

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**May 17, 2022**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 17, 2022, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, 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, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Capt. Mikki Quinones, State Court Clerk Teresa Hathaway, Chief Magistrate Angela Sammons, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Senior Animal Control Officer Alan Smith, Houston County Extension Coordinator Brandi McGonagill, Houston County 4-H Agent Samantha Price, Tom McMichael, Dan Perdue, Steve Williams, Jacqueline Rozier, Shane Gottwals, Keith Newton, Fred Thompson.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Houston County Extension Coordinator Brandi McGonagill and 4-H Coordinator Samantha Price who introduced senior 4-H member Evelyn Day. Ms. Day is representing Houston 4-H in an upcoming State competition in June having already competed in our 41-county district in their Project Achievement program. She made her presentation to the Board titled "What Inspires You?!" which focused on the key points of defining hobbies or passions; cultivating our interests; using our talents to serve others; and becoming the best versions of ourselves. The Chairman and each commissioner congratulated Ms. Day on her public speaking abilities and achievements wishing her well in the upcoming competition. Ms. Day then introduced her parents and one of her sisters who were in attendance. Ms. McGonagill described Ms. Day as a shining star in 4-H who also served as a district officer during the year.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for renewal of three court reporter contracts for the Superior Court.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Superior Court employment contracts for court reporters Wendy Nelson, Connie Montgomery, and Joy Malone for terms beginning July 1, 2022 an ending June 30, 2023.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for a renewal of the Leachate Hauling Contract with Mid Georgia Trucking.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Landfill leachate hauling contract to Mid Georgia Trucking of Jeffersonville, GA at a rate of \$200 per load and a minimum of three loads per day / five days per week. This is a one-year contract effective May 18, 2022 and will be charged to the Solid Waste Disposal budget.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid for the demolition of the Wilkes Garage at the corner of Old Hwy. 96 and Hwy. 247.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the demolition of the old Wilkes Garage located at 501 Hwy. 247, Bonaire, GA to Carpenter Construction at a total cost of \$19,800. SPLOST 2018 will fund this project.

Mr. Byrd presented a deannexation request for property at 113 East Bob White Road submitted by the Frederick Thompson Living Trust.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve a Resolution for Deannexation of Land for the deannexation of the small parcel of land owned by Frederick Thompson, Trustee of the Frederick Thompson Living Trust and authorize the signing of the appropriate resolution to be sent to the City of Warner Robins. The land is more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 248 of the Tenth Land District of Houston County, Georgia, known and designated as Tract "800-A", containing 0.18 acres, according to a plat of survey entitled "Re-Subdivision of Woodlands of Houston Lot 800 of Phase 6, Section 1A in the City of Warner Robins," prepared by McLeod Surveying, certified by Marty A. McLeod, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2991, dated July 30, 2021, a copy of which is of record in Map Book 82, Page 319, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. A copy of which is attached to the resolution for Deannexation of Land as Exhibit "A", and the copy thereof is incorporated herein for all purposes.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the deannexation process begins with the property owner requesting it from the County and then the County forwards that deannexation onto the city for their consideration. The city has the final say so in this process. In this particular case, this property was annexed by an existing property owner and then that property owner conveyed it to an individual in the unincorporated area who wishes to plat the two properties as one in the unincorporated area of the county. Chairman Stalnaker recognized both parties in this deannexation request, Mr. Newton and Mr. Thompson, but neither had any further information to add.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to table the recommendation to raise the Solid Waste Collections rate to allow for additional information to be considered before action is taken.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to renew contracts with NAMI of Central GA and Empowered Living Counseling & Life Coaching LLC to provide services for the Houston County Accountability Court.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract for services with NAMI of Central Georgia to provide transportation services for participants of the Houston County Accountability Court; and, to sign with Empowered Living Counseling & Life Coaching LLC to provide therapeutic counseling services and healthcare education for participants of the Houston County Accountability Court. Both contract terms will be effective July 1, 2022 and terminate June 30, 2023.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on six new 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV's.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of six new 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV's for use in the Sheriff's Department (5 in Patrol & 1 in Traffic) from Ginn Motor Company of Covington, GA at a unit cost of \$40,660 for a total amount of \$243,960. SPLOST 2018 will fund the purchase of these vehicles.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Baker for his work locating these vehicles as they have become very hard to find.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on maintenance contracts for public safety vehicles.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the vehicle maintenance contracts for public safety vehicles to Five Star Ford of Warner Robins and Phil Brannen Ford of Perry effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 with a 1-year option for extension.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of inmate work detail agreements with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract with the Georgia Department of Corrections to provide the County with five inmate work details for the McEver Probation Detention Center at a cost of \$49,318 per detail. The contract will be effective July 1, 2022 and will expire June 30, 2023. Total cost to the County is \$246,590.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that hopefully the inmate crews would be able to maintain the level of workforce they had pre-COVID.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of moving the Flournoy Road paving project to the 2006 SPLOST list.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve moving the paving of Flournoy Road from the 2001 SPLOST projects list to the 2006 SPLOST projects list as HC06-30.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a letter of commitment for a 25% match for the Houston County Water Department Emergency Generator project GEMA grant.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve a 25% match, equal to \$102,450, for the Houston County Water Department Emergency Generator project GEMA grant in the amount of \$102,450. These funds would come from Water Capital Funds.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Chief Stoner if he felt confident about this grant coming to fruition.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 55

Chief Stoner replied that he did since it has already made it through the primary state level for approval and has now been pushed up to the federal level.

Ms. Robinson presented a Senior Magistrate agreement.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Senior Magistrate agreement with Judge Robert E. Turner effective upon execution by both parties and expiring on the last day of the current Chief Magistrate's term of office.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Chief Magistrate Sammons and remarked that he looks forward to her leadership at the Magistrate Court.

Mr. Walker presented a request to fill the vacant Assistant Public Defender position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring David Jennings for the vacant Assistant Public Defender position at a Grade 27-E effective May 18, 2022.

Mr. Walker presented a request to fill the vacant Magistrate Court judge position.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Lisa Williams for the vacant Magistrate Court Judge position at a Grade 34-E effective May 18, 2022.

Mr. Walker presented a request to enter into a Criminal Case Electronic Filing Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to enter into a Criminal Case Electronic Filing Agreement with Greencourt Legal Technologies, LLC of Carrollton GA on a month-to-month basis for \$500 per month beginning July 1, 2022.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of a change order on the bathroom renovations and the Probate Court area.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #1 with ICB Construction Group of Macon on the Renovation of Restrooms and Probate Court Area project increasing the original contract sum of \$178,539.00 by \$140,000.00 for an amended contract total of \$318,539. The contract time is increased by 150 days for a new completion date of September 30, 2022.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of a change order on the State Court Expansion project.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #5 with ICB Construction Group of Macon on the State Court Expansion project increasing the contract sum of \$19,475,390.53 by \$159,893.18 for an amended contract total of \$19,635,283.71. There is no change in contract time.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of a bid on a furniture package for the new State Court Expansion project.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the furniture package for the State Court Expansion project to Phillips Furniture of Warner Robins in the amount of \$494,576.80 with a required 50% deposit at time of order.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,613,116.98.

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

Barbara Williams, 235 W. Houston Drive, Kathleen remarked that she came to the meeting tonight because she had heard that the paving of W. Houston Drive was to be discussed.

Chairman Stalnaker replied that the paving of the road was not an agenda item tonight although it has been discussed in the past. He further stated that there are no concrete plans for the paving of the road as the County has been experiencing issues obtaining the necessary right of way from different estates up and down the road. There will also be an issue with the railroad crossing at Hwy. 247 since it will have to be widened. He thanked Ms. Williams for bringing her concerns back to the County's attention. He commented that when the paving is accomplished the road will become a rather busy thoroughfare running between Piney Grove Road and Hwy. 247.

Ms. Williams agreed but stated that they already experience a lot of traffic speeding, throwing up dirt, and dumping trash and dead animals.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Ms. Williams to confer with Mr. Dunbar about the progress that has been made on the potential project.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened Commissioners Comments.

Mr. Byrd thanked everyone for being in attendance or for watching via the live stream. He remarked that the Commissioners all had an opportunity recently to spend time with Water Department employees at an appreciation lunch. He thanked them publicly for their service to the citizens of Houston County. Secondly, he encouraged everyone to vote as early voting continues through this Friday followed by election day on Tuesday, May 24th.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the election turnout thus far has been much higher than he expected in the local elections and also higher statewide than it was four years ago. If a runoff election is necessary, it will be held on June 21st.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and being here tonight. She is looking forward to having Ms. Lisa Williams working with Judge Sammons at the Magistrate Court remarking that she has worked with her in the past and that she is an excellent attorney. She thanked Ms. Hathaway, all the other department heads, and each County employee for their hard work moving the County forward.

Mr. Walker recognized all the outstanding County employees who go about serving our citizens each and every day often in very difficult situations.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 57

Chairman Stalnaker also commended the Water Department employees who are sometimes forgotten as they go about their daily work providing service to our community. He related a recent personal experience that he had with a water leak and the service crew that repaired it remarking that they were extremely hard-working and very efficient. He also mentioned that the County does plan on recognizing the utility companies and first responders next week for their response to the recent tornado in Bonaire. He then spoke of two companies that have come to Houston County largely due to the efforts of the Houston County Development Authority. One being the 68-megawatt, 700-acre Houston Solar project by Silicon Ranch that will generate enough power for 11,000 homes and the other being the Jack Link's beef jerky manufacturing facility that will create up to 800 jobs.

Mr. Byrd agreed with the Chairman's comments about both significant economic development projects which align perfectly with our community's personality.

Mr. Walker recognized former commissioner Tom McMichael for his many years of outstanding service to our County.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson 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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