

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
October 17, 2017
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 17, 2017 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Robinson, Thomson, and McMichael present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Fire / HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, District Attorney George Hartwig, Public Defender Claudia Meier, Public Buildings Supervisor Michael Phillips, Houston County Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling, Houston County Development Authority Project Manager Jade Morey, Houston County Development Authority Vice Chairman Joe Brownlee, Houston County Development Authority member Dr. Joseph Richardson, Flint Energies VP of Member Solutions Rogie Roberson, GA Power TMC Supervisor Scott Cox, Sandler AG President Tobias Baumgärtel and his wife Silke, Walton and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, and James Erdmanczyk.

Commissioner Robinson gave the Invocation.

Specialist Oluwatoyin Popoola, US Army Reserves led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and briefed the Board on her military service. She currently serves with the 421st out of Fort Valley and is a student at Kennesaw State University. She hopes to become either an attorney or a construction engineer after graduation and intends to go on to Officer Candidate School (OCS) to become an officer.

The Board recognized Director of Administration Barry Holland for his recent completion of the Certified County Official program as offered by the ACCG and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government and presented him with the framed certificate marking that achievement.

Mr. Walton Wood presented Sandler AG President Tobias Baumgärtel, who was accompanied by his wife Silke, two copies of a framed photo depicting Sandler's recent ribbon cutting ceremony at their Perry manufacturing facility. One photo will be shipped back to Germany to company CEO Dr. Sandler.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Joe Brownlee for his service on the Houston County Development Authority over the past three years.

Executive Director Angie Gheesling and member Dr. Joseph Richardson also thanked Mr. Brownlee for his service and presented him with a gift from the Authority.

Chairman Stalnaker presented Mr. Brownlee gifts from the County and its citizens as a whole while Tobias Baumgärtel presented him with a variety of German delicacies and a stein.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 3, 2017.

Continued from Page 1379

Mr. Walker presented a request from District Attorney George Hartwig to add a full-time victim's advocate position to his office that will be funded through a grant from the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia (PAC) in the amount of \$63,334. There is no match requirement from the County in order to accept these funds.

Staff is recommending that the Board consider accepting these funds for the new full-time position contingent upon receipt of the signed award letter. The new position would be created as a Grade 14 Step A which is an annual salary of \$33,363.20. As with all grant-funded positions, both Mr. Hartwig and the employee will be required to sign an agreement stating that the position will terminate if and when the grant funds are discontinued or if funding is reduced to a level at which it can no longer support the position.

District Attorney Hartwig spoke briefly about the grant-funded position and thanked the Board for their consideration.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the acceptance of Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia VOCA grant funding in the amount of \$63,334 and to create a new Crime Victim's Advocate full-time position in the District Attorney's Office established as a Grade 14 Step A or \$33,363.20 annually. This action is contingent upon receipt of the grant award letter from PAC and the signature of both Mr. Hartwig and the employee filling the new full-time position on the agreement stating that the position will terminate if and when the grant funds are discontinued or if funding is reduced to a level at which it can no longer support the position.

Mr. Walker presented a request from Public Defender Claudia Meier to add an additional attorney to her office and to fund the position by transferring \$60,000 from the professional services line item of her current FY18 departmental budget to the regular salaries line item. These funds will not be needed to pay for outside professional services and could cover the salary and benefits for the additional position through the end of the fiscal year thereby resulting in no increase to the budget.

Public Defender Claudia Meier explained that the excess funds in her current FY18 budget would be moved to the salary line to cover the cost of the new position

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the creation of one new Assistant Public Defender position in the Public Defender's Office established as a Grade 27 Step A or \$55,556.80 annually.

Chairman Stalnaker reiterated that the \$60,000 in funding was already in the professional services line of the current year budget and that there would be no increase in the Public Defenders budget.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval of a bid on the mezzanine and shelving system to be installed at the Sheriff's Office Storage Building currently under construction. Three bids were received and staff recommends award to Wright Storage Systems for \$92,132.35.

Continued on Page 1381

Continued from Page 1380

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the mezzanine and shelving system for the Sheriff's Office Storage Building to Wright Storage Systems of Orlando, FL in the amount of \$92,132.35. This is a 2012 SPLOST funded project.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the project should be complete or at least substantially complete by the end of the calendar year.

County Attorney Tom Hall briefed the Board on a recent development concerning the Firetower Road bid award. The low bidder submitted their bid under the wrong corporate name and therefore the bid legally should be considered a 'no bid'. Therefore, the award should go to the second low bidder Peed Bros. He explained that this came to light from the low bidder themselves just hours before the Board meeting and that they understood their error would likely result in their bid being thrown out.

Mr. McMichael presented the request for the project with five contractors responding.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Firetower Road Grade and Drain project to Peed Bros. of Butler, GA for a total amount of \$186,661.56. This is a 2006 SPLOST funded project.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid. The Sheriff's Department has two SUV's in their approved FY18 budget and Purchasing has obtained Statewide Contract Pricing from Hardy Chevrolet on two 2018 Chevy Tahoes for \$32,829 each with delivery to be taken by the end of the month.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two new 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe Pursuit SUV's for use in the Sheriff's Department Patrol Division from Hardy Chevrolet of Dallas, GA for \$32,829 each totaling \$65,658. These are SPLOST 2012 funded vehicles.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,377,340.41.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for public comments.

Brian Gross, 341 Peach Blossom Road, Bonaire distributed some printed information to the Board and spoke of his grievance concerning local zoning ordinances that prohibit the raising of certain livestock, poultry, etc. on a residentially zoned property. He concluded by asking the Board how long it may be before he could expect a response to his grievance.

Chairman Stalnaker asked County Attorney Tom Hall to research the matter and thought that a proper response could be given to Mr. Gross within the next 30 days.

James Erdmanczyk, 123 S. 3rd Street, Apartment 9, Warner Robins remarked that he appreciated the Commissioners posting the Board meeting agenda online for public review.

Continued on Page 1382

Continued from Page 1381

Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar introduced Michael Phillips who will be moving from his current position as supervisor of the Detention Facility maintenance crew for Public Buildings to the Superintendent's position of Public Buildings upon Tony Holder's retirement in late November.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for commissioners' comments.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. McMichael presented Mr. Ansel Peck with a UGA ball cap.

Mr. Thomson thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that he had recently met with the Superior Court judges and spoke to them about a request from DA Hartwig for use of a little used storage room located within the County courthouse as a possible evidence room. He thought that the Board should have a decision regarding that request by the next Board meeting. The Chairman also asked DA Hartwig to meet with the Sheriff and County Attorney concerning the possibility of clearing out some of the items located in the impound lot. Lastly, he commended DA Hartwig for starting the process on a number of bond forfeitures.

Chairman Stalnaker also thanked Houston County Sheriff Sgt. Guy Fussell for providing security during the meeting and acknowledged the service and dedication of all law enforcement officers in our community.

Mr. McMichael commented on the progress that has been made by the County and its contractor Advanced Disposal concerning the storm debris removal.

Chairman Stalnaker commended Advanced Disposal on their efforts and remarked that the County's new grapple truck had been received last week and is already in-service assisting with the clean-up efforts.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all. Meeting adjourned.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner