

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 21, 2020
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Thomson, McMichael, and Robinson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker and Walton and Becky Wood.

Chairman Stalnaker gave the Invocation and then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Major Tommy Jackson, Corporal Shay Little, and Corporal John Westbrook for their 30-year service anniversaries with the County presenting each with a certificate of achievement, a service pin and a check for \$300. The Board of Commissioners each thanked all for their exemplary service to the Sheriff's Department and our community. In an effort to maintain social distancing the employees who have reached their 15, 20, and 25 years of service mark were not brought into the meeting but were each recognized at different times through their respective department heads. Chairman Stalnaker did congratulate those individuals including Mr. Holland for his 20th since he was in regular attendance of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Walker presented a request for de-annexation from the City of Warner Robins for the property owners of 1001 and 1003 Leverett Road.

Chairman Stalnaker briefly explained the process of de-annexation and remarked that he and Mayor Toms had spoken about the issue.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize The Board of Commissioners to sign the Resolution that will consent to the de-annexation of the property located at 1001 and 1003 Leverett Road within the city limits of Warner Robins, Parcel ID Numbers OW0810 030000 containing 0.32 acres and OW0810 029000 containing 0.52 acres. The property is more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate lying and being in Land Lot 141 of the Fifth 5th Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Lots 11 and 12, Addition No. 1, Godfrey Subdivision, according to a plat of said subdivision prepared by Theodore W. Waddle of record in Plat Book 4, Page 263, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are by this reference thereto incorporated herein and made a part hereof for all purposes.

Mr. Walker presented a request from Flint Electric Membership Corporation for a right of way easement.

.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson 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 servicing the sump at the Landfill Phase 6, Stage 1, Cells 1-3 construction project.

Mr. Thomson presented the uncollected bad debt write-off for the Water Department and Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the FY2020 Water Fund debt write-off of \$15,955.39 (\$15,905.39 for the water system and \$50 for stormwater management); the Waste Collection (Sanitation) debt write-off totaling \$14,684.64 (\$8,403.95 for routes 10 thru 80 and \$6,280.69 for route 90). The Solid Waste Disposal (Landfill) has no debt to write-off.

Mr. Thomson presented a request from the Sheriff's Department for the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Traffic Division.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one new 2020 Ford Explorer PPV for use in the Traffic Division from Brannen Ford of Perry at a cost of \$37,216. SPLOST 2018 will fund the purchase of this vehicle.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on roof repairs for the Houston County Detention Facility.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Detention Facility roof repairs project to Southeast Roofing of Macon in the amount of \$35,065. SPLOST 2018 funds this project.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid on three zero-turn mowers for use in the Roads Department.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of three Kubota Z781KWTi-60 ZTR mowers from Walker-Rhodes Tractor Company of Perry for use in the Roads Department at a unit cost of \$9,542 each or a total of \$28,626. SPLOST 2012 will fund the purchase of this equipment.

Chairman Stalnaker apologized to the citizens of the County for not having the grass cut along the roadways and County facilities in a timely manner. The twelve inmate crews that the County normally uses to perform these functions have not been allowed out of the jails or probation centers since the pandemic crisis began. Hopefully, he stated, the crews will be back soon.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval the Mental Health Accountability Court Grant acceptance.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the acceptance of the Mental Health Accountability Court grant (#J21-8-072) in the amount of \$182,107 from the State of Georgia-Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the purposes of continuing the Mental Health Accountability Court. Of that \$182,107, Houston County's required match is \$18,211. Chairman Stalnaker is authorized to sign all grant documents.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,197,734.80.

County Attorney Tom Hall briefed the Board on a blighted property at 111 Brookhaven Drive in Bonaire. The house and property are in poor condition and pose both a safety issue and a health issue. He presented photographs of the property to the Board stating that the County has been trying to do something with this property since 2018 but the absentee owner has not taken any remedial action. Mr. Hall would like to file an in rem action against the property per County code of ordinances Section 42-4 Public Nuisance in Relation to Dwelling, Building, Structure or Property. Mr. Hall commented that he has compiled a list of 25 to 30 properties that have some of these same issues with varying degrees of severity.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to instruct Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews to proceed against the property at 110 Brookhaven Drive, Kathleen per Chapter 42 Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions - Section 42-4 Public Nuisance in Relation to Dwelling, Building, Structure or Property.

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

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

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

Chairman Stalnaker welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Wood back to the meeting and thanked them for taking the pictures of the employees recognized for their 30-year service.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and asked everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and remarked that it was great to live in Houston County.

Mr. Thomson asked everyone to keep their masks on as Governor Kemp has asked.

Mr. McMichael thanked the Board and employees and expressed his appreciation for everyone's continuing thoughts and prayers for his wife as she is still recovering.

Chairman Stalnaker expressed birthday wishes to Tom Hall, Cheryl Scarborough and Ned Sanders. He announced three upcoming public hearings on the tax digest, the first of which is to be held on July 30th at 11:00 a.m. in Warner Robins at the Annex Building; the second on August 4th at 10:30 a.m. at the courthouse in Perry after the regularly scheduled Board meeting; and the third on August 11th at 6:00 p.m. in Warner Robins at the Annex Building after which the Board will vote to adopt the 2020 Digest. The hearings are required since the County is electing to keep the millage rate the same with no increase but is not doing the millage rollback which would be two-hundredths of a mill. The millage rate will stay the same as last year at 9.935 instead of rolling back to 9.915. The millage at 9.935 will only produce an additional \$82,604 of revenue. The digest did grow some this year just not as much as last year and sales tax revenues are still doing well even with the turmoil of the pandemic.

He then announced that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be August 4th at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse in Perry.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner