

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
March 1, 2016
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Personnel Director Ken Carter, Purchasing Director Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Chris Thomson, Warner Robins Mayor Randy Toms, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, Bo Adams, Walt and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck.

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Seaman Bob Bovitch, US Navy (Ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his military career. Joining the Navy at a very young age, Mr. Bovitch was assigned to the USS Bronstein (DE-1037) destroyer escort-class ship alongside of his older brother. On board, he worked as a radar man. Shortly after his tour on the ship, he served in Vietnam during the war as a courier where he transported cash, guns, and other equipment throughout I-Corp. Upon returning home he earned his bachelor's degree and took a civil service job. He eventually wound up at Robins AFB where he served as a mortuary officer from 2000 to 2004. He read a poem, "Let Me Walk with You", that he had written about his first chance meeting with Monica Harvey whose organization 'The Veterans Music Ministry' caters to and supports all Vietnam veterans. He credits Ms. Harvey for inspiring and saving him and many others from the mental and physical anguish they went through to keep our country safe and free. He explained that he does suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and spoke of the issues he has had with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Bovitch presented a 'Band Aid for the Heart' pin, which is a symbol that honors our fallen heroes, to each of the Commissioners.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to add Item #6 for a presentation by Mayor Randy Toms; and, to add Item #7 Executive Session to discuss Attorney / Client matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and also Personnel matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2) to the agenda.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting.

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Ms. Robinson presented a request by Judge Nunn to hire Ms. Judy McConnell to fill-in beginning March 1,2016 for Ms. Sheila Traylor who will be out one month for medical leave.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the temporary hire of Ms. Judy McConnell at a Grade 17-A in the Superior Court Indigent Defense Coordinator position during Ms. Sheila Traylor's one-month absence beginning on March 1, 2016.

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.

Tim Andrews presented special Exception Applications #1938 thru #1942, #1944 and #1946 thru #1947 for home occupation businesses. Mr. Andrews stated that all eight applications comply with Section 95 of the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations and that the Board of Zoning & Appeals recommends unanimous approval of each application.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on applications #1938 thru #1942 and #1944 and #1946 thru 1947.

Public Hearing:

Applicant for #1938 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1939 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1940 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1941 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1942 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1944 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1946 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #1947 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

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There was no opposition.

There being no further comments, the hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, 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:

Special Exception Application # 1938 – Latosha Evans
Special Exception Application # 1939 – Terry Wilson
Special Exception Application # 1940 – Amy Bright
Special Exception Application # 1941 – Kane Munn
Special Exception Application # 1942 – Robert D. Perry
Special Exception Application # 1944 – Jerry Bryan
Special Exception Application # 1946 – Shandia Valle
Special Exception Application # 1947 – Felicia T. Harris

Mr. Andrews then gave each applicant approved for a home occupation instruction on the next step of the process which is obtaining their occupational business license from the Commissioner's office.

Mr. Walker presented a request for an abandonment of one half of the right of way of Wilson Avenue in Bonaire by Jared E. Icard. The property is directly behind his business and is not used as a right of way. Mr. Icard will use the portion of the right of way to store equipment and the abandonment will allow him to fence the area to secure that equipment.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that all of the appropriate County departments had reviewed the request and recommended approval.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the abandonment of that portion of Wilson Drive describes as follows: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 21 of the Eleventh Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being the easterly one half of the right of way of Wilson Avenue, Town of Bonaire, directly westerly of Lot 100 Block 9, Town of Bonaire, according to a plat of survey of the Town of Bonaire at Deed Book W, Page 521, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. The said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. Further to authorize the Chairman to sign the deed to Mr. Icard.

Mr. Thomson presented a request by the Engineering Department for approval to enter into a professional services contract with Waddle & Company for the storm drainage improvements project on Flourney Drive in the amount of \$6,500.

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Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign a professional services agreement with Waddle & Company of Warner Robins to provide surveying and design documents for the Flournoy Drive storm drainage improvements project for a total fee of \$6,500. This project is funded by the 2012 SPLOST.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$2,785,843.68.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Warner Robins Mayor Randy Toms who addressed the Board about a proposed commercial development in Bonaire. Mayor Toms wanted to set the record straight concerning some misconception about the project that have surfaced. He explained that there is absolutely no conflict between the City of Warner Robins and Houston County over this development that was stalling the project. Chairman Stalnaker agreed and hoped that the project would continue to move forward. Mayor Toms felt that there would be support from the City Council that would approve a deal in the near future. Each of the Commissioners remarked on the strong and cooperative relationship that the County has enjoyed with not only the City of Warner Robins, but Perry and Centerville as well.

Public Comments:

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen spoke of several personal friends who were lost in the Vietnam conflict and praised the guest speaker, Bob Bovitch, for not only his significant military career but his continuing assistance to veterans.

Commissioners Comments:

Mr. McMichael reminded everyone to please vote today.

Mr. Thomson thanked Mr. Bovitch for his service to the country.

Mr. Walker also thanked Mr. Bovitch for his service.

Ms. Robinson likewise thanked Mr. Bovitch and all veterans for their service and commented that it was very moving how the human spirit manages to survive during trying times.

Chairman Stalnaker wished Ms. Robinson happy birthday (March 24th) and presented her with a county coffee mug.

Chairman Stalnaker then called for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and attorney/client matters.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss Attorney/Client matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and also Personnel matters as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2).

Upon returning, Chairman Stalnaker re-opened the Commissioners meeting and announced that there would be no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker, and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner