr. Andrews explained that Application #1907 was tabled at the September 1st Board Meeting and sent back to Zoning & Appeals because the applicant was not present at the original Zoning & Appeals hearing. Zoning & Appeals now recommends unanimous approval subject to the condition that all County regulations are complied with, a site plan for the trail ride is submitted, no competitive riding events are to be held on the premises, and any use of travel trailers will be considered under a separate application.

Mr. Andrews further explained that Application #1909 was for a cleaning business that would perform off-site services and have a home office only; Application #1910 was for a one-chair hair salon in a converted dining room of the house and would comply with all State cosmetology regulations; Application #1911 was requested by the applicants to be withdrawn at this time; Application #1912 was for a solar power business that would operate a home office only; Application #1914 was a photography business primarily for baby pictures that will occur mostly off-site at the home of the client; Application #1915 for a carriage service business will be a horse and carriage affair for weddings and other special events held at off-site locations and will have a home office only. Each application complies with Section 95 of the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations.

There were no questions from the Board concerning any of the applications.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on Special Exception Applications #1907, #1909, #1910, #1912 and #1915. Applicants for #1907, #1909, #1910, #1912 and #1915 were present with no additional information. Applicant for #1914 was not present.

There was no opposition to Special Exception Applications #1907, #1909, #1910, #1912, #1914 and #1915.

There being no public comments, the meeting was continued.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried to approve Special Exception Applications #1907, #1909, #1910, #1912, #1914 and #1915 to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Walker and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried to table Special Exception Application #1911 submitted by George and Pamela Durham. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Thomson and Mr. Walker voted yes. Motion carried.

Re-Zoning Applications #1908 and #1913 were presented by Tim Andrews. Mr. Andrews explained that Application #1908 is contiguous to other commercial zoning. Mr. Andrews also explained that Application #1913 would be suitable going from C-1 to C-2 as the area is transitioning along those lines already.

There were no questions from the Board concerning either of the applications.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on Applications #1908 and #1913.

Applicants for both #1908 and #1913 were present with no additional information.

There was no opposition.

There being no public comments, the meeting was continued.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried to approve Re-Zoning Applications #1908 and #1913. Upon voting, Mr. Walker, Mr. McMichael and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Andrews gave each applicant approved for a home occupation instruction on the next step of the process which is obtaining their occupational business license from the Commissioner’s office.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried to concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for the property located at 1269 S. Houston Lake Road described as Lots A & B in Land Lot 164 of the 10th Land District of Houston County, Tax Parcel #000770001 and 000770099, totaling 0.41 acres, as shown on a survey prepared by Story, Clarke & Associates dated August 21, 2015.

And

To concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for properties located at

1249 S. Houston Lake Road

1202 Willow Bend

1203 Willow Bend

1204 Willow Bend

1205 Willow Bend

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1206 Willow Bend

1207 Willow Bend

1208 Willow Bend

1209 Willow Bend

1210 Willow Bend

1211 Willow Bend

1215 Willow Bend

with the stipulation that the Houston County Water system will continue to service existing customers. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Walker and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the request at 1269 S. Houston Lake Road was initiated by the property owner who is building a new beauty salon and wished to obtain sewer from the City. The other properties requested for annexation had agreed through property covenants to be annexed at such time as the properties became contiguous to the City limits in exchange for Warner Robins’ utility services. The Houston County Water system, however, will continue to service existing customers.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried to approve the conveyance to the City of Warner Robins, Georgia, and authorize the Chairman to sign the quit-claim deed conveying the following described portion of right-of-way.

All those tracts or parcels of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 223 of the 10th Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known as Parcel 239 as shown on Drawing No. RW-16 as “Parcel 239 Req’d R/W KC10204” containing 0.092 acre, 4,028.89 square feet, according to right of way plans for Houston County, Georgia Public Works Department Right-of-Way Plans for Feagin Mill Road Improvements Phase 2 (from Houston Lake Road to Moody Road) prepared by Stantec, dated February 21, 2012, on file at the office of the Houston County Public Works, 2018 Kings Chapel Road, Perry, Georgia. Said Right of Way plans and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Thomson and Mr. Walker voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried to approve the hire of Mr. Rodney Pickle for the vacant position of Assistant Chief/Training Officer at Grade 21-D effective October 27, 2015. Upon voting, Mr. Walker, Mr. Thomson and Mr. McMichael voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Chief Williams who, after thanking the Board for their support of the Fire Department, introduced Mr. Rodney Pickle as the new Assistant Chief/Training Officer. Mr. Pickle is currently an instructor at the Georgia Fire Academy of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth. He currently resides in Warner Robins and is a member of the Houston County Fire Department as a volunteer/part-time firefighter. Chief Williams then briefed the Board on the progress of the Perdue fire station construction project and was hopeful that an October ground-breaking ceremony could be held.

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Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried to approve the hire of Mr. Mark Jackson for the vacant position of Heavy Equipment Operator at Grade 13-B effective October 13, 2015; and Mr. Michael Respert for the vacant position of Equipment Operator at Grade 10-E effective October 13, 2015. Upon voting, Mr. Walker, Mr. McMichael and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried to approve the following Board appointments. Upon voting, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Walker and Mr. McMichael voted yes. Motion carried.

Zoning & Appeals Board

Lisa Bowen 10-06-15 through -6-05-19

Adjustments & Appeals Board

John Rood 11-01-15 through 11-01-18

Judy Ross 11-01-15 through 11-01-18

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign the 2015 GEMA-HS Performance Partnership Agreement accepting $50,063 in grant funds for HEMA. Upon voting, Mr. Thomson, Mr. McMichael and Mr. Walker voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried to approve and accept a Governor’s Office of Highway Safety H.E.A.T. grant (GA-2016-000-00354) in the amount of $250,000. Upon voting, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Walker and Mr. McMichael voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that this was a very competitive grant process and commended Sheriff Talton and his staff for their efforts in securing the funds. A separate department will be set up in the Sheriff’s budget to track these grant expenditures.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried to approve Change Order #2 to the Carl Vinson Parkway Phase 3 widening contract with Reeves Construction Company for an additional $39,265 which increases the contract from $3,030,897.49 to $3,070,162.49. The contract time will remain at 768 calendar days with no increase. Upon voting, Mr. Thomson, Mr. McMichael and Mr. Walker voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried to approve the award of the Landfill Roads Overlay Project to Womack Paving, Inc. at a total cost of $271,462.55. Upon voting, Mr. Thomson, Mr. McMichael and Mr. Walker voted yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried to approve the award of two new 2016 Ford F-350 crew cab trucks with flatbeds for use in the Public Buildings Department funded by SPLOST 2012 to Perry Ford at a unit cost of $27,855.10 each totaling $55,710.20; one new 2016 Ford Transit T-350 cargo van with Havis prisoner transport system for use in the Detention Center funded by Inmate Funds to Wade Ford of Smyrna at a total cost of $39,287; and one new 2016 Chevrolet Silverado crew cab pick-up truck for use in the Warrants Division funded by SPLOST 2012 to Langdale Chevrolet of Sylvester at a total cost of $25,360. The award to Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla made at the September 15, 2015 Board meeting for one new F-150 pick-up truck at a cost of $24,508 is voided. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Walker and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried to approve the payment of bills totaling $3,296,178.72. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Thomson and Mr. Walker voted yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen commented on the recent exercise held at the Guardian Center on September 24th and complimented the Guardian Center staff and personnel from the Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Management Agency, the GBI, and the Red Cross.

Chief Williams commented that in addition to this September 24th exercise there was another major exercise the following week that provided excellent real-time training for his personnel.

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

Chairman Stalnaker then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Chairman Stalnaker also had the opportunity to observe some of the Guardian Center exercise and related that he had the opportunity to speak with a number of the New York firefighters and they were all very complimentary of the hospitality and of the training exercise.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried to adjourn the meeting. Upon voting, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Walker and Mr. Thomson voted yes. Motion carried.

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Director of Administration

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