

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
February 21, 2017
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 21, 2017 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Robinson and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, HEMA Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Water Treatment Supervisor Grady Trussell, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, Walton and Becky Wood and Ansel Peck.

Commissioner McMichael led the audience in the Invocation.

SPC-4 Joseph Wiggins, US Army led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his 12-year military career. Beginning his service in 2002 he completed basic training and went to Korea for two years as an Apache helicopter mechanic. He then spent five years at Ft. Hood, Texas during which time he deployed to Iraq for fifteen months. He later served at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah. He was deployed for twelve months to Afghanistan and then again, the next year for nine months. He now lives with his family in Houston County.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Lee Smallwood with Utility Service Company of Perry who in turn introduced Tnemec Representative Dean Drehoff, and Suez Senior VP Jonathan Kato and then presented the People's Choice Award for Tnemec's Water Tank of the Year contest to Houston County for its patriotic-themed Highway 96 tank.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized and thanked Grady 'Junior' Trussell who is retiring after 40 years of service to the Houston County Water System. Junior thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the County and recounted how much the water system has grown over his 40 years of service remarking that this past year 5.254 billion gallons were delivered to customers.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 7, 2017.

Chairman Stalnaker and County Attorney Tom Hall presented a request for authorization to sign an engagement letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners with the Barnes Law Group, LLC; Evangelista Worley, LLC and Harris Penn Lawry, LLP.

The Barnes Law Group represent over thirty Georgia counties in a lawsuit against certain telecommunications providers alleging that 911 fees have not been billed, collected and remitted to local governments as required by Georgia law. Cobb, Gwinnett, and Macon-Bibb are just a few of the counties that have already joined the suit.

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The Barnes Law Group, working in conjunction with the forensic auditing firm Expert Discovery, would be entitled to 35 percent of any recovered fees going back three years and forward two years. If no funds are recovered, there is no cost to the County

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize County Attorney Tom Hall signing the engagement letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners with the Barnes Law Group, LLC; Evangelista Worley, LLC; and Harris Penn Lawry, LLP to retain as special legal counsel for Houston County in connection with the recovery of underpaid, uncollected and/or unremitted E-911 fees due to the County from certain telecommunications providers; and to sign the professional audit and litigation support services contract and trade secrets non-disclosure agreement with Expert Discovery, LLC.

County Attorney Tom Hall presented a first reading of an amendment to the Houston County Code of Ordinances concerning the prohibition of heavy truck traffic on Napier Avenue. The Houston County Code of Ordinance Chapter 62 - Traffic and Vehicles; Article 1 - In General would be amended adding a new section titled Sec. 62-6 Truck Traffic Prohibited on Napier Avenue. Chairman Stalnaker commented that he has been contacted by several citizens seeking relief and that the ordinance and signage that will be posted should help with the problem. A second reading and public hearing will be held at the March 7, 2017 Board meeting after which action may be taken.

County Attorney Tom Hall presented a second reading of an amendment to the Houston County Code of Ordinances concerning changes to the Houston County Water Resource Ordinance and Stormwater Local Design Manual (LDM). The changes outlined in the amendment are necessary to satisfy new EPD requirements. A first reading was held at the February 7, 2017 Board meeting.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for a Public Hearing.

There being no comments the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve adopting the amendments to the Houston County Water Resource Ordinance and Stormwater Local Design Manual (LDM) set out below:

Stormwater Local Design Manual (LDM) Revisions

Section 1. Forward

“This manual is meant to serve as a comprehensive guide to implementing stormwater management systems in Houston County, Georgia. Additionally, the manual is designed to supplement the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (GSMM) First Edition, which shall serve as the technical manual for design and specification of individual components within the system.”

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- Replace “First Edition” with “Current Edition”

Section 3.2.3 Wet Detention Ponds

“Wet detention ponds may be constructed if the facilities are designed to the criteria outlined in Section 3.2.1.5 of the GSMM (Volume 2).”

- Replace “Section 3.2.1.5” with section “4.25.5”

Section 3.3.1 General Application Structural Stormwater Controls

“The following general application structural stormwater controls shall be acceptable to meet the water quality requirements for the contributing drainage areas. For design, construction and maintenance specifications for each control, the reader is directed to Section 3.2 of the GSMM (Volume 2).”

- Replace “Section 3.2” with “Chapter 4”

Section 3.3.2 Limited Application Structural Controls

“The following limited application structural stormwater controls shall be acceptable to meet the water quality requirements for the contributing drainage areas. For design, construction and maintenance specifications for each control, the reader is directed to Section 3.3 of the GSMM (Volume 2).”

- Replace “Section 3.3” with “Chapter 4”

Section 3.4 Channel Protection Design

“Outlets to provide for meeting channel protection criteria shall be designed to meet the standards outlined in Section 2.3.3 and Section 2.3.5 of the GSMM (Volume 2).”

- Replace “Section 2.3.3 and Section 2.3.5” with “Section 3.4.3 and Section 3.4.5”

Section 4.1.1. Rational Method

“The rational method may be used with the approval of Houston County Engineering Department or its Agent to develop peak runoff flows for culverts with contributing drainage areas less than 10 acres in size and for detention ponds with contributing drainage areas less than 1 acre in size. All computations shall be in accordance with Section 2.1.4 of the GSMM (Volume 2). Rainfall intensities shall be derived from Table A-8 of Appendix A of the GSMM (Volume 2).”

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- Replace “Section 2.1.4” with “Section 3.1.4”
- Remove “Table A-8 of”

Section 4.1.2 SCS Method

“In most cases, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) method must be utilized To size detention ponds with contributing drainage areas greater than 1 acre and, culverts with contributing drainage areas greater than 10 acres. All computations shall be in accordance with Section 2.1.5 of the GSMM (Volume 2). Rainfall depths shall be derived from Table A-8 of Appendix A of the GSMM (Volume 2). The following table also provides the rainfall depths for use in Houston County:”

- Replace “Section 2.1.5” with “Section 3.1.5”
- Remove “Table A-8 of”

Section 4.2 Hydraulic Calculations

“All hydraulic calculations shall be made in accordance with Chapter 4 of the GSMM (Volume 2).

- Replace “Chapter 4” with “Chapter 5”

Section 6.5.1. Maps

“Drainage basin delineations showing the point at which the contributing area of the project represents 10% of the total drainage basin area as defined in Section 2.1.9.2 of the GSMM.

Identify culverts, channels and other structural stormwater controls that the stormwater runoff must pass through prior to the 10% point identified previously.”

- Replace “Section 2.1.9.2” with “Section 3.1.9.2

Article VI Section 10.3(c) Effectivity, Validity and Liability

“No provision of this ordinance shall permit any persons to violate the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975 or current amendment, the Georgia Water Quality Control Act or the rules and regulations promulgated and approved thereunder or pollute any Waters of the State as defined thereby.”

- Include the phrase “or current amendment” in the E&S ordinance.

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Mr. Thomson presented a request from Public Works staff to release the bond on Phase 4 of Amelia Place Subdivision. Phase 4 has been completed in accordance with the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the release of the maintenance bond (Charter Bank Letter of Credit #22140784) on Amelia Place Subdivision Phase 4.

Mr. Walker presented a proposed retirement plan amendment that would add two employees by name to a list that allows certain former contract employees, who are now County employees, an opportunity to buy back a limited period of time for service performed while a contract employee.

Both employees must notify the County by February 28, 2017 of their intent to participate and the additional credited service must be purchased on or before June 30, 2017.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the resolution to amend the ACCG Defined Benefit Plan for Houston County employees as well as Plan Amendment #3 to permit certain former contract employees to purchase service performed as a contract employee limited, by federal law, to a maximum of five years in the buyback. Any additional credited service purchased must be paid for by lump sum on or before June 30, 2017.

Mr. Walker commented that the ACCG Defined Benefit Board had approved the proposed amendment to the plan last week at its meeting.

Mr. McMichael presented a request from the Sheriff Department Juvenile Division for the purchase of one Ford Explorer. Bids were solicited with four vendors responding. Although Perry Ford is not the low bidder, their bid does fall within the 3% Local Vendor Preference. Purchasing recommends buying this vehicle from Perry Ford for \$25,600.28.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one (1) new 2017 Ford Explorer for use by the Sheriff Department Juvenile Division from Perry Ford at a unit cost of \$25,600.28. Perry Ford is not the low bidder but their bid falls within the 3% Local Vendor Preference. This is a SPLOST 2012 funded vehicle.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that this is a budgeted item.

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Mr. McMichael presented a budget adjustment from the Superior Court. The Law Library Fund will reimburse the County \$48,951.41 which is the total cost of having Cott Systems digitize the existing deeds and realty mortgages in the Superior Court Clerk's office back to mid-1943. This will provide a fully searchable database utilizing Cott's software.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the following budget adjustment:

Increase Expenditures:

100-2150-52.1200 Professional Services	\$48,951.41
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Increase Revenues:

100-0000-39.1200 Operating Transfers In	\$48,951.41
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Mr. Walker remarked that the Library Board had approved the reimbursement for this project at its last meeting.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the Board of Elections to hire workers for the March 21, 2017 Special Election – SPLOST.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of the following workers for the March 21, 2017 Special Election -SPLOST:

17 Managers (Precinct)	\$130.00	\$2,210.00
34 Assistant Managers (Precinct)	90.00	3,060.00
50 Clerks	80.00	4,000.00
101 Training	25.00	2,525.00
7 Janitors	15.50	108.50
3 Janitors	25.00	75.00
81 TS Units	3.00	243.00
2 Election Supply Pick Up	50.00	100.00
3 Election Night Supply Return	50.00	150.00
2 Election Night Check In	50.00	100.00
17 supply pick up / return supplies	10.00	170.00
17 cell phones	10.00	170.00
3 Optical Scan Clerks	100.00	300.00
3 DRE Clerks	100.00	300.00
		<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL		\$13,511.50

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Ms. Robinson presented a request to authorize the signing of Intergovernmental Agreements for Municipal Elections. Each of the agreements with the three cities sets out the responsibilities of the County Board of Elections during all 2017 municipal elections.

Under the agreement with the City of Perry the Board of Elections will conduct all aspects of elections for the city.

Under the agreements with the City of Centerville and the City of Warner Robins, the Board of Elections will provide the cities with the use of the State-owned voting equipment. Centerville and Warner Robins will conduct their own elections.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Perry for the Houston County Board of Elections to conduct its municipal elections for the 2017 election year; and to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with both the City of Centerville, and the City of Warner Robins allowing their use of the State-owned Direct Recording Electronic (D.R.E.) units, Express Poll units, and Optical Scan (O.S.) voting equipment for the 2017 Election year.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$713,690.26.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments.

Loren Clifford, 139 Waterfront Way, Warner Robins addressed the Board on behalf of a dozen or so residents of both Eecheconnee Heights and Pike Acres concerning ongoing code enforcement issues. He explained that the residents need help with these code enforcement issues and spoke about current County ordinances and neighborhood covenants. He stated that the Sheriff's Department had been out numerous times but have told residents that there is only so much that can be done.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that there are areas, including these two subdivisions, that are of great concern in the County as it relates to code enforcement. He further explained that the County does not enforce covenants but that they do have ordinances in place that should be protecting the citizenry.

Caroletta Redd, 135 Whitley Drive, Warner Robins stated that she is the administrator for the neighborhood watch and has met with Sheriff Talton about these issues. According to Ms. Redd, Sheriff Talton suggested she make contact with the Commissioners about these concerns.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked everyone involved for coming and indicated that a meeting between several commissioners, the Sheriff, and other staff and administrative officers would be set-up so that the issue could be discussed.

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There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Commissioners comments.

Ms. Robinson remarked that she appreciated the residents from both Pike Acres and Echeconnee Heights coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns.

Mr. Walker remarked that the residents of both subdivisions should be able to enjoy a nice clean and decent neighborhood.

Mr. Thomson thanked Mr. Wiggins for speaking about his military service and also thanked Houston County Sheriff Deputy Ross for providing security for the meeting.

Mr. McMichael commented that the Board will try its best to help correct the problems in both neighborhoods

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that he understands the frustration of the residents of both neighborhoods and is frustrated himself with the County's apparent inability to bring certain homeowners into compliance. He assured the residents that the County would look into these issues and asked the Board to join him in making a public commitment to making a change to the County's code enforcement efforts. Each commissioner joined the Chairman in making that commitment.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner