

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 8, 2019
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 8, 2019 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Robinson, and Thomson 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, Water Treatment Operator Clay Walker, Senior Animal Control Officer Alan Smith, Advanced Disposal Operations Manager Jeanne Moyer, Ansel Peck, and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Robinson gave the invocation.

Col. Maureen Farrell, US Air Force led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed her military career. From California, she actually joined the US Army in 1984. She then received her Masters in Public Health from Idaho State University in 1998 and joined the Air Force in 1999 where she has served in various public health roles. Coming to Robins AFB in June of 2018 she served as a Special Assistant to Col. Drew at the 78th ABW until she was recently promoted to Colonel and assumed the command of the 78th Medical Group on January 2nd. The 78th Medical Group operates the outpatient clinic on Robins Air Force Base and treats both military personnel and provides occupational health services for the civilian workforce as well. Col. Farrell commented that her reception here in middle Georgia has been the warmest she has experienced during her military career.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 18, 2018.

Chairman Stalnaker asked for a motion to add an agenda item that came in after the agenda was published. He asked that the item be recorded as number ten but be taken immediately after number eight.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and approved unanimously by all to add Item #10 to the agenda concerning a retirement plan amendment.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the City of Warner Robins for the annexation of properties totaling 7.7 acres located east of North Houston Road and South of Hughes Drive. Current zoning is County C-2 and upon annexation zoning would be Warner Robins R-3. The properties are proposed for the future construction of the final phase of Bel Aire subdivision.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to concur with a city of Warner Robins annexation request for the property described as:

Continued from page 1585

Properties located east of North Houston Road and south of Hughes Drive comprising 7.7 acres (7.08 acres Tax Parcel 000960 025000, and 0.62 acres portion of Tax Parcel 000960 051000) as shown on a plat of survey drawn by Story, Clarke & Associates for William D. Self Estate, dated October 25, 2018.

Mr. Walker presented a request for two additional school resource officers. Sheriff Talton was asked by the Board of Education and has agreed under the same terms of the existing agreement, whereby the Board of Education will reimburse the County for all salaries, fringe benefits, vehicles and related equipment. The two positions would be created as Grade 16-B school resource officers.

Additionally, these two new school resource officers will require vehicles, which we can purchase from O.C. Welch Ford-Lincoln-Mercury at the same unit cost as the eight we purchased in June when the SRO Division was created.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the creation of two additional School Resource Officer positions (Position #222) at a Grade 16-B effective January 4, 2019; and to award the purchase of two new Ford Police Interceptor Utility SUVs for use by the new school resource officers from O.C. Welch Ford-Lincoln-Mercury of Hardeeville, SC at a unit cost of \$25,650 or a total amount of \$51,300. The Comptroller is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustment. The Board of Education will reimburse the total cost of both vehicles.

Chairman Stalnaker commended Sheriff Talton for acting so quickly to fill the void left at the two middle schools.

County Attorney Tom Hall conducted a second reading of an amendment to Section 2-217; of the Code of Ordinances, Houston County Georgia.

The first reading having been held at the December 18, 2018 Houston County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for a public hearing.

As there were no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve an amendment to Section 2-217; of the Code of Ordinances, Houston County, Georgia by giving the Board of Commissioners the authority to appoint members to the Library Board that represent the incorporated and the unincorporated areas of Houston County and by permitting Library Board members to serve an unlimited number of terms on the board the section shall reads as follows:

Continued on page 1587

Continued from page 1586

Sec. 2-217. - Appointment of members; terms of office.

The members of the library board shall be appointed by the Houston County Board of Commissioners and will be reflective of all areas of Houston County, incorporated and unincorporated. The term of office shall be three years. Board members shall receive no compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of library business.

Mr. Thomson commented that there were several dedicated individuals who wished to continue their service beyond the existing term limits.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this brings the Library Board in line relative to term limits with all other Boards to which the Commissioners appoint members.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for award of a professional services agreement to ICB Construction Group on the new Lake Joy Fire Station construction project. After an extensive evaluation of both the Request for Qualifications and the subsequent Request for Proposals, ICB ranked highest among all the submittals.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award to the Lake Joy Fire Station construction project CM-at risk professional services agreement to ICB Construction Group of Macon at a maximum fee of \$79,155 based upon an estimated \$1.5 million construction budget. 2018 SPLOST funds this project.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mark Baker, Robbie Dunbar, Chief Williams, Assistant Chief Stoner and Commissioner Thomson for their efforts on this project. He commented that this new station will provide full-time fire service, include an EMS station, and also the intent is to relocate the Emergency Management Agency operations and staff from the E911 Center to the new station.

Ms. Robinson presented the fact that Commissioner Walker is due a salary adjustment based on term longevity to meet the state mandated minimum.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson, after voting Ms. Robinson, Mr. Thomson and Mr. McMichael voted yes, with Mr. Walker abstaining. Motion approved to authorize the adjustment of Commissioner Walker's salary to reflect the mandated minimum effective on the pay period beginning January 1, 2019.

