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**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**October 20, 2015**

**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, District Attorney George Hartwig, Utilities Superintendent Dan Walker, Treatment Plant Manager Grady Trussell, Walt & Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, James Erdmanczyk, Senior Vice-President Flint Energies Jimmy Autry, Dr. Michelle Masters and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner Robinson led the audience in the Invocation.

Eustacio Rivera, 97-year old former US Army PFC and WWII veteran, was assisted by his son Tony who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then shared some thoughts about his father’s military career. Tony related that due to his father’s small stature one of his main duties was delivering munitions to his fellow soldiers in combat. Mr. Rivera participated in the Normandy invasion during Operation Overlord which was the largest amphibious invasion to ever take place. Tony, along with his four siblings, was inspired by his father to also serve in the military. Chairman Stalnaker remarked that all WWII veterans were true American heroes and should not be forgotten.

Chairman Stalnaker read a proclamation recognizing November as Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) awareness month for Type 1 diabetes in Houston County and introduced Belinda Enamorado who volunteers with the Middle Georgia JDRF. Ms. Enamorado explained that the JDRF is the largest privately funded organization for research into the disease and is committed to finding a cure for diabetes. Three juveniles who suffer with the disease were present along with their families and spoke about raising awareness about Type I diabetes. Ms. Enamorado complimented the Houston County school system for having a full-time nurse or CNA at each school to care for the children’s health. Dr. Michelle Masters, Assistant Superintendent for School Operations, recognized the importance of the program.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized three young men for their accomplishments and selections to play in the All-American Bowls: Darion Anderson, defensive back and wide receiver for Houston County High; and Logan Byrd, quarterback for Veterans High, both of whom will play in the Semper Fi All-American Bowl sponsored by the Marine Corps in Los Angeles on January 3rd; and Marquez Callaway, wide receiver for Warner Robins High, who will play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome in San Antonio on January 9th. Chairman Stalnaker read and presented each with a framed resolution recognizing them for their efforts both on and off the field. Each young man introduced family members and school officials who were present for the meeting.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the hire of Mr. Ken Robinson for the vacant position of Civil Engineer at a Grade 25-F effective October 27, 2015.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the hire of Mr. Robert Wilson for the vacant position of DA Computer Specialist at a Grade 19-C effective October 21, 2015. After the vote, Chairman Stalnaker recognized District Attorney George Hartwig who introduced Mr. Wilson to the Board.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the setting of qualifying fees for the Special Election candidates for Board of Education District 2 and District 3 as follows:

County Board of Education, District 2 $108.00

County Board of Education, District 3 $108.00

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign a professional services agreement with Engineering Associates, Inc. of Alpharetta covering the completion of Phase I (Inventory and Needs Analysis) and continuing into Phase II (Design Criteria, Alternatives Analysis, and RFP) and Phase III (System Procurement, Contract Negotiations, and System Implementation) of the 800 MHz communications system and components upgrade in the amount of $203,400. This project is funded by SPLOST 2012. Chairman Stalnaker commented that this contract is part of a long process concerning the $6 to 7 million E-911 800 MHz upgrade.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the award of Dunbar Road (from US41/SR11 to Houston Lake Road) improvements project to McCoy Grading, Inc. of Greenville, GA at a total cost of $1,223,281.12. This project is funded by SPLOST 2012. Chairman Stalnaker explained that although this is a SPLOST 2012 project, the State is contributing $200,000 toward the project since it involves a state highway.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign all contract documents necessary with J.K. Duren Company, Inc. of Roswell, GA for the Water System SCADA upgrade in the amount of $233,820. The project is funded by Water System capital funds.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the current Water system communications system is old and has been problematic for years. He recognized Water Superintendent Dan Walker and Water Treatment Manager Grady Trussell who both indicated that this proposed system was the best fit for the County’s needs. Dan explained that the recurring costs associated with this system would average $6,600 per year over the next ten years. The project would likely begin at the first of the calendar year and be fully implemented by the end of May. He explained that the project would have to run parallel with the old system and be phased-in to minimize down-time.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling $2,725,825.82.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

James Erdmanczyk, 123 S. Third Street, Apartment 9, Warner Robins spoke of a recent experience he had with the Tax/Tag Department and commented that the TAVT calculator found online was a little misleading for citizens.

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Ansel Peck, 109 Latham Drive, Warner Robins spoke of a recent overnight stay in Houston Healthcare Hospital in which he was very impressed with the quality of care and dedication of staff.

Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar acknowledged both Dan Walker and Grady Trussell for their long years of excellent service to the Water Department.

There being no further public comments, the meeting was continued.

The Chairman then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Chairman Stalanker recognized Jimmy Autry.

Mr. Walker recognized all of the outstanding employees of the County and stated that it was a pleasure to hear Mr. Rivera’s story.

Ms. Robinson thanked Mr. Rivera and all the young people who attended the meeting commenting that it gives her great hope for the future.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the Thursday 10:30 a.m. ground-breaking ceremony for the new fire station on the 247 Spur near the Perdue plant.

Mr. Thomson was thankful for all County employees and the citizens of Houston County.

Mr. McMichael was likewise thankful.

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

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Barry Holland Chairman

Director of Administration

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