

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
May 4, 2021  
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday May 4, 2021, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, 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, Sheriff Cullen Talton, Capt. Ronnie Harlowe, Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Tom McMichael, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership COO Dan Rhoades, Georgia Power Area Manager Scott Cox, Walton Wood, Dave Cyr, Bill Loudermilk, Michelle Delaney- Field Representative for Congressman Austin Scott.

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Lt. Col. Timothy Meerstein, USAF led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and detailed his 20-year military career. Currently serving as the Deputy Group Commander with the 5th Combat Communications Group he has been at Robins AFB for nearly a year. He grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management Information Systems at Michigan Technological University through the ROTC program. Later in his career he earned his MBA in Technology Management through the University of Phoenix and a Master of Arts at the U.S. Naval War College. His first duty assignment was at Offutt AFB, NB and then on to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Leaving Ohio, he spent a year at the USMC Expeditionary Warfare School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA before deploying to Aviano AB, Italy where he served as a Communications Flight Commander and then Chief of Maintenance. He went on to serve as an analyst on the Joint Staff at Suffolk, VA; at Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, FL; Incirlik AB, Turkey; the Pentagon; and the U.S. Naval War College before coming to Robins AFB in June of 2020. He is married with three children.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized CEO Dave Cyr and Facilities Planning Manager Bill Loudermilk of Parrish Construction Group who, in honor of the County's 200th anniversary, presented each Board member a commemorative wooden plaque in the shape of Houston County that was made from the wood of a cherry tree cut in Houston County. They thanked the Commissioners for what each of them do for the community and also presented the same plaque to both Sheriff Talton and Chief Stoner for their service to the County. Chairman Stalnaker thanked both and praised them for being assets to the community.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 20, 2021.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2461 thru #2485.

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

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1944

- Special Exception Application #2461 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2462 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2463 was recommended to table.
- Special Exception Application #2464 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2465 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2466 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2467 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2468 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2469 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2470 was recommended to table.
- Special Exception Application #2471 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2472 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2473 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2474 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2475 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2476 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2477 was recommended to table.
- Special Exception Application #2478 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2479 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2480 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2481 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2482 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2483 there was no opposition.
- Special Exception Application #2484 was recommended to table.
- Special Exception Application #2485 was withdrawn by applicant.

As there were no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the following special exception applications for home occupations to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 staff report:

- #2461, #2462, #2464, #2465, #2466, #2467, #2468, #2469, #2471, #2472, #2473, #2474, #2476, #2478, #2480, #2481, #2482, and #2483

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to table the following special exception applications for home occupations and send back to Zoning & Appeals for reconsideration:

- #2463, #2470, #2477, and #2484

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following special exception applications for permitted use:

- #2475 and #2479.

Mr. Andrews gave the applicants 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.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1945

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Holland to note for the record that application #2485 had been withdrawn by the applicant and therefore required no action.

Mr. Perdue presented a request for abandonment of right-of-way for property located at 302 Heritage Drive.

Motion by Mr. Perdue, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the Board of Commissioners signing the resolution and the Deeds of Abandonment abandoning the 50' unopened right-of-way located adjacent to 302 Heritage Drive Warner Robins, Georgia in the unincorporated area of Houston County described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate lying and being in Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as "Saffold Ave." between Lot 1 of Block "E" and Lot 10 of Block "A" of the Heritage Subdivision on a land survey which is recorded in Plat Book 11, Page 245, in the Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

This conveyance is subject to any easement for drainage or utilities presently existing within the above-described property.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Spann and asked him to follow up with County Attorney Hall concerning the recording of the appropriate deeds.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Superior Court Accountability Court to renew contracts with NAMI of Central GA, Empowered Living Counseling, & Life Coaching LLC, and Infinite Health Wellness LLC.

Motion by Mr. Walker, 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 NAMI of Central Georgia, Empowered Living Counseling & Life Coaching LLC, and Infinite Health Wellness LLC to provide therapeutic counseling services and healthcare education for participants of the Houston County Accountability Court. Each of the four contract terms will be effective July 1, 2021 and terminate June 30, 2022.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on two full matrix portable message boards for use by the Public Works department.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two full matrix portable message boards to American Signal Company of Atlanta for use by the Public Works at a unit cost of \$13,875 each or \$27,750 total. This equipment purchase is funded by HOST fees.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the City of Centerville for the Houston County Board of Elections to conduct their elections for the 2021 election year.

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

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1946

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this is the third city that the Board of Elections is handling the election process for and he felt that it was a step in the right direction to have elections under one agency. He also thanked the Board and the staff for taking on the responsibilities for these elections.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Perdue and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,215,534.11.

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

Sheriff Talton thanked the Board of Commissioners on behalf of his department for the recent pay raises. He also thanked Commissioner Robinson for attending the recent budget meetings held at the Sheriff Department.

Chief Stoner updated everyone on the storm system that passed through the County yesterday afternoon resulting in an unfortunate loss of life. He asked that everyone keep the Harris family in their thoughts and prayers. He stated that there was a fantastic response from multiple agencies that came out to assist the family. The storm was relatively uneventful until it hit the Hwy. 96 and Old Perry Road corridor when the winds intensified up to 60 mph plus. Another round of storms is coming today late afternoon through the evening hours. He reminded everyone to please stay alert. There was another death over the weekend on I-75 in which a resident of the County lost her life in a motorcycle accident.

The Board thanked Chief Stoner and his staff for their efforts dealing with these types of disasters.

There being no further 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.

Mr. Byrd thanked Sheriff Talton and Capt. Harlowe for their service to the citizens of the County. He recognized Michelle Delaney, Field Representative for Congressman Austin Scott's office, and thanked her for attending. He commented on another example of cooperation between the cities and the County with the execution of the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Centerville on their elections. Lastly, he reminded everyone that May was Mental Health Awareness Month and encouraged everyone to be mindful of the signals that may be present in family, friends or loved ones and to be ready to reach out with a helping hand.

Mr. Perdue recognized Sheriff Talton, Capt. Harlowe and former Commissioner Tom McMichael. He remarked that it was great to see so many people ready to help celebrate the County's 200th anniversary which will kick-off shortly after this meeting. He related that it is also Teacher Appreciation Week this week and thanked all those teachers who help to serve our children in the school system. He commented that this County has done a great job balancing the needs of students for instruction along with proper risk mitigation during the pandemic.

Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1947

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Sheriff Talton and Capt. Harlowe for including her in the budget meetings for the department.

Mr. Walker thanked Sheriff Talton, Capt. Harlowe and former Commissioner McMichael for attending.

Chairman Stalnaker expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Talton for his friendship and for the manner with which he operates the Sheriff Department exhibiting cooperation not only with the County and the three cities but all other agencies as well. He thanked Capt. Harlowe as well for his efforts along with all other County department heads in attendance. Thursday of this week is also National Nurses Day, and they deserve our respect and appreciation as well. He commented on the birthdays last week of two former County Commissioners Mr. Tom McMichael and Mr. Jim Carter. He also wished Commissioner Walker a happy birthday as his is tomorrow. He mentioned the 200th anniversary celebration and commented that the five current Board members were standing on the shoulders of those who came before them.

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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