

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**February 1, 2022**  
**Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday February 1, 2022, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, 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 Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Acting District Attorney William Kendall, Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Byrd led the audience in the Invocation.

Lt. Col. Michael Gutierrez, USAF led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his military career. He grew up in Macon, and attended Georgia Southern where he met his wife of 18 years. His first duty assignment was to Robins AFB where he operated as an Air Weapons Officer and then Executive Officer with the 12th Airborne Command & Control Squadron; followed by assignment as a Formal Training Unit Instructor in the 330th Combat Training Squadron. Other assignments were to Nellis AFB, Nevada; Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; then to the Washington D.C. area in various roles with the Air Force, as a Legislative Fellow for Representative Austin Scott, and then as an Air Force Senate Legislative Liaison. He came back to Robins AFB in 2019 and currently serves as Commander of the 330th Combat Training Squadron training aircrews for the E-8C J-STARS aircraft. He has deployed six times including his most recent to Southwest Asia in 2020 in support of the J-STARS aircraft operating in the Syria-Iraq theater. Lt. Col. Gutierrez was recently recognized by Georgia Southern University as one of the 40 under 40 alumni.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting.

Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Application #2573.

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

Special Exception Application #2573, applicant was present there was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Mr. Andrews then presented Special Exception Application #2574.

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

Special Exception Application #2574, applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

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Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Special Exception Application #2573 submitted by Crystal Ambler to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to disapprove Special Exception Application #2574 submitted by Krystal Lamar.

Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2578, #2580, and #2582. He explained that Special Exception Application #2581 has been withdrawn by the applicant.

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

Special Exception Application #2578, applicant was present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2580, applicant was present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2581, withdrawn by applicant.

Special Exception Application #2582, applicant was present there was no opposition.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

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

Application #2578	Mara Graham	Personal Training
Application #2580	Dorothy Manning	Transport
Application #2582	Trent & Ashley Loseke	Functional Medicine

Mr. Perdue presented a request for approval on an application for additional LMIG funding on the SR127/Houston Lake Road widening project.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the application to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for an additional \$500,000 of Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds to assist in the construction of the SR127/Houston Lake Road widening project.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from Fire/HEMA Chief Stoner to enter into an agreement with Cody Hensleigh Photography to conduct the Fire Department Annual Fundraiser.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chief Stoner entering into a professional services agreement with Cody Hensleigh Photography for the 2022 annual Fire Department fundraiser to be held from February 1, 2022 thru July 1, 2022.

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Ms. Robinson presented a request from Public Works staff to release the bond and acceptance of roadways for maintenance purposes in McCarley Downs Subdivision.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the release of the maintenance bond for McCarley Downs Subdivision, Section 1, Phase 3 and to accept McCarley Downs Drive for 0.21 miles at 25 mph, Gerald Court for 0.05 miles at 25 mph, and Tempie Court for 0.05 miles at 25 mph for maintenance purposes.

Ms. Robinson presented the renewal of an independent contractor agreement with Dr. Sims-Stanley for performing autopsies.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the independent contractor agreement with Houston County Coroner Danny Galpin, Houston Healthcare, and Dr. Melissa A. Sims-Stanley providing for a local medical examiner to perform autopsies as required by the Coroner in the morgue at Houston Medical Center for deaths other than homicides and the deaths of children seventeen years of age and under. The agreement will begin February 5, 2022 and end on February 5, 2023.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval on two Change Orders with ICB Construction Group on the State Court Expansion Project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #1 and Change Order #2 on the State Court Expansion Project with ICB Construction Group increasing the original contract price of \$18,300,000 by \$711,280 and \$276,367 respectively for an amended contract total of \$19,287,647. There is no increase in contract time.

Chairman Stalnaker clarified that these change orders do not affect the new State Court building project. The new HVAC controls will replace antiquated controls in the existing Courthouse as they are original to the building. This upgrade and the chilled water plant upgrade were requested by staff so that the contractor could complete the work at the same time as the new construction so the buildings systems could work in unison when completed. This, along with some coming change orders for boiler replacement and rooftop package units, will complete the upgrades to the existing courthouse.

Mr. Byrd commented that although these have come to the Board as change orders, they are really more of an expansion to the scope of work to allow us to benefit from some efficiencies while the contractors are on site building the new State Court facilities.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to enter into an agreement with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping for roadside litter pick-up.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a professional services agreement with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc. of Cochran to provide "as needed" roadside litter pick-up at a rate of \$285 per mile (two lane with no median).

