

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 5, 2016
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the Houston County Court House in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Director of Human Resources Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, County Attorney Tom Hall, Perry Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Darlene McLendon, Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry, Ansel Peck, James Erdmancyk.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation.

CPO Charles Lewis, US Navy (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his military career. Mr. Lewis joined the Navy after graduating from Perry High School in 1978 and enjoyed assignments in such places as Washington State, Bermuda, Hawaii and Iceland. He enjoyed each location and took what he learned from each to the next command. He stated that each veteran has a call to serve his or her country but he felt that today's servicemen and women face much greater challenges than he had and deserve nothing but praise. He currently owns and proudly operates Houston Locksmith, a business that was started years ago by his father.

Chairman Stalnaker asked for a motion to add an Executive Session for personnel matters to the agenda as Item #6.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to add Item #6 Executive Session to discuss personnel issues as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2) to the agenda.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2015.

County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations that even if the Board of Commissioners approves an application, neighborhood covenants may still impose certain restrictions upon or against home occupation businesses. These restrictive covenants are superior to any action taken by the Board of Commissioners. The actions taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

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Special Exception Applications #1927 thru #1929 for home occupation businesses were presented by Tim Andrews. Mr. Andrews stated that all three applications comply with Section 95 of the Comprehensive Land Development Regulations and that the Board of Zoning & Appeals recommends unanimous approval of each application. He stated that the applicant for #1927 would operate a home office only with tutoring services offered either online or at the customers home; applicant for #1928 would provide personal care for individuals at their home or at an established care facility; and applicant for #1929 would operate a daycare for a maximum of six children ranging in ages from 6 weeks to 12 years old between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm Monday thru Saturday and would comply with all requirements of Bright from the Start and all applicable State agencies.

Mr. Thomson asked if the application for #1928 needed any type of license from the State. Mr. Andrews was unsure but the applicant would be required to meet any and all State regulation as a condition of approval.

Public Hearing

For: Each applicant was present but had no further information to add.

Against: None

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the Special Exception Applications #1927 thru #1929

Mr. Andrews gave each applicant 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.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker, and carried unanimously by all to approve the appointments of Mr. Ben Hulbert and Dr. Joe Richardson to the Houston County Development Authority to fill unexpired terms of Larry Walker III and Shaw Blackmon terms which will expire August 9, 2017.

Mr. Thomson stated that the Development Authority would be well-served by both Dr. Richardson and Mr. Hulbert and also thanked both Representative Shaw Blackmon and Senator Larry Walker III for their service to the Authority.

Chief Williams briefed the Board on the proposed Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan adoption explaining that this third update to the plan was required if the county were to receive any future FEMA disaster funds. He also explained that the cost of the Regional Commission assisting the County and all three municipalities would be reimbursed to the County by grant funds thru GEMA.

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Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to sign a resolution authorizing the adoption of the Houston County Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan 2015 update as prepared by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission.

Mr. Walker complimented the chief and all staff members who participated in the plan update. Mr. Thomson also complimented the Regional Commission for their work.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the setting of qualifying fees for the 2016 General Primary and General Election candidates for county offices as follows:

Judge of Probate Court	\$2,173
Clerk of Superior Court	\$2,173
Sheriff	\$2,425
Tax Commissioner	\$2,173
Coroner	\$ 933
Chief Magistrate	\$2,173
Solicitor-General	\$3,029
County Commissioner – Post 3	\$ 360
County Commissioner – Post 4	\$ 360
County Commissioner – Post 5	\$ 360
Board of Education – District 1	\$ 108
Board of Education – District 3	\$ 108
Board of Education – District 5	\$ 108
Board of Education – District 7 (At Large)	\$ 108

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills in the amount of \$3,215,444.99.

Public Comments:

Mr. James Erdmancyk, 123 S. Third Street, Apartment 9, Warner Robins commented that he had attended the Warner Robins City Council meeting last night observing the swearing-in of Councilwoman Carolyn Robbins, and Councilmen Mike Davis and Tim Thomas by Superior Court Judge Nunn. He also related a discussion with Chief Evans about police patrols in a certain area of town.

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Commissioners Comments:

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Flint Energies Senior VP Jimmy Autry commenting that Flint's rates remain very reasonable compared to other parts of the country. Mr Autry commented that rates in various other parts of the country have increased exponentially. He also commented that the Committee for Excellence in Education asks for citizen's support to continue the 1% ESPLOST for Houston County Schools at the polls on March 1st. Chairman Stalnaker then recognized President/CEO of the Perry Chamber of Commerce Darlene McLendon who spoke of the Chamber's partnership with the City of Perry on the city's recent Buzzard drop event. She also stated that the Chamber had approximately 400 members at the end of the year and reminded everyone that their annual meeting would take place on January 28th at 11:30 am at the Perry Arts Center. Chairman Stalnaker also recognized Jeanne Moyer, Operations Manager for Advanced Disposal, who commented that the County's recycling program had taken in 1,000 tons this past year as compared to 700 tons in 2013.

Each of the Commissioners expressed thanks for a prosperous 2015 and wished everyone a good new year. Chairman Stalnaker also reminded everyone that the resources of the County come from the people of the County and that each improvement or service that the County offers is due to the support of the citizens.

Chairman Stalnaker then called for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2).

Upon returning, Chairman Stalnaker re-opened the Commissioners meeting and announced that there would be no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

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Motion to adjourn by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried
unanimously by all.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner