

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**June 15, 2021**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 15, 2021, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Perdue, Robinson, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Fire / HEMA Chief Christopher Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Water System Engineer Brian Jones, Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Walton and Becky Wood, Waste Management Operations Manager Jeanne Moyer, and Lions Club District Governor Marty Myers.

Commissioner Byrd led the audience in the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 1, 2021.

Ms. Robinson presented Independent Contractor Agreements for Juvenile Court contract attorneys.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Independent Contractor Agreements with Caralyn J. Huddleston at \$20,000 per year; David Jennings at \$45,000 per year; and Kameyan Sims at \$50,000 per year to provide for the defense of indigent persons appearing in the Houston County Juvenile Court. Each agreement will be effective July 1, 2021 and remain in effect until June 30, 2022. These agreements may be renewed from year-to-year subject to an annual review of performance conducted by the County in conjunction with the Juvenile Court.

Ms. Robinson presented Independent Contractor Agreements for Superior Court contract attorneys.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Independent Contractor Agreements with David G. Daniell, Greg H. Bell, Jonathan Perry Waters, and Jeffrey L. Grube for the purposes of providing defense of indigent persons in cases where the Houston County Public Defender's Office has declared a conflict of interest. Each agreement is effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to purchase property to be used as a remote production well site for the new water treatment facility.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the Option to Purchase property known as Tax Parcel 001060 012000 containing 6.44 acres from Kathy F. Todd, John William Britt, Jr., and Bridgette Renee Bennett to be used as a remote production well for the Bear Branch Water Treatment Facility for a purchase price of \$180,000 to include earnest money of \$27,000.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the new Bear Branch Water Treatment Plant was officially online although the project is not 100% complete. The plant will produce about 1,700 gallons per minute and the remote well that would be installed on this property would effectively double that capacity.

## Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1965

Mr. Byrd presented a request to ratify the purchase of one new 2021 Ford Explorer SUV for use in the Narcotics Division for the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one new 2021 Ford Explorer SUV from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry for use in the Houston County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Division for the unit cost of \$31,911.75. An insurance settlement of \$27,397.86 plus \$4,513.89 from Drug Funds will fund the purchase of this vehicle.

Mr. Perdue presented a request from the Purchasing Department for approval of a bid on the Bulk Gasoline and Diesel Fuel requirements for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of a bid for gasoline and diesel fuel requirements covering the period beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 to Petroleum Traders of Ft. Wayne, Indiana at -0.1882 and -0.0282 OPIS markup for gasoline and diesel fuel, respectively.

Mr. Perdue presented an agreement for the Peaches to Beaches Annual Yard Sale to be held August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Marty Myers, Lions Club District Governor, who explained that several years ago the Perry Lions Club partnered with the Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to sponsor the event. There are two approved locations plus, with the County's permission, the use of the Houston County Government Building parking lot. Mr. Myers introduced Ms. Jazmin Thomas, City of Perry Downtown Manager, who explained that the City has agreed to the terms of the contract with exception of any overnight surveillance.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that concerns from past Beaches to Peaches events have been the litter pick-up, the police presence to help manage the crowd, traffic, and to maintain access to the County's main parking lot in front of the Government Building for the building's tenants as well as citizens who have business to conduct in the building. The liability coverage for the event is also a concern. The County's assumption is that the City of Perry will assume the liability for this event.

Mr. Myers commented that the Lions Club also has liability coverage when the club is participating in these types of events. He also commented that the event runs from Barnesville to Brunswick on the coast.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the agreement between the County, the Perry Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Explore HWY 341 Association, the Perry Lions Club, and the City of Perry allowing the use of a portion of the grounds of the Houston County Government Building during the Peaches to Beaches Annual Yard Sale event to be held August 6, 2021, through August 7, 2021.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,831,865.99.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1966

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

Jeanne Moyer, Waste Management Operations Manager, thanked the County for their understanding and assistance during the last few weeks while they have experienced a shortage of personnel that run our trash and yard debris pick-up routes. She introduced Mr. Jermaine Hill who is her counterpart in the Macon office stating that they have been able to help support each other during this time.

Mr. Hill explained that Waste Management is undertaking hiring events, offering signing bonuses and very competitive pay in an attempt to hire necessary drivers.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Ms. Moyer and Mr. Hill for their continued efforts during this difficult time. He also commented that Waste Management would be in full operation during the July 4th holiday and would be running trucks on Monday, July 5th.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

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

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and thanked all the outstanding County employees that serve our citizens every day.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the special called meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at the County Annex Building in Warner Robins to adopt the FY22 budget. Then on June 28th at 9:00 a.m. at the same location the Board will hold another special called meeting to pay the bills for the last time for the FY21 fiscal year. The Board will also consider any other year-end business at this time. Chairman Stalnaker also shared that he was excited to learn that the Guardian Center in Perry will host a special training event that will last from now to February of 2022. The training will center around Fire Rescue and will host participants from Saudi Arabia. He urged everyone to welcome these international visitors with Southern hospitality. Chief Stoner explained that the Houston County Fire Department will assist the Guardian Center during this training. He also commented that the County and the Fire Department enjoy a terrific relationship with CEO Geoff Burkart and the Guardian Center.

Chairman Stalnaker then presented the proposed FY22 budget. He explained that he was going to present a general summary of the overall budget but if more detail was desired by anyone that is certainly available as the Board's goal is total transparency. He remarked that as tough as it was to prepare, we are very fortunate to be in the fiscal position we are in and thanked the dedicated constitutional officers, elected officials, department heads and employees for the current FY21 budget management maintaining expenses and collecting revenue. We expect to be within our total budgeted expenditures and meet our total projected revenues for FY21. We will know if we have truly had another sound fiscal year when final numbers are determined in September or October. Initial budget requests indicated that the budget was approximately \$1.2 million out of balance. It is not uncommon to be \$2 to \$3 million out. He thanked all department heads for their very realistic budget requests noting that each complied with the instructions from the Commissioner's office to hold the line. Overall, Houston County is in sound financial shape as we have been able to maintain our fund balance and have no general obligation debt. This

## Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1967

proposed balanced budget is offered with no anticipated millage rate increase. The Board is extremely proud of that accomplishment. He reminded everyone that the County's ability to raise the millage rate is greatly restricted by the tax cap as well. Salary adjustments were made last month at a cost of approximately \$3 million and those funds are programmed into the FY22 budget. The County will continue to look for sustainable opportunities for additional employees, reclassifications, and compression reduction in salaries. The proposed budget includes a contingency of approximately \$1.5 million which is needed for unanticipated emergencies; some fall back should the tax digest return less than anticipated. He estimated that the millage rate for 2021, supporting the FY22 budget, will remain at 9.935 mills with the Fire millage remaining at 1.177 mills. The General Fund has been supported by a millage that has remained at or below 9.95 mills for twelve years in a row and the Fire tax has remained at 1.18 mills or below for fifteen years. In 1990, the millage rate was at 8.97 mills and 31 years later, there has been less than a one mill increase. The sole exception being in 2009 when the voters supported a one-year temporary increase to 10.45 mills to cover the cost of the Code Red Early Warning System. The Chairman thanked all elected officials, department directors, employees, fellow commissioners, and most of all the taxpayers because without the cooperation and support from all we would not have reached a balanced budget for FY22.

He then gave a detailed presentation highlighting the General Fund Budget, as well as the various enterprise and special revenue funds. The total proposed budget of \$159,196,651 is broken down as \$67,860,564 General Fund; \$4,766,804 E911 Fund; \$3,179,056 Fire District Fund; \$52,538,030 SPLOST Fund; \$7,849,000 Water Fund; \$9,446,697 Solid Waste Fund; \$12,851,500 Internal Service Fund; and \$705,000 Special Revenue Funds.

Chairman Stalnaker once again thanked all employees, department directors, elected officials and constitutional officers for doing their part. He reiterated that without the cooperation and support from each we would not have reached this balanced budget for FY22. He thanked Mr. Holland, Sandi, Jake Cox, and everyone involved for the hard work during the long budget process. He then opened the floor for comments from the Commissioners.

Vice-Chair Robinson commented that it is a good budget and thanked the other Commissioners and everyone involved for their hard work. It is a blessing to be in a good financial position.

Mr. Perdue thanked the Chairman, Mr. Holland, and Sandi for working together leading the team of County employees and department heads who all submitted constrained budget requests. He expressed appreciation for those commissioners who came before him that laid a foundation of solid fiscal management.

Mr. Byrd thanked the County employees, department heads, and senior leadership for the daily operations of the Houston County government. He agreed with Mr. Perdue that they have inherited a very efficient and fiscally responsible government that he is thankful for and that the citizens can also be thankful for as well.

Mr. Walker commented that there are many fingerprints all over this proposed budget. Houston County is blessed with both great leadership and team members.

Chairman Stalnaker then closed the regular meeting and opened a public hearing on proposed FY22 budget:

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1968

As there were no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the public hearing on the FY22 budget and announced that the FY22 budget adoption would take place on June 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at a special-called meeting at the Commissioner's Board Room in the Annex building at 200 Carl Vinson Parkway, Warner Robins. Another special-called meeting will be held on June 28th at 9:00 a.m. at the same location at which time the Board will consider any end of year bills for payment.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that both Mr. Byrd and Mr. Perdue have participated in multiple training sessions with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and asked if they could compare Houston County to the other counties that they have been in class with. Both agreed that Houston County citizens could be proud of the fiscal responsibility that the leadership and employees of our county exhibits as compared to other local governments.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked the Houston County Sheriff's deputy for providing security for the meeting and for his service to our community.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

