

Houston County Commissioners Meeting October 17, 2023 Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, GA, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Utility Director Terry Dietsch, Director of Purchasing Vanessa Zimmerman, Chief Financial Officer Danyelle George, Senior Accountant Will Davis, Magistrate Judge Angela Sammons, Magistrate Judge Gina Stout, and Community Planner Jake Cox.

Commissioner Byrd led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Perdue gave the Invocation.

Chairman Perdue recognized Magistrate Judge Angela Sammons and the personnel in Magistrate Court for receiving an award from the Judicial Council of Georgia on being in the top 10% of all courts in Georgia for case clearance rates.

Judge Sammons recognized each member of the Magistrate Court staff in attendance for their hard work.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on the Waterline Extension to serve Scott Road & Scott Road Extension project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of a bid on the Waterline Extension to serve The Scott Road & Scott Road Extension Project to John R. Walker, Inc., of Macon, in the amount of \$595,426.05. This project will be funded by ARPA.

Mr. Byrd mentioned the cost savings to Houston County taxpayers by going through the bid process on this project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the appointment of Katie Barrs to the Mental Health Developmental Disabilities & Addictive Diseases Advisory Council / Region 6 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (MHDDAD / Region 6 DBHDDAC) board for a term of 10/18/2023 through 11/03/2025.

Chairman Perdue recognized Ms. Barrs for her work and advised that with her experience she would be an asset to the Board she was being appointed to serve on.

Mr. Robert Brown, of Atlantic Coast Consulting, presented a *Siting Decision Meeting*, the second step in addressing the limited capacity in our construction and demolition (C&D) landfill. The first meeting was held at the September 19, 2023 Commissioner's Meeting.

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

As there were no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to concur with Atlantic Coast Consulting's Siting Recommendation to expand the construction and demolition (C&D) landfill as presented.

Chairman Perdue thanked the County staff and Atlantic Coast Consultants for their help with this process.

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Mr. Talton presented a request from The City of Perry for an addition to the water purchase agreement between Houston County and the City of Perry.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the addition of the following to the water purchase agreement between Houston County and the City of Perry:

1. Two master meters to be installed for The Orchard Subdivision (one 8-inch meter at the entrance off Kings Chapel Road and a 6-inch meter installed from Evening Shade Subdivision).
2. One master meter to be installed for Avion Park Subdivision contingent upon the developer connecting at Daisy Drive to loop the system with no extra meters.

Contingent upon:

- The developer posting a bond covering more than 125% of the construction cost for work performed on the Houston County Water System.
- Issuance of utility permit to City of Perry based on all conditions being met according to "Houston County Utility Accommodations."
- Adherence to the rate structure approved by the Houston County Board of Commissioners on November 19, 2019.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a bid on two Tandem-Axle Dump Trucks.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of two Tandem-Axle Dump Trucks from Middle Georgia Freightliner of Macon at a total cost of \$290,030 or \$145,015 per truck. The delivery of these trucks will be as follows: one truck in the 3rd quarter of FY24, and delivery of the second truck in FY25. This purchase will be paid from 2012 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd commented that again the bid process saved the taxpayers money.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to enter into a service agreement with ClearGov Inc. to provide software-as-a-service to track and help create operating, capital, and personnel budgets.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a service agreement with ClearGov Inc. for a pro-rated annual term set to expire July 1, 2024 in the amount of \$25,783.33.

Chairman Perdue stated that this software purchase will provide easier reporting, transparency, budgeting capabilities, and efficiency in the accounting department which in turn will benefit all county departments.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to enter into an agreement with Government Window to provide credit card processing services in the Commissioner's Office for Business Licensing.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a service agreement, with Government Window of Kennesaw, Georgia to provide card payment services for Business Licensing. The funds for this will be paid from the Commissioner's Office Professional Services.

Chairman Perdue said that this will allow for the payment of business license fees in the Commissioner's Office by credit card. He further stated that up until now, only cash or checks were accepted.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to hire poll workers for the upcoming November 7, 2023 General/Special Election.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring the following poll workers for the November 7, 2023 election, and for Accounting to make any and all budget adjustments:

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	AMOUNT	TOTAL
8 Managers (Precinct)	\$ 175.00	\$ 1,400.00
16 Assistant Managers (Precinct)	\$ 125.00	\$ 2,000.00
28 Clerks	\$ 115.00	\$ 3,220.00
6 Janitors	\$ 15.50	\$ 93.00
1 Janitors	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
132 BMD (Ballot Marking Device)	\$ 2.00	\$ 264.00
3 Election Supply Load Out Help	\$ 75.00	\$ 225.00
3 Election Night Equipment Return Help	\$ 75.00	\$ 225.00
3 Election Night Check-In Clerks	\$ 75.00	\$ 225.00
8 Supply pick-up/return supplies (Managers)	\$ 10.00	\$ 80.00
8 Cell Phones	\$ 10.00	\$ 80.00
2 Ballot Scan Clerks	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
1 Election Day Techs	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Total		\$ 8,287.00

Chairman Perdue mentioned that early voting was ongoing right now at the Houston Healthcare Pavilion on North Houston Road and at the Board of Elections Offices on Kings Chapel Road. He encouraged everyone to go vote.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to create a Senior Crew Leader position and eliminate a Crew Leader position and Heavy Equipment Operator position.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following changes to the Houston County Position Control Listing:

Eliminate

- Heavy Equipment Operator (Pos #323) – Grade 13
- Crew Supervisor (Pos # 327) – Grade 15

Create

- Senior Crew Supervisor (Pos # 326) – Grade 18

And to authorize Accounting to make the necessary budget adjustments.

Mr. Gottwals mentioned that it was always good news to hear that the County is saving money.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to hire Mr. Jatyvin Kelley to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Mr. Jatyvin Kelley, to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill at a Grade 10 Step C with an effective date of October 18, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,050,157.34.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Public Comments. He then let the public know that Public Comments would be limited to five minutes per individual speaking today.

Faydra Kirkhart with I-Hope, Inc. introduced herself and fellow staff members from the organization. She spoke about the opioid settlement funds and the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) that would be required to be established in Houston County under the settlement agreement. She requested that I-Hope, Inc., be considered as a part of any RAC that is established.

Adam Watson spoke about an ongoing issue with a second electrical meter for an additional dwelling on his property.

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Jonathan Johnson commented about the proposed Houston County Arts Center in the upcoming SPLOST and asked if it could be configured into more of a convention center building for Houston County.

Darrell Allen gave an update on a zoning and development request in the City of Perry that was not approved by the Perry City Council due to public push back on the request.

Jackie Rozier spoke in favor of the upcoming SPLOST vote and thanked the Commissioners for the addition of Dunbar Road to the SPLOST project list based on her request.

With no further comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Gottwals commented on the very productive meeting and requested that we remember the situation in Israel in our prayers and was grateful to live in a safe country and safe county.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and sharing their opinions and recognized the representatives of the I-Hope Incorporated organization.

Mr. Talton thanked everyone from the Magistrate Court for their great work and attending the meeting and for the comments from Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Byrd commented on the large projects that were approved in the meeting to include utility and landfill expansion. He also mentioned the way that Houston County always works to find and apply efficiency in its everyday operations. He expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Tommy Lee, who was a pillar in the Houston County community, and a large contributor to constructing and expanding the Houston County infrastructure, on his recent passing.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that he had received calls regarding trash pickup being one day behind due to the Columbus Day holiday. He stated that the County's landfill did not observe this as a holiday so trash, recycling, and yard waste pickup are not be affected. He stated that there would be a need to approve a payment towards the County's medical insurance claims before the next Commissioners meeting. He expressed what a good time he and his family had at the Georgia National Fair and was thankful for the change of season and great weather we've been enjoying.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner