

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
February 16, 2021  
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 16, 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 Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Capt. Ronnie Harlowe, Lt. Brian Blanton, Sgt. Nathanael Noler, Dep. Daniel Mattox, Deputy Austin Smith, and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Robinson gave the Invocation then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Sgt. Nathanael Noler, Deputy Daniel Mattox, and Deputy Austin Smith of the Houston County Sheriff's Department. These men were recognized at the 2020 Governor's Public Safety Awards ceremony held December 4th at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for 'Acts of Heroism' relating to a domestic violence call involving a hostage situation. Chairman Stalnaker and each member of the Board commended Sgt. Noler and Deputies Mattox and Smith for their bravery, service to community, and the compassion with which they answered this dangerous call. Capt. Harlowe praised each man on behalf of the command staff of the Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Talton. Each was presented with a plaque and County challenge coin as small tokens of appreciation.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 2, 2021.

Chairman Stalnaker asked for a motion to add as Item 13 a Centerville annexation request that was non-concurred with at the February 2nd meeting.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to add Item 13 to the agenda to reconsider a non-concurrence of the City of Centerville annexation request at 3930 N. Hwy. 41.

Mr. Perdue presented a request from the City of Perry for annexation of property at 111 Hill Road.

Motion by Mr. Perdue second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Perry annexation request for a 5.96-acre portion of the property at 111 Hill Road, Tax parcel 000580 034000, further described as:

All that parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 189 of the Thirteenth Land District of Houston County, Georgia, and being known as designated as Parcel 12 containing 7.119 acres as shown on a plat of survey prepared by Lee R. Jones, Registered Land Surveyor Number 2680, dated February 16, 1999, and recorded in Map Book 53, Page 193, Clerks Office, Houston Superior Court.

Mr. Perdue commented that he would prefer that the process by which the County must concur or non-cur with these types of requests be changed whereby a public hearing could be held before any action by the County.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1910

Chairman Stalnaker agreed but clarified that this request had been vetted thoroughly beforehand and brought back to the City with revisions that addressed the concerns of adjacent property owners.

Mr. Perdue presented two Intergovernmental Agreements for conducting elections for the Board of Education and for the City of Warner Robins.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Intergovernmental Agreement for Conduct of the City of Warner Robins Elections and the Intergovernmental Agreement for Conduct of the Board of Education Elections or the 2021 election year expiring on December 31, 2021.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Holland, Ms. Presswood, and the Board of Elections for their efforts on these agreements. He commented that these agreements were the right thing to do and will provide some level of consistency when the County runs these elections at the request of any of the three cities or the Board of Education. Although it is unfortunate that both elections will be held simultaneously the election date is set by state statute and there really was no other choice.

Mr. Byrd commented that this is simply another example of the remarkable cooperation between the City, the County, the School Board, and their respective staff members. Mr. Perdue, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Walker all agreed.

Chairman Stalnaker especially thanked Elections Supervisor Debra Presswood, Andy Holland, all other staff members, and poll workers who have put in the hard work all year long.

Mr. Perdue presented a request for abandonment of easement from Wellston Associates Land Surveyors, LLC on behalf of MSAB, LLC.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the Resolution Abandoning a Houston County Drainage Easement approving Wellston Associates Land Surveyors, LLC's application on behalf of MSAB, LLC for abandonment of an existing 20-foot drainage Easement that runs the length of the northwestern property line within the boundaries of Parcel 00056A 19A000 located at 400 Perry Parkway, Perry, GA 31069 and by approving the Resolution also authorizing Chairman Stalnaker to sign the quit-claim deed conveying the easement rights.

Ms. Robinson presented a Memorandum of Participation for an interim roll-forward GASB 75 report of the Other Post-Employment Benefits with Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the execution of a Memorandum of Participation (MOP) for an interim roll-forward GASB 75 report of the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) with Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC of Kennesaw, GA in the amount of \$5,000.

Chairman Stalnaker clarified that this valuation is for the coming FY21 audit not for the audit we are currently working on.

Ms. Robinson presented an independent Contractor Agreement for Medical Examiner Dr. Sims-Stanley.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Perdue 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 shall expire February 4, 2022 but may be renewed from year to year subject to an annual review of performance by the County, the Coroner and Houston Healthcare.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to leave Houston Lake lowered for three additional days for maintenance purposes.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Perdue to approve extending the time period for leaving Houston Lake lowered from February 16<sup>th</sup> to February 19<sup>th</sup> to allow for the completion of a resident's ongoing maintenance project. Upon voting Ms. Robinson, Mr. Perdue, and Mr. Walker voted yes, Mr. Byrd abstained, motion carried.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Perdue, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Dunbar to come together in the next 30 to 45 days creating a study committee on the issue of lowering the level of Houston Lake in the future. Currently the contract states that the sluice gate on the dam will be opened every three years lowering the lake level affording the residents an opportunity to perform necessary repairs and maintenance to docks, seawalls, and other things. The owner of the lake should have some input as well.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on the replacement of the pump at the Sandefur Road Water Treatment Facility.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Water System Improvements at the Sandefur Road Water Treatment Facility to Greene's Water Wells, Inc. of Gray, Georgia in the amount of \$51,435. This project is paid for with Water Capital Funds.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on the Bear Branch Road Water Improvements project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Water System Improvements to Bear Branch Road project (from SR247 to Farr Road) to Pyles Plumbing & Utility Contracting, Inc. of Macon in the amount of \$462,271. This project is paid for with Water Capital Funds.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Warner Robins, Perry, Centerville, and Byron concerning the 2021 LMIG.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, 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 2021 LMIG road resurfacing and repair projects.

Chairman Stalnaker clarified that each entity will pay for their own projects under this agreement. Houston County will not pay and then get reimbursed.

Mr. Walker presented an underground right of way easement with Flint EMC for the powerline installation for the new Houston County Government Building Complex.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the underground right of way easement with Flint Electric Membership Corporation as depicted on Exhibit "A" and as described on Exhibit "B" for the underground power line to service the new Houston County Government Building complex on Kings Chapel Road.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd to appoint Dan Perdue to the Hospital Authority for the term of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. Upon voting, Mr. Walker, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Robinson voted in favor. Mr. Perdue abstained. Motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd to reappoint Gail Robinson to the Hospital Authority for the term of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024. Upon voting, Mr. Walker, Mr. Byrd, and Mr. Perdue voted in favor. Ms. Robinson abstained. Motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,208,100.00.

Mr. Walker presented the amended City of Centerville request for annexation of a 102.53-acre property located at 3930 N. Highway 41.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to rescind the non-concurrence and to now concur with the City of Centerville's request for annexation and rezoning for a 102.53-acre property located at 3930 N. Highway 41, Tax Parcel 000450 007000.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked City of Centerville officials and the developer for their willingness to address the County's initial concerns relative to this annexation and rezoning.

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

There being no 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.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Tom McMichael and congratulated him on his recent appointment as an Emeritus member of the Hospital Authority commenting that he has been an asset to the hospital and the community during his many years of service as a County Commissioner.

Mr. Byrd commented that it is a special opportunity to be able to recognize the Sheriff's Department personnel. He also encouraged everyone to vote in support of the E-SPLOST in the coming election.

Mr. Perdue also expressed his appreciation for the Sheriff's Department personnel. He recognized Mr. Tom McMichael and acknowledged his daughter Rabun Perdue who was also in attendance.

Ms. Robinson remarked that she was thankful for the Sheriff's Department personnel and encouraged everyone to early vote if possible in support of the E-SPLOST which is so vital for our educational system.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1913

Mr. Walker likewise encouraged everyone to support the E-SPLOST with their votes, thanked Mr. Tom McMichael congratulating him on his appointment as a member emeritus of the Hospital Authority, and remarked that he was thankful for the outstanding Sheriff's Department personnel.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone that the next Board meeting is March 2nd at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse in Perry. He also commented that he had received some recent complaints about the amount of litter on the roadways. He acknowledged that it was bad, but the County has not been able to get inmate details since February of 2020 and that it would probably be quite some time before they are able to come out. Prices for contracting these services privately are very expensive. Lastly, he recognized Mr. Perdue's daughter Rabun who was in attendance. Rabun is a seventh grader attending school at Bonaire Middle.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Perdue 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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