Mr. Dunbar commented that we recently had one or two inmate crews for a short time but that they had been pulled back due to the COVID protocols. He felt that they may be able to come back out in the near future.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of the Memorandum of Agreement concerning the 2022 joint Local Maintenance and Improvements Grant (LMIG) projects.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Memorandum of Agreement with Warner Robins, Perry, Centerville, and Byron concerning the 2022 LMIG road resurfacing and repair projects.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this arrangement has worked very well for the other governments that have joined with Houston County. It has also helped Houston County to a certain extent as well.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of a proposal to replace the camera system and make upgrades to the network that spans across most of the buildings at Public Works, and to provide the appropriate budget adjustments.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Public Works Camera System Replacement and Network Upgrade project to BTV Systems of Macon for \$49,354.99; Innovative Fiber Technologies of Forsyth for \$3,704.50; and CNP Technologies, LLC of Charlotte, NC for \$1,272.64, subject to changes by County Attorney Tom Hall to terms and conditions of the agreement. Project total is \$54,332.13 and is funded through HOST Fees.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the following budget adjustments:

**General Fund:**

Increase Expenditures:

Public Buildings	100-1565-54.2500	Other Equipment (Capital)	\$20,000
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Increase Revenues:	100-39.1200	Operating Transfer in (HOST)	\$20,000
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**Solid Waste Fund:**

Increase Expenditures:

Solid Waste Disposal	540-4530-61.1000	Operating Transfers Out	\$20,000
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Increase Revenues		HOST Fees	\$20,000
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Mr. Walker presented a request from Acting District Attorney William Kendall to fill the vacant Assistant District Attorney position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Lina Leh for the Assistant District Attorney position in the District Attorney's Office at a Grade 27-E effective February 2, 2022.

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Chairman Stalnaker recognized Acting District Attorney Kendall thanking him for the job that he has been doing since taking control of the District Attorney's office. The feedback that he has received from various law enforcement agencies has been great. The office is now fully staffed with cases moving along very efficiently.

Each Commissioner expressed their appreciation and support for Mr. Kendall and his office.

Mr. Kendall thanked the Board for their support and stated that there are now 31 trial weeks slated for 2022 which is well above the norm of 25 or 26. The increase is meant to deal with the backlog of serious violent felony cases as well as older cases that have been slowed down due to court shutdowns during the pandemic. He then commented that he has known Ms. Leh since 2018 and that she comes to us from the Solicitor-General's office in Macon, is a former assistant district attorney in the Cordele circuit and has been a prosecutor since 2014 having started in Veteran's court. She will be an immense asset in the DA's office. He characterized himself as a very green prosecutor in terms of experience, but his staff possesses a great deal of diverse experience in the legal field. Lastly, he referred to the Joint Law Enforcement Task Force which recently met with representatives from various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Task Force has taken some time and special attention to having a joint law enforcement and prosecution endeavor into proactive policing and prosecution in our county to help reduce the crime rates in affected areas. The effort is aimed at the reduction of serious violent felonies, drug crimes, money crimes, as well as other types of crime. He commented that he and his office welcomes feedback and that he wishes for the DA's office to remain transparent in its operation.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that he has been in talks with our Sheriff's office about certain technological advances such as tag readers and camera systems that can help law enforcement track and capture suspects. He supports those efforts as a way to help law enforcement in their efforts to police our community.

Mr. Kendall remarked that criminals today are using electronic surveillance against law enforcement, wiping cell phones remotely, using internet activity to block policing efforts, among other means to undermine law enforcement. He is in support of these types of technological improvements for law enforcement and has offered to help purchase some of these items to help them combat suspects committing these crimes.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,408,869.86.

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

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

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

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Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and expressed appreciation for our outstanding employees.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting.

Mr. Perdue likewise thanked everyone for coming and thanked Mr. Kendall for coming and sharing his thoughts.

Mr. Byrd commented on the various agenda items that highlight the effects of the pandemic on how the County conducts its business. He also offered his condolences, thoughts, and prayers to the family of Lt. Jack Johnson of the Perry Police Department.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 15th at 5:00 p.m. at the Warner Robins Annex building.

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

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Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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