

Houston County Commissioners Meeting February 21, 2023 Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 21, 2023, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, 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, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Community Planner Jake Cox, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Utilities Director Terry Dietsch, State Solicitor General Amy Smith, Capt. Mikki Quinones.

Commissioner Byrd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Perdue introduced Dr. Jim Perdue, Pastor of Second Baptist Church of Warner Robins. Dr. Perdue spoke about Second Baptist Church, the outreach work by the church into the community and spoke of the church's 107 acres off of Hwy. 96 where a park and playing fields is in the process of being built for the enjoyment and use of the Houston County community.

Dr. Perdue then led the invocation.

Community Planner Jake Cox introduced Lance Phan and Sean Peck, Warner Robins High School seniors who were present to observe the Commissioners meeting as part of their PIE (Professional Interest Exploration) experience which is part of their Humanities Class. Both Lance and Sean spoke of their plans after high school and were presented gifts on behalf of the Commissioners.

Community Planner Jake Cox spoke about the United Way of Central Georgia's Car Raffle and the incentive program for County employees to participate in this fundraiser. With the help of Commissioner Robinson, names were drawn from all County employees who participated. Winners were selected for Chick Fil A gift cards and the Grand Prize of an 8-hour leave coupon, a \$50.00 gift certificate to Props Restaurant, a Chick Fil a Gift Card and a free car wash courtesy of Chairman Perdue and Community Planner Jake Cox.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 7, 2023.

Chairman Perdue requested the addition of agenda item #16, a request for approval of a contract with CORRECTHEALTH HOUSTON, LLC., to the agenda.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the addition of agenda item #16.

Ms. Robinson presented an agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the hardware, software, and training for VESTA 9-1-1 Solution.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the 5-year contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the software, hardware and training on the VESTA 9-1-1 Solution in the amount of \$673,784.48.

Chairman Perdue recognized Capt. Mikki Quinones, 911 Center Director, and Billy Smith, area representative for Motorola who were present and thanked Captain Quinones for all the work she and her staff do for the residents of Houston County.

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Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on 1 new in-stock SUV.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of an in-stock SUV from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry at a cost of \$39,800 to be used by the E-911 Department. The cost of the SUV will be charged to the 2018 SPLOST account 320-3800-54.2200.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on 1 new in-stock Chevrolet Tahoe PPV to replace unit #856 in the Sheriff's Department that was recently totaled.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of an in-stock Chevrolet Tahoe PPV from Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla at a cost of \$43,900. The cost of the SUV will be charged to the 2018 SPLOST account 320-3300-54.2200. The County's insurance company is in negotiations for reimbursement.

Mr. Gottwals requested clarification of the account the purchase will be charged to.

Chairman Perdue asked Mr. Carter for a status of this situation with the wrecked sheriff's vehicle.

Mr. Carter advised that ACCG is handling the claim for us and he will have an update on the status to him soon.

Mr. Talton presented a mutual aid agreement between the City of Perry and Houston County for public safety, public peace and to preserve lives and property by providing mutual aid.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Perry and Houston County. This Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Perry will expire March 5, 2025.

Mr. Talton remarked that this is another example of the local governments in Houston County working together.

Chairman Perdue commented that these agreements are good for the citizens of the County and those in the Cities.

Chief Stoner explained that this was the continuation of an existing agreement between the County and the City of Perry.

Mr. Talton presented a request from Public Works to replace the inverts of the two 72" pipes under Kersey Road due to the existing pipes causing the roadway to deteriorate.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a contract with John R. Walker, Inc. of Macon to perform the repair work on Kersey Road replacing two pipes at a cost of \$234,614.60. Funds for this project will come from the Storm Drainage Account.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that with the wet winter we had and more rain to come this spring, this project won't be the last one of its type that the County performs and that adjustments will most likely have to be made to the stormwater account.

Mr. Talton presented a request from Public Buildings and our consulting mechanical engineer for the procurement of new boilers for the Houston County Courthouse.

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Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of new boilers for the Houston County Courthouse from Wilson Bryant Air Conditioning of Eatonton, GA in the amount of \$623,000.00.

Chairman Perdue that this emergency procurement of the boilers was necessary as the existing boilers were beyond repair and had failed. Temporary boilers have been installed to maintain conditions inside the courthouse.

Ms. Robinson mentioned that these were the original boilers that were in place when the courthouse was built over 20 years ago.

Mr. Talton presented a recommendation from the Purchasing Department to approve an additional \$1,970 to the purchase of a 2022 Ford F150 crew cab approved at the January 17th Board of Commissioners meeting.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of 1-2022 half ton crew cab 4x4 truck with a 6'6" bed from Phil Brannen of Perry. Total cost of the truck will be \$47,500.00. Funds for the purchase of this vehicle will come from the 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on a new grapple truck (Freightliner 114SD).

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of 1 Freightliner 114SD from Middle Georgia Freightliner of Macon. Total cost of the truck will be \$307,826.00. \$200,000 in the FY23 Waste Collections budget will be coupled with additional funds in the FY24 budget to cover the increase in cost and will be charged to 540-4520-54.2200.

Mr. Byrd advised that this was a heavier duty grapple truck that will allow public works to handle bigger jobs.

Chairman Perdue agreed and said this truck would be able to lift downed trees blocking roadways.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to table agenda items #9 and #10.

Mr. Byrd presented a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Warner Robins regarding a roundabout at the intersection of Osigian Boulevard and Margie Drive.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of this Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Warner Robins for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Osigian Boulevard and Margie Drive in Warner Robins. This project is a City of Warner Robins 2018 SPLOST discretionary project. The County's monetary amount shall not exceed \$415,886.75.

Mr. Byrd mentioned that there was a lot of traffic in this area and this construction will help move the traffic along.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to reclassify a part-time position in the Roads & Bridges Department to full-time.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve a change in the Houston County Position Control Listing changing the part-time clerk position in the Roads and Bridges Department to a full-time clerk and removing a laborer position from the Roads & Bridges Department. Also, to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to make the necessary budgetary adjustments.

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Chairman Perdue said he was glad Ms. Williams would be able to join the public works staff as a full-time employee.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Martese Hart at the 13 (E) step to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator Position with the Roads and Bridges Department.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Assistant Solicitor General position.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Katelynn Henderson at the 30 (C) step to fill the vacant Assistant Solicitor General Position with the Solicitor's Office.

Chairman Perdue mentioned that anytime a department head wanted to bring a new employee on beyond an A step, that the Commissioners voted to approve, or disapprove, this action.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,582,116.60.

Ms. Robinson presented an increase in the cost of the healthcare proposal for the Houston County Detention Center approved at the January 3, 2023 meeting. The original contract was not bid at the correct scope and a change in the amount of services required a change in the cost of the contract.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the healthcare contract with CORRECTHEALTH HOUSTON, LLC in the amount of \$1,662,791.11. This amount is an increase of \$265,410.42 of the original proposal amount of \$1,397,380.69.

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

Terry Dietsch thanked the Commissioners for the approval of the purchase of the new grapple truck and for their support of the public works department.

Mark Baker spoke about the ongoing issue with getting vehicles both ordered and purchased as in-stock and gave examples of this with his attempts to purchase trucks as well as heavy equipment.

Mr. Talton advised that these vehicles and equipment that the County purchases are very much needed and bought to continue the delivery of services to the citizens of Houston County.

Chairman Perdue thanked Mr. Baker for the careful way he manages County resources in the purchase of these vehicles and equipment through the bidding process and negotiations with manufacturers.

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

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Commissioners Comments.

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Mr. Gottwals thanked everyone for attending and spoke about the collaborative spirit among the Board members and the local governments in Houston County.

Mr. Talton recognized the PIE students in attendance, Mr. Cox for the successful way he ran the united way campaign for the county and thanked everyone for attending the commissioners meeting.

Mr. Byrd commented that the Memorandum of Agreement between the County and City of Perry is another example of the cooperation between local governments in Houston County. He expressed appreciation to the County staff for putting the agenda together on a regular basis and for the detailed manner in which it is always done and that their accessibility and availability is always appreciated.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for their attendance at the commissioners meeting and was looking forward to the improvements in the near future to the 911 center following the approval of the software and hardware updates at the meeting.

Chairman Perdue thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting, congratulated Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar for being a new grandfather with the birth of his new granddaughter and advised that the FY22 audit was received today which had no significant findings with the financials and indicated that Houston County was in strong financial shape. He gave thanks to auditor Heath Spears with Butler, Williams and Wyche and Danyelle George the Chief Financial Officer for Houston County for their work in making this designation happen.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

