

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
October 21, 2025
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21, 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 Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

Commissioner Byrd led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Perdue delivered the Invocation. Following this, Mrs. Perdue provided an overview of the foster parent support group Families 4 Families, highlighting their mission to connect foster families with local churches. She shared that the organization, which began in 2017, is on track to become a statewide initiative. Mrs. Perdue concluded by noting that Middle Georgia, encompassing 15 counties, has a foster care entry rate more than twice that of metro Atlanta.

Each Commissioner expressed thanks to Mrs. Perdue for her work with the Families 4 Families organization, for her support of children in foster care and for her service to Georgia's children through this and other organizations.

Chairman Perdue stated that the presentation recognizing Kaleb Brown would have to be postponed for personal reasons but would be rescheduled for a future meeting.

Chairman Perdue read a proclamation about Retired Educators Day, which is to be recognized on November 2nd, and presented it to members of the Houston County Retired Educators Association.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the meeting minutes of the October 7, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement with the Houston County School District for the construction of a STEM academy. This agreement, in the amount of \$5,000,000, will be funded through the General Fund reserve and remitted upon the execution of the contract for building construction. Also, to approve the Accounting Department to make any necessary budgetary adjustments.

Mr. Talton spoke about the importance of this action to Houston County, Robins Air Force Base, and the middle Georgia region and the wide-ranging benefits that this STEM High School will bring.

Mr. Byrd spoke about the workforce and economic development benefits from this STEM high school. He expressed his appreciation to the State of Georgia, Central Georgia Tech, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Houston County Board of Education, and the County for working together to make this idea a reality. He concluded by saying that there will also be a healthcare component available at this school, providing a huge benefit.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to enter into a MOU with the City of Montezuma for disposal of our leachate.

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Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Montezuma for the disposal of leachate transported from the Houston County landfill to the two City of Montezuma's wastewater treatment facilities; Spring Creek Water Reclamation Facility, and Drayton Road Industrial Pretreatment Facility. The disposal rate to the City of Montezuma shall be seven point seven cents (\$0.077) per gallon.

Chairman Perdue explained that this would not be the disposal site for the landfill's leachate. It would be a secondary location in case the primary location, the City of Warner Robin's wastewater treatment plant, became temporarily unavailable. He expressed his appreciation to the City of Montezuma for allowing their wastewater treatment plant to be a back-up location and to the City of Warner Robins for their longstanding acceptance of Houston County Landfill's leachate.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of the final adjusting Change Order #2 for the Waterline Extension to serve Hwy 341 & Graham Road.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to table signing the final adjusting Change Order #2 with Pyles Plumbing & Utility Contractors, Inc., of Macon, Georgia, decreasing the contract amount by \$69,590.50. This decrease will bring the total contract amount to \$1,463,735.50. Retainage is being held in the amount of \$15,000 for grassing.

Chairman Perdue stated that staff had determined that this action should be tabled while determining how to utilize and possibly move the remaining ARPA grant dollars.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,829,480.36.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

Rev. Dr. Rutha Jackson spoke about her views on voting and districts versus at-large representation.

Mr. Bob Floyd spoke about his concerns in the Lashley subdivision blighted properties and road conditions.

Ms. Maureen Icarro spoke about her concerns on the proposed annexation of land in the County by the City of Warner Robins along Duskmore Drive and Lake Joy Road.

Mr. BC Smith and Karol Matthews spoke on the upcoming Bible reading marathon at the County Annex.

Mr. Daryl Allen spoke about his views on the development going on in Houston County, and annexation of property into the Cities.

With no further Public Comments Chairman Perdue asked for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Gottwals thanked everyone for attending the meeting and recognized his eldest daughter Millie, who was in attendance. He spoke about the Board's efforts to operate the County as efficiently and effectively as possible. He concluded by highlighting the hours spent preparing for the meetings, emphasizing that the meetings are not a show, but the place where official votes are cast and decisions are finalized.

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Mr. Talton thanked everyone for attending and addressed the topic of annexations by the Cities. He explained that the Board must operate within the bounds of the law when determining what they do and do not concur with. He concluded by referencing earlier comments regarding the Lashley Subdivision, stating that the County has been working to bring change to the area. However, he emphasized that meaningful change will take time to be implemented effectively.

Mr. Byrd thanked everyone for attending and spoke about the diligent work of the Board to provide a high level of service to the citizens of Houston County in the most cost-effective manner possible. He addressed the topic of education on the agenda, highlighting the significant benefits and positive outcomes the new STEM High School will bring to Houston County and the surrounding region. He encouraged everyone to vote and to support the ESPLOST on the ballot. He concluded his remarks by congratulating the Georgia National Fair on achieving record attendance and recognized Perry's Ghost Runner Pizza for being selected to provide a meal for the Georgia Bulldogs football team.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and expressed her appreciation to Mary Perdue for attending the meeting and speaking about the Families 4 Families organization.

Chairman Perdue thanked everyone for attending and commented on the boisterous and lively nature of the meeting. He congratulated the City of Warner Robins on the recent ribbon cutting event at the Haven Hope House and spoke about the positive impact the initiative will have on Warner Robins and Houston County. He expressed his appreciation that the County was able to provide financial support during the construction phase of the building. Chairman Perdue also recognized Warner Robins City Councilman Larry Curtis, Jr., who was present at the meeting. He concluded his remarks by reflecting on the word "care," emphasizing to those in attendance that this Board cares deeply about the community, and that neither he nor the members would be serving if they did not care about Houston County.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

