

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
April 4, 2023
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday April 4, 2023, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, 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, Community Planner Jake Cox, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Chief Christopher Stoner and Utility Director Terry Dietsch.

Commissioner Talton gave the invocation and then led those in attendance in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Lt. Col. Timothy Breitbach, of the 638th Supply Chain Management Group (SCMG), spoke about his military career as Commander of the 410th Supply Chain Squadron at RAFB. Lt. Col. Breitbach has spent 18 years in the USAF serving in the logistics field. He has spent time overseas in Honduras, Korea, Iraq, and Kuwait. Lt. Col. Breitbach has a PhD. in logistics and close to 1,000 individuals who work under his command overseeing the acquisition of parts and materials for the F-15, the C-5, and the B-52. Lt. Col. Breitbach, originally from Iowa, has been at Robins Air Force Base for 8 months.

Chairman Perdue and the Commissioners thanked Lt. Col. Breitbach for his service, sharing his story and information about his career field, and welcomed him to Houston County.

Valkyrie Anderson, Executive Director of the Houston County Family Connection organization, spoke about the role and focus of the organization. She explained how Family Connections works to assist and serve residents in Houston County. She also spoke about community events such as the Back to School Bash and Teen Maze that the Family Connection and other community organizations in Houston County sponsor to educate, support and help Houston County youth.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2023.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2669 thru #2671, #2673, and #2675 thru #2678 explaining that Application #2672 had been withdrawn by the applicant and no further action was needed.

County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations that even if the Board of Commissioners approves an application, neighborhood covenants may still impose certain restrictions upon or against home occupation businesses. These restrictive covenants are superior to any action taken by the Board of Commissioners. The actions taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

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

Special Exception Application #2669, applicant was not present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2670, applicant was not present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2671, applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2673, applicant was not present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2675, applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2676, applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2677, applicant was present, there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2678, applicant was present, there was no opposition.

There being no comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve the following applications to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendations and Section 95 Requirements staff report:

#2669	Ryan Lawrence	Remodeling Business
#2670	Monica Duckworth	Internet Sales (Clothing & Accessories)
#2671	Shatasha Mitchell	Virtual Counseling Business
#2673	Joseph & Erin White IV	Pressure Washing Business
#2675	Jamie Moates	Durable Medical Equipment Supply Business
#2676	Samuel Wonnum	Tree Service Business
#2677	Emonie Lewis	Internet Sales (Used Goods)
#2678	Anthony Erazo	Landscaping & Cleaning Business

Mr. Andrews advised all applicants on the next step in the process which would be obtaining their business licenses through the Commissioner's office.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to start the bidding process for clearcutting at the Landfill.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve Public Works starting the bidding process for clearcutting 39.7 acres for future expansion at the Landfill.

Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar gave the first reading of an Occupational Tax Application, submitted by Ujjaval Patel, to include the retail sale of Beer and Wine for use off premises and Liquor Package Store at 518 Highway 247. The second reading and Public Hearing will be at the April 18, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant equipment operator position at the Roads & Bridges department.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Mr. James Bryant to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position in the Roads and Bridges department at a Grade 10 step C effective April 5, 2023.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant heavy 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. James Hales to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator Position at the Landfill at a grade 13 step B effective April 5, 2023.

Mr. Byrd mentioned that it was good to see these positions for Heavy Equipment Operators in the Public Works Department being filled.

Mr. Perdue agreed and said that these positions are critical, and he was pleased that they were being filled.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid for the 2023 Joint LMIG project.

Chairman Perdue asked Director of Operations Brian Jones to come up and explain and brief about the importance and scope of the LMIG program.

Mr. Jones spoke about the reason for the Ga Dept. of Transportation creating the LMIG grant program and how Houston County, partnering with other local jurisdictions, has been able to leverage these LMIG grant dollars into getting more work done and better bid results from contractors.

Chairman Perdue thanked Mr. Jones, Mr. Ken Robinson and Mr. Travis McClendon, from the Public Works Department, for their work and efforts to maximize the LMIG grant fund dollars for the maintenance of Houston County roads.

Mr. Byrd made note that through the LMIG bid process, the low bid was 32% lower than the next lowest bid thus saving the citizens of Houston County construction dollars.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the bid for the 2023 Joint LMIG Road Improvement Project to Reames and Sons Construction, Inc. of Valdosta Georgia in the amount of \$3,025,717.41.

