

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 22, 2025
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton were present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Operations Brian Jones, and Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar were also present.

Commissioner Robinson led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Talton gave the invocation.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2025, meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Talton, Ms. Robinson, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried. Mr. Byrd abstained as he was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval to support a Family Treatment Court (FTC) within the Juvenile Court.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Juvenile Court to support the Family Treatment Court. As part of this agreement, Houston County will provide a one-time payment of \$89,000 from the Opioid Settlement Fund.

Chairman Perdue thanked Judge Wilburn for bringing this idea to Houston County. He stated that he felt this approach would make a big difference in the lives of those involved.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to enter into an agreement for therapy services in the Accountability Court.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with Nettie Floyd for the provision of therapy services in the Accountability Court. Under this agreement, Ms. Floyd will invoice the County monthly for services rendered at the following rates:

- \$117.00 for each 1.5-hour group therapy session
- \$67.50 for each staffing attended
- \$56.25 for every 30 minutes of assessment
- \$75.00 for each individual client session

Ms. Robinson presented a request to enter a food service contract to provide meals at the Detention Center.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a Food Service Agreement with Kellwell Food Management, Inc., of Beattyville, Kentucky, to manage and implement a food service program to provide meals for the inmates, professional staff, and visitors of the Detention Center. The cost of the contract will be based on a pricing scale determined by the number of meals provided.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a change order on the two rescue trucks ordered in 2024.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals and carried unanimously by all to approve change order #2 with Rosenbauer of Decatur, Alabama, in the amount of \$975 per truck bringing the total vehicle price to \$506,129 per truck. This purchase will be paid for using ARPA and SPLOST funds, with this change order being funded by the 2018 SPLOST. There will be no additional time to the delivery schedule.

Mr. Talton presented a request to approve a bid on two new Dodge Chargers.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from Premier Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Troy, AL, in the amount of \$55,000 each for two new 2023 Dodge Chargers for use in the Sheriff's Department. This purchase for the total amount of \$110,000 will be funded using 2018 SPLOST funds.

Chairman Perdue thanked the Purchasing Department and the Sheriff's Office for collaborating to find these vehicles.

Mr. Talton presented a request for the adjustment of fees at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve implementing a residential contracted municipal solid waste rate for curbside collection of \$26.97 and a gate rate of \$30.97 for all other commercial municipal solid waste. Also, to increase the host fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per ton for all out-of-county waste. Effective October 25, 2025.

Chairman Perdue stated that capital improvements, cell construction, and equipment costs are extremely high at the Landfill, which is one of the reasons for the rate adjustments. He further commented that a rate study was conducted and that these adjustments are appropriate to cover future landfill expansion, capital expenses, regulatory costs, and operational costs. He expressed appreciation to the landfill staff and the County's consultant for their work in developing the recommendations. He noted the lower disposal fee for residential curbside collection contracts within Houston County.

Mr. Talton thanked Public Works staff and Atlantic Coast Consulting personnel for their assistance and work on this rate adjustment recommendation.

Mr. Byrd commented that this action prioritizes the needs of all citizens in Houston County by ensuring the longevity of the landfill.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Jeffery Coker to fill the vacant Heavy Equipment Operator position at a grade 13, Step B, effective July 23, 2025.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for a one-step increase for Steven Franklin, Water Treatment Operator, in recognition of his recent achievement in obtaining his Georgia Water Treatment Operator Class 2 License.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve a one-step increase for Mr. Steven Franklin, effective August 4, 2025.

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Chairman Perdue recognized Mr. Franklin for his certification and thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support in rewarding employees who attain education, certifications, and training above and beyond what is required for their current assignment.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid for the 2025 Joint Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Road Project. The bid amount represents a joint bid for LMIG projects for Byron, Centerville, Perry, Warner Robins, and Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid from C.W. Matthews Contracting Company of Bolingbroke, GA, in the total amount of \$7,347,216.01. The portion of this bid allocated for work on roads in unincorporated Houston County is \$2,949,280.94, which will be funded through LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant), LRA (Local Road Assistance), and 2018 SPLOST funds.

Chairman Perdue commented on the work being performed by C.W. Matthews on Elberta Road, stating that the work has not met his satisfaction time-wise, but expressing hope that the project will be completed shortly. He further noted that, with the County and several cities partnering under the LMIG IGA, the County is committed to working with C.W. Matthews on these resurfacing projects.

Mr. Byrd presented a request to write off bad debt in the Water Fund and Solid Waste Fund for FY 25.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the write-off of \$23,344.93 of bad debt in the Water Fund and \$28,290.98 (\$27,482.58 for Collections and \$800.40 for Disposal) of bad debt in the Solid Waste Fund for FY25. These amounts are less than 1% of all revenues collected in these departments, and efforts will be made to continue to collect this bad debt.

Chairman Perdue noted that these bad debt numbers were extremely low and that the County would continue its efforts to recover these costs. He stated that the County needed to take this action to close out the fiscal year for audit purposes.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$ 3,321,510.31.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Gottwals commented on how quickly the summer has passed and that school would be in session soon. He asked that everyone keep the teachers and the students in their prayers.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and recognized the City of Centerville's new mayor, Michael Evans, and thanked him for attending.

Mr. Talton echoed Mr. Gottwals's comments regarding the start of the new school year and remembering the teachers and students as they begin in the coming days. He concluded by recognizing Assistant District Attorney Mike Smith for being recognized as the ADA of the Year in Georgia.

Mr. Byrd commented on the twenty-one County employees recognized earlier in the day for the combined over 400 years of experience. He recognized Mayor Evans, and Assistant District Attorney Mike Smith. He concluded by giving condolences to the family of former Mayor of Perry Lewis Meeks on his recent passing.

Chairman Perdue addressed the role of local government in critical services delivery to citizens, emphasizing the importance of taxation and the process of setting the millage rate. He discussed the vision for the future, balancing tax rates with constituent services, and the need for fiscal restraint and government efficiency. He referenced the FY26 budget, highlighting Houston County's leadership in delivering strong value for the tax dollar. Chairman Perdue also spoke about the importance of teamwork, with citizens viewed as integral members of that team. He referenced Representative Blackmon's op-ed on the floating homestead tax exemption and its potential impact on constituent services. He recognized Centerville Mayor Mike Evans and thanked him for attending. He concluded by giving his condolences to the family of Gene Gibson, who had recently passed.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve adjourning the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner