

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**October 2, 2012**  
**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, HEMA/Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, District Attorney George Hartwig, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Advance Disposal Manager Jeanne Moyer, Purchasing Agent Mark Baker, Flint Energies Vice-President Jimmy Autry, Shaw Blackmon, Mark Byrd, Brad Fink, Maj. Gen. Rick Goddard United States Air Force (retired), Maj. Gen. Robert McMahan United States Air Force (retired), and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner McMichael led the audience in the Invocation.

Chairman Stalnaker introduced SSgt. Travis Royster, United States Air Force, who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then shared his experiences in the Air Force. Mr. Royster has been in the service for eight years and indicated that he would like to achieve twenty years or beyond. He started his Air Force career as an aircraft mechanic and then went on to train for the Air Force Special Ops but had to discontinue his training after breaking his neck. He embarked on his current assignment as a recruiter after his accident. He enjoys his recruiting duties because he feels that he helps to change people's lives in a positive way. He recounted that he is from a very small town in Kentucky and feels fortunate that he has seen so much of the world during his years of service, including three deployments overseas to Afghanistan and other posts. His wife, Jessica, is in the service as well as a communications specialist. She recently returned from an 8-month deployment to Afghanistan during which he cared for their two young children. Returning to the States from deployment overseas is one of his fondest memories due to the feeling of relief and also due to the welcome he received from so many supporters.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a Proclamation of Appreciation to Maj. General Rick Goddard, United States Air Force (retired). Each Commissioner expressed their appreciation and respect to Major General Goddard for his dedication and contributions to his country and Houston County through his careers of service. Mark Byrd, Brad Fink, and General McMahan spoke briefly of his accomplishments. General Goddard spoke of the importance of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership's mission in support of Robins Air Force Base. He also thanked the Commissioners for their leadership in the community. When asked which one of the many different aircraft that he had piloted during his time in service was his favorite, General Goddard replied, that it would have to be the F-100 Super Sabre that he flew in so many combat missions, yet always brought him home safe. Gen. Goddard retired from the United States Air Force on March 1, 2000 and has been an instrumental and integral part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership as Senior Advisor giving valuable and essential contributions to the oversight, direction and administration of the Partnership which has benefited all residents of Houston County and Middle Georgia.

Chairman Stalnaker presented a Resolution declaring October as "Affordable Housing Month" to the Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Tom Pryor and Mr. Steve Lynn representing Habitat for Humanity of Houston County accepted and spoke of the mission of the organization.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 18, 2012 with a correction to paragraph #12 of page 630 that should read: Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the replacement of one outdoor warning siren at Bonaire Middle School at a maximum cost of \$31,964.00 to be paid from the Code Red fund balance.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Application #1670 submitted by Frances Janell Richards for a Home Occupation for a Bird and Supply Sales Business. The property is located at 112 Glacier Trail, Warner Robins, Georgia, and is more specifically described as LL 67, in the 5th Land District of Houston County, consisting of 1.44 acres. Existing use is residential, R-1 zoning. Proposed use is a Special Exception for a Home Occupation for a Bird & Supply Sales with no change in zoning. The Zoning and Appeals Board unanimously recommends approval of Application #1670.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on Special Exception Application #1670.

Mr. McMichael inquired about any Health Department requirements that need to be met. Mr. Andrews replied none, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is the regulating agency.

Mr. Thomson inquired whether any birds would be kept outside the residence. Mr. Andrews replied no.

Mr. Walker inquired about any noise concerns. Mr. Andrews replied that this concern was addressed at the Zoning & Appeals meeting, but that since the birds would be kept inside at all times there would not be any significant noise generated.

The applicant was not in attendance due to illness.

There was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker pointed out that a new information sheet was provided to the Board by Mr. Andrews that addressed each of the requirements of the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations Section 95 on "Home Occupations" relative to this application. This information will become part of the application process in the future.

There being no further public comments, the hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve Application #1670.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve the disbursement of a \$450.00 clothing allowance to those twenty-four Sheriff's Department personnel identified in a memorandum from Sheriff Talton dated September 20, 2012.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the hiring of the necessary workers for the November 6, 2012 General Election as outlined in a memorandum from Election Supervisor JoAnn Shipes dated September 25, 2012.

24	Managers	@	125.00	\$3,000.00
48	Assistant Managers	@	85.00	4,080.00
154	Clerks	@	75.00	11,550.00
231	Training	@	25.00	5,775.00
14	Janitors	@	15.50	217.00
4	Janitors	@	25.00	100.00
234	TS Units	@	3.00	702.00
2	Election Night Helpers	@	50.00	100.00
2	Supply Pickup Helpers	@	50.00	100.00
3	Election Night Check-in	@	50.00	150.00
1	Tech	@	125.00	125.00
23	Supply Pick-up/Return Supplies	@	10.00	230.00
25	Cell Phones	@	10.00	250.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$26,379.00</b>

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the following dates concerning the upcoming election:

October 15<sup>th</sup> early voting begins at the Board of Elections office in Perry, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup> early voting at the Board of Elections office in Perry continues and is also open at the Houston County Annex building in Warner Robins and at the Middle Georgia Technical College campus on Cohen Walker Drive, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> early voting at the Board of Elections office in Perry only from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Walker encouraged everyone to come out and vote.

County Attorney Tom Hall presented a first reading for a proposed amendment to the Houston County Alcoholic Beverages ordinance increasing fees for the sale of beer, wine and liquor. As proposed, beer and wine fees would increase from \$350 to \$500, and the

liquor license fee would increase from \$3,500 to \$4,000. The current rates were last adjusted January 1, 2010. The proposed increases would be effective January 1, 2013, so that we may achieve uniformity between the County and all three cities. No action taken. A second reading and public hearing will be held at the October 16, 2012 Commissioners meeting.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the 2011 Stop Violence against Women Grant (W11-8-036) in the amount of \$45,000. This grant will help offset the personnel costs associated with an Assistant District Attorney and Investigator to prosecute violent crimes against women.

Mr. Walker recognized District Attorney George Hartwig who thanked the Commissioners for their continued support in the fight against domestic violence against women.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to ratify the emergency purchase of a 2013 Ford Escape from David Ragan Ford of Perry in the amount of \$21,469. This vehicle will be for use at the Houston County Detention Facility. Sheriff Talton will reimburse the County for the total amount of \$21,469 for the purchase of this vehicle from Drug Funds.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling \$2,628,470.49.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments. There being no public comments, the meeting was continued with the Commissioners comments.

Mr. Walker expressed his appreciation for the employees of Houston County.

Mr. Thomson remarked that he was thankful for all of the military retirees that have stayed in our community after their service.

Mr. McMichael brought up the subject of Halloween and reminded everyone that County employees could receive flu shots this week.

Chairman Stalnaker announced the observance of Halloween on October 31<sup>st</sup> with Trick-or-Treating being held between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. He also remarked that it is the intention of Warner Robins, Perry and Centerville to observe the same.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that the ongoing paving project on portions of Highway 96 is a DOT project not a County project and that it will not affect the planned widening of the roadway.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.