Mr. McMichael presented a request from the Sheriff's Department to cancel an order for four pursuit utility vehicles from Wade Ford, as the delivery had been pushed into the end of March, and order four Chevy Tahoes from Hardy Chevrolet. The order for the vehicle gun/equipment vaults would remain with Wade Ford since they are already available and can be used in the Tahoes. Ultimately the total cost will be reduced from \$137,824 to \$137,580.

Continued on page 1588

Continued from page 1587

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the cancellation of the four 2019 Ford Pursuit Utility Vehicles (Explorers) for use in the Patrol Division of the Sheriff's Department from Wade Ford of Smyrna approved at the October 2, 2018 Board meeting with the exception of the four gun/equipment vaults at a unit cost of \$2,000 or a total amount of \$8,000; and to approve the award of four 2019 Chevy Tahoe SUVs for use in the Patrol Division from Hardy Chevrolet at a unit cost of \$32,395 or a total amount of \$129,580.

Mr. McMichael presented a new Solid Waste Collection rate. Staff has recommended that the customer rate per month be established at \$13.00 for a single can service and \$7.00 for each additional can effective with the start of the new contract with Advanced Disposal Services on April 1, 2019.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the establishment of a solid waste collection rate of \$13.00 per month for a single can and \$7.00 per month for each additional can effective with the commencement of the new contract with Advanced Disposal Services, Inc. (ADS) on April 1, 2019.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that a lot of work went into this decision and he thanked the Board members, staff and the citizen representatives involved in the process and further stated that the County looks forward to the new contract with its new level of service.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$3,096,775.35.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a resolution to amend the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for Houston County to allow an unreduced early retirement to an employee who has a sick leave balance that would exceed the current specifications for an unreduced early retirement.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone that the next scheduled Board meeting would be on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6: pm at the County Annex building in Warner Robins.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the meeting for public comments.

Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Hamilton Halford, Hangar Commander of the GSP Aviation Unit (Perry), thanked the Board for their continued support of the GSP and their efforts to serve not only Houston County but also the entire State of Georgia. He briefed the report on the Aviation Unit's statistics and activities during the 2018 calendar year. A total of 1,370 flights were flown statewide. Of that total, 292 flights originated from the Perry hangar with 141 of them actually conducted in Houston County including emergency call-outs for a variety of reasons and aircraft repositioning to the Perry hangar for maintenance at the facility. The Aviation Unit as a whole purchased 10,268 gallons of jet fuel from the Perry-Houston County Airport at a total cost of \$39,146.84.

Continued on page 1589

Continued from page 1588

The Chairman and each of the commissioners expressed their appreciation for the GSP's support.

Kelly McWilliams, Channel 100 - ComSouth/Hargray Marketing Coordinator, briefed the Board on changes to the station's format and her recent promotion from videographer to her current position. The station will no longer film in the community but will transition to more of a community run format whereby the public and organizations may submit video content to the station for potential airing. She explained that existing local shows would continue.

Chairman Stalnaker and the Board thanked Ms. McWilliams for her professionalism over the years and wished her well in her new role.

Ansel Peck, 109 Latham Drive, Warner Robins thanked the staff and administration of the County for their diligent efforts during the 2018 calendar year. He also thanked the Board for their service to the community.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for commissioners' comments.

Mr. McMichael asked everyone to please keep Chief Williams, Warner Robins Councilman Mike Davis and Warner Robins Councilwoman Carolyn Robbins on their prayer list.

Mr. Thomson thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Robinson likewise thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Walker thanked Ms. McWilliams and each employee for serving the citizens of the County every day.

Chairman Stalnaker commented on the roughly five inches of rain that we have received over the past two weeks and noted that even with that unusual amount of rainfall that the Houston County Landfill just received two perfect scores of 100, for both C & D and MSW, following the recent December 12th surprise inspection by the EPD. He commended Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch and his entire staff for their accomplishment.

County Attorney Tom Hall asked the Board to consider adding Attorney / Client matters to the Executive Session motion so that he could update them on a certain issue.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to enter into Executive Session for Real Estate matters per O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1) and Attorney / Client matters per O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1).

Continued on page 1590

Continued from page 1589

Upon returning to the Board room Chairman Stalnaker announced that there would be no action taken as a result of the Executive Session and asked for a motion to re-enter the regular Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to exit the Executive Session and reenter the regular Board meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Continued on page 1591

Continued from page 1590

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HOUSTON

AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief:

1.

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on January 8, 2019.

2.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into executive session.

3.

The executive session was called to order at 10:16 a.m.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meeting law:

Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officers or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);

Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) and (insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential) _____;

Discussion or voting on:

Authorizing a settlement as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(A);

Authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B);

Authorizing an appraisal as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(C);

Entering a contract for the purchase, disposal of, or lease of property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(D);

Entering into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(E);

Continued on page 1592

Continued from page 1591

_____ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);

_____ Interviewing candidates for executive positions as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);

_____ Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): _____ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic) _____.

5.

_____ During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.

_____ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and attempts to discuss same ceased immediately.

_____ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non-exempt topic.

6.

Minutes were taken of this meeting and will be filed and held for in camera inspection only.

This _____ day of January, 2019.

Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman
Houston County Board of Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this _____ day of
January, 2019.

Notary Public
My commission expires:
