

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 18, 2022
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 18, 2022, 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 Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Traffic Engineer Ken Robinson, County Extension Coordinator Brandi McGonagill, ANR Agent Morgan Grizzle, Chief Deputy Billy Rape, Sgt. Veronica Edens, Network Administrator James Faulkner, Christine Pate, Ashonda Jackson, Walton and Becky Wood

Commissioner Walker led the audience in the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized MIS employee Melanie Robinson, Capt. Cheri "Mikki" Quinones, Capt. Jon Holland, and Landfill employee Wallace Porter, Sr. for their 30-year service anniversaries with the County presenting each with a certificate of achievement, a service pin, a coffee mug, and a check. The Board of Commissioners, as well as each employee's department head or supervisor, thanked all for their exemplary service to our community.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval to apply for federal funding available through FEMA and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace all of the Fire Department's SCBA (Air Packs).

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker and Chief Stoner signing all documents necessary to apply for the 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$775,000 which will provide funding for the replacement of 73 SCBA (Air Packs) and related cylinders, masks, and accessories. Federal funding will cover 90% of the cost with the County matching 10%, or a maximum of \$77,500.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of the final change order to the Elko Road and Gilbert Road Water Systems Improvement Project.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve Change Order #1 (Final) with Gordy Construction Company on the Elko Road and Gilbert Road Water Systems Improvement Project decreasing the original contract amount from \$434,152.25 by \$19,935.75 for a total amended contract of \$414,216.50. There is no increase in contract time.

Mr. Perdue presented a request for approval of a price increase on four new 2022 Ford F-150 trucks for use in the Warrants Division the purchase of which was approved at the December 7, 2021 meeting.

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Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the additional pricing surcharge of \$2,549 to be added to the approved unit cost of \$33,939 for the four 2022 Ford F-150 half-ton crew cab trucks for use in the Warrants Division that were ordered from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry. The new unit cost is \$36,488 for a total amended cost of \$145,952. SPLOST 2018 funds will cover the additional cost.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,443,847.94.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized and introduced County Extension Coordinator Brandi McGonagill who then recognized and introduced Ms. Morgan Grizzle, Houston County's new ANR Agent.

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

Marilu Cowan, 137 Bear Lake Drive, Warner Robins asked the Board how we can be sure that integrity during the voting process is maintained.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that the staff and the Board of Elections members do a fantastic job running local elections fairly and efficiently. He offered to make an appointment for her and three others to visit the Board of Elections offices to experience a walk-through of the process.

Ms. Cowan thanked the Chairman and assured him that her and her husband's past experiences during elections in Houston have been very good. She remarked that she had recently offered to volunteer as a poll worker in future elections.

Chief Stoner thanked the Board for their support of the application for the Assistance to Firefighters grant. He then gave a short weather brief concerning the potential for ice accumulation Friday and Saturday.

There being no further 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.

Mr. Walker remarked that he was glad we could recognize so many 30-year employees for their service as well as the other great employees who have reached their 15- and 20-year anniversaries.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting and also congratulated all employees who have reached milestones in their service to the County.

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Mr. Perdue thanked Director of Purchasing Mark Baker for his efforts especially with finding and procuring vehicles during this difficult time.

Mr. Byrd delighted in the celebration of so many long-serving County employees coupled with the hiring of a new employee as well. He particularly was thankful for employees in law enforcement, first responders, on-call utility workers, and others who are on-call after hours, on weekends, and on holidays. He also recognized the efforts of staff members within the Personnel Department, the Accounting Department and the MIS Department who have worked so diligently on the County's new payroll system which is now in use.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday February 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the courthouse in Perry.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner