

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
March 6, 2018  
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 6, 2018 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Robinson, Thomson, and McMichael present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Community Planner Jake Cox, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership Director of Strategy Dan Rhoades, Flint Energies VP of Cooperative Communications Marian McLemore, James Erdmanczyk, Walton and Becky Wood and Ansel Peck.

Commissioner Thomson gave the invocation.

MSgt. David Semmel, USAF (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his 21-year military career. Originally from Allentown, PA he graduated high school in 1976 and joined the Air Force. He served at many duty stations across the country and overseas in such places as Egypt, Germany, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Panama, and Bolivia in South America. He served in both Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Primarily serving in the communications field he also was cross-trained as a Forward Air Controller. He also spent time with a unit that performed aerial recovery of de-orbiting satellites utilizing C-130's. He has been employed by Houston County for the last eight years as a Corporal at the Detention Facility and remarked that he feels Houston County is one of the best places to live.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 20, 2018.

Mr. Walker presented Special Exception Application #2139 which had been tabled at the February 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and sent back to Zoning & Appeals for reconsideration since the applicant was not present at the original hearing. The Zoning & Appeals Board met on February 26<sup>th</sup> but the applicant failed to attend this hearing as well.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Applicant was not present, there was no opposition.

There being no comments the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to deny Special Exception Application #2139 submitted by Tony Boyd.

Mr. Walker disclosed that although he does not feel he has a conflict he does live in the same neighborhood as the applicant on Special Exception Application #2147.

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

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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.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2146, #2147, and #2149 thru #2151.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Special Exception Application #2146 - Applicant was present. No opposition.

Special Exception Application #2147 - Applicant was present. No opposition.

Special Exception Application #2149 - Applicant was not present as the application is recommended for tabling. No opposition.

Special Exception Application #2150 - Applicants were not present. No opposition.

Special Exception Application #2151 - Applicant was present. No opposition.

There being no comments the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to table Special Exception Application #2149 submitted by Josh Sumrall and to send it back to Zoning & Appeals for further consideration.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following applications to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report:

Special Exception Application #2146 - Vincent & Jennifer Underwood for Photography

Special Exception Application #2147 - Katherine Cart for Children's Party Entertainment

Special Exception Application #2150 - Todd & Heather Schaffer for Electrical

Special Exception Application #2151 - Zachary Harris for Window Cleaning

Mr. Walker presented a request from Roads Superintendent Travis McLendon for approval to hire Robert Jump for the vacant Maintenance Shop foreman Position at a Grade 20 Step F effective March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the hiring of Robert Jump in the Roads Department as Maintenance Shop foreman, Grade 20 Step F effective March 13, 2018.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to abandon a portion of the Lydia Drive temporary cul-de-sac in the McCarley Downs Subdivision Section 2 Phase 3 due to the development of the next phase of the subdivision.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the Board of Commissioners signing the resolution abandoning a portion of the Lydia Drive temporary cul-de-sac described as follows:

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All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 54 of the Eleventh Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as Tract "A", containing 0.12 acres, on a land survey done by Marty A. McLeod dated February 1, 2018, and made a part hereof.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to convey the abandoned portion of the Lydia Drive cul-de-sac over to Silver Pine Development, LLC the adjacent property owner.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the Quit Claim deed to Silver Pine Development, LLC for the abandoned portion of right-of-way on the Lydia Drive cul-de-sac described in the previous abandonment resolution.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker, and carried in unison by all to approve the naming of the newly constructed Sheriff's Department storage and evidence processing building the William H. "Billy" Rape, Jr. Building.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval of a bid from the Purchasing Department for the Sheriff's Department Firing Range buildings with four contractors responding. Staff recommends award of this construction project to Peed Brothers for the total bid amount of \$340,726.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Sheriff's Office Firing Range buildings construction project to Peed Brothers, Inc. of Butler, GA in the amount of \$340,726. This project is funded by the 2012 SPLOST.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this bid award would cover the training building, the target system storage building and the canopies. Completion of the project is expected to be sometime in the late Fall.

Mr. McMichael presented a retainer agreement with Drubner, Hartley & Hellman, LLC and Simmons, Hanly & Conroy, LLC to determine the feasibility of bringing an action against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription opiates. This would be a contingent fee agreement with no upfront costs to local government. The County will incur only some administrative time involved in compiling the information needed by the attorneys.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the retainer agreement with Drubner, Hartley & Hellman, LLC and Simmons, Hanly & Conroy, LLC to determine the feasibility of bringing an action against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription opiates.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,757,975.67.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Public Comments.

Jim Taylor reminded everyone of the upcoming 3rd Annual Haynesville Jamfest that will be held on April 28th at Kingsland Farm. The event is a fundraiser held to support the Museum of Aviation Foundation and will include performers such as Stillwater, the Jack Pearson Band and Wet Willie. Adding to the events atmosphere will be various food trucks, classic vehicles and 70's attire. It is expected that 1800 tickets will be sold.

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21st Century Partnership Director of Strategy Dan Rhoades updated the Board on the President' budget and how it might affect Robins AFB and its mission.

Milton Thomas of Haynesville commented that he was concerned with the noise level that may be generated from the Sheriff's new firing range at the Landfill.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for Commissioners Comments.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Hunter Wealot who is a dual enrollee as a Jones County High School senior and at Georgia Military College. Hunter was 'job shadowing' Community Planner Jake Cox as part of the work-based learning program.

Mr. Thomson remarked that the opioid litigation was intended to punish the big pharmaceutical companies for pushing these dangerously addictive drugs. Many illicit drugs such as heroin are laced with the opioid Fentanyl and come through our borders every day.

Mr. McMichael commented that the opioid epidemic is a tragic situation that not only affects our community but the entire nation.

Mr. Walker remarked that the opioid epidemic was a big topic of conversation at a recent meeting he attended in Atlanta with other elected officials.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and agreed that the opioid epidemic was a huge problem that we have to tackle.

Mr. McMichael reminded everyone that qualifying for the 2018 election year for the County Commission Chairman, County Commissioner Post 2, State Court Judge and several Board of Education seats was this week ending Friday, March 9th at noon.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all. Meeting adjourned.

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Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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