

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
November 20, 2018
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 20, 2018 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Robinson, and Thomson present. Also present were Attorney Mike Long, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Assistant Fire Chief Chris Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, ACCG Deputy General Counsel Larry Ramsey, Representative Shaw Blackmon and Whitney Blackmon, Superior Court Judge Edward Lukemire and Trell Lukemire, Ansel Peck, and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Walker gave the invocation.

Major General Albert Lupenski, USAF Reserve Command led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and briefed the Board on his 36 years of military service. Having never served on active duty with the Air Force, he has spent his entire career first with the Air National Guard having enlisted as an administrative specialist and then later in his career moving to the Air Force Reserve. He has served in a variety of positions during his career in the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve with flying experience in both rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. After flying helicopters for many years, he flew the C-141B/C, the KC-135R, the C-17, the C-40C and the C-5B. He came to Robins AFB in June of 2017 where he serves as the Director of Plans, Programs and Requirements at the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. He spoke of the southern hospitality and the connection to community that he personally feels here in the middle Georgia area and remarked that he has made great friends and experiences during his service.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Larry Ramsey, Deputy General Counsel for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), who presented Representative Shaw Blackmon with one of the ACCG's 2018 Legislative Service Awards for his diligent efforts in crafting sound policy on behalf of all counties and citizens of the State of Georgia. Due to his tireless efforts during the past two legislative sessions, Representative Blackmon successfully shepherded HB 329 to passage which will provide much needed relief to local governments to offset stagnant sales tax collections inadvertently created by the Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) system. Representative Blackmon's wife Whitney, their two children and his in-laws attended the meeting in support.

Chairman Stalnaker asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda concerning hiring poll workers for the General Election Run-Off.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to add the hiring of poll workers for the General Election Run-Off on December 4, 2018 as Item #9.

Mr. Walker presented a request for elimination of one currently vacant Deputy Sheriff-Corporal position along with the reduction of \$3,000 from the Sheriff's Department Temporary Employee budget in order to create a needed Training Facility Supervisor position.

Continued from page 1569

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the elimination of one Deputy Sheriff-Corporal position Grade 17 along with the reduction of \$3,000 from the Sheriff's Temporary Employees budget line item (51.1200) and the creation of one Training Facility Supervisor position Grade 18 effective December 4, 2018.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 6, 2018.

Mr. Thomson presented a request from the Engineering Department to extend the Cul-De-Sac bonds for one year on Ashley Nicole Avenue of Harley Farms Subdivision, Phase I; Harley Farms Drive of Harley Farms Subdivision, Phase I; and Abingdon Cove of McCarley Downs Subdivision, Section 2 Phase III to give the developers an opportunity to extend the roads.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the extension of the Cul-De-Sac bond (Persons Banking Company Letter of Credit #432985, expiring November 28, 2018) for Ashley Nicole Avenue of Harley Farms Subdivision, Phase I; and the extension of the Cul-De-Sac bond (Persons Banking Company Letter of Credit #432984, expiring November 28, 2018) for Harley Farms Drive of Harley Farms Subdivision, Phase I. If the bonds are not extended by November 28, 2018, the County will draw the bonds and contract the work. Also, the extension of the Cul-De-Sac bond (Sun Mark Bank Letter of Credit #21023-5, expiring February 6, 2019) for Abingdon Cove of McCarley Downs Subdivision, Section 2, Phase III. If the bond is not extended by February 6, 2019, the County will draw the bond and contract the work.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for deeds on property that was abandoned on November 18, 1975 by the Board of Commissioners. These deeds for a portion of Bob White Road were not recorded when the abandonment was approved.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the two Deeds of Abandonment conveying the abandoned portion of Bob White Road to the current property owners.

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

Adjustment & Appeals:	Judy Ross	11/02/2018 thru 11/01/2021	
	Ronnie Blalock	11/02/2018 thru 11/01/2021	
Tax Assessors:	Joyce Herndon	1/01/2019	thru
12/31/2021			
	Brian Jones	1/01/2019	thru
12/31/2021			

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson. After voting Mr. McMichael, Mr. Thomson, and Ms. Robinson voted yes, Mr. Walker abstained. Motion carried to approve the reappointment of Jay Walker to the Hospital Authority for a term of 1/01/2019 thru 12/31/2022.

Mr. McMichael presented a request from the Engineering Department to enter into an engineering services agreement with Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc., to provide plans and contract documents for the Thompson Mill Road Phase I improvement project. This project improves the road from a two-lane rural

road to a three-lane urban road beginning at its intersection with Old SR96 to just north of Southwick Drive.

Continued on page 1571

Continued from page 1570

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Thompson Mill Road Phase I improvement project for engineering services to Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc. of Centerville in the amount of \$82,000. This is a 2018 SPLOST funded project.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for the acceptance of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA-HS) grant funds that have been awarded to Houston County. If accepted, the State will purchase the identified equipment for use on the GSAR truck and will drop ship the items to the county. There are no required match funds attached to this grant.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a 2018 GEMA-HS grant (#EMW-2018-SS-00067-S01 / SH018-011) in the amount of \$53,000 which will provide communication and personal protective equipment for the GSAR truck.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of award of two contracts for a new fiber optic connection between the Houston County Annex building and the E911 Center facility.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two contracts for the new fiber optic connection between the Houston County Annex building and the E911 Center facility to Delta Equipment for directional bore and conduit runs in the amount of \$11,992.25 and to Southeastern Telephone for Fiber optic cable run and connection in the amount of \$10,780.24.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$6,530,212.18.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the hire of the following poll workers for the December 4, 2018 General Election Run-Off:

	<u>Each</u>	<u>Total</u>
16 Managers (Precinct) 2,080.00	\$130.00	\$
32 Assistant Managers (Precinct) 2,880.00	90.00	\$
40 Clerks 3,200.00	80.00	\$
7 Janitors 108.50	15.50	\$
3 Janitors	25.00	\$ 75.00
81 TS Units 243.00	3.00	\$
3 Election Supply Pick-Up 150.00	50.00	\$
3 Election Night Supply Return 150.00	50.00	\$
2 Election Night Check-In 100.00	50.00	\$

16	Supply Pick-Up / Return Supplies	10.00	\$
160.00			
16	Cell Phones	10.00	\$
160.00			
5	Optical Scan Clerks	100.00	\$
500.00			
3	DRE Clerks	100.00	\$
<u>300.00</u>			
	Total		\$10,106.50

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular meeting and opened Public Comments.

There being no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comments and reopened the regular meeting.

Continued on page 1572

Continued from page 1571

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for commissioners' comments.

Chairman Stalnaker invited everyone to attend the upcoming opening ceremony for the Sheriff's Firing Range and