Mr. Byrd presented a request from the City of Warner Robins to annex property located at 1277 S. Houston Lake Road.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for public comments on this annexation. There were no comments from the public.

Chairman Perdue explained this annexation closes in some spots along South Houston Lake Road where the City and County parcels were contiguous.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to concur with the City of Warner Robins annexation request for property located at 1277 S. Houston Lake Road, containing 1.1 acres, and also known as Tax Parcel 00077D 005000. The property is currently zoned County C-2, and the proposed zoning will be City C-2.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the City of Warner Robins to annex property located at 921 HWY 96.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for public comments on this annexation. There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Talton advised that this parcel is across the street from the Houston County High School practice football field.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to concur with the City of Warner Robins annexation request for property located at 921 Hwy 96, containing 3.41 acres and also known as Tax Parcel #000770 040000. The property is currently zoned County C-1 and the proposed zoning will be City C-2, with the stipulation that any county utilities remain with the county.

Chairman Perdue advised that before the next item was presented, he was recommending Agenda Item #9 be tabled to allow more time for the property owner and City of Warner Robins officials to adjust access plans to the site based on the impact to surrounding neighborhoods.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to table the City of Warner Robins request for annexation of property located at 100-104 Amanda Place.

Chairman Perdue said that the concern was not with the proposed business going in, but the effect on nearby residential areas due to increased traffic.

Mr. Gottwals observed it wise to create a better plan for traffic flow coming into and out of this business.

Mr. Byrd remarked that tabling this agenda item was another example of the process working for the benefit of Houston County citizens and that it could still come up for a vote at the second meeting in April due to the 45 day annexation request window.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$4,905,791.47.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Emory Tyner of Perry asked why his property was being annexed into the City of Perry without his approval. Mr. Daniel Rodda, Mr. Andrew Tripp and Mr. Dave Rossignol all spoke in favor of and in defense of Mr. Emory Tyner.

Chairman Perdue advised that cities cannot annex property without the owner's permission and asked Mr. Tyner if he had given permission for any annexation of his property into the City of Perry.

Mr. Tyner advised he had not.

Chairman Perdue asked County Attorney Tom Hall to explain further the process of annexation. After further discussion with Mr. Tyner, it was discovered that Perry officials had plans to annex his neighbor's property and had placed the sign near Mr. Tyner's property. Mr. Hall was then able to assure Mr. Tyner that the City of Perry had no plans to annex his property.

Mr. Byrd asked Community Planner Jake Cox to find out Mr. Bryan Wood's phone number with the City of Perry and give it to Mr. Tyner so he could speak to City of Perry officials and confirm that they were not annexing his property.

Terry Dietsch, Houston County Utility Director, spoke about the upcoming tire amnesty event scheduled for April 21st and 22nd. Tire drop off locations will be in Warner Robins, Perry and at the Landfill. Mr. Dietsch further advised that tires would only be accepted from Houston County residents and not from any businesses. Times for the amnesty tire drop off both days would be from 9am to 3pm.

As there were no further comments, Chairman Perdue then asked the other Commissioners for any comments they would like to add.

Mr. Perdue advised that the Friends of the Library Old Book Sale would take place April 20th – 22nd at the Georgia National Fairgrounds with proceeds from this event benefitting the Houston County Library system.

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Commissioner Byrd thanked Lt. Col. Breitbach for his service and staying for the entire meeting. He also commented that the LMIG and annexations were again a symbol of the cooperation among the governments in Houston County. He wished everyone a happy Easter.

Commissioner Talton thanked everyone for being in attendance and is glad to hear about the businesses starting in Houston County. He thanked Lt. Col. Breitbach and Ms. Anderson for their attendance. He also said that the Flock Cameras had helped the Sheriff's Department identify a vehicle that drove through one of his planted fields. Due to the vehicle make and model being identified, those responsible had been located and visited by law enforcement personnel.

Commissioner Robinson thanked those who attended the Commissioners' meeting today and thanked those who came and spoke in support of Mr. Tyner and was glad to know that his property was not being planned for annexation.

Commissioner Gottwals spoke about the horrible situation that took place last Monday in Nashville, Tennessee at the school shooting and how he had a friend who played music at one of the funerals for one of the students killed. Mr. Gottwals thanked law enforcement for their work keeping residents safe in Houston County and asked that everyone reflect on the upcoming Easter holiday and on the Resurrection.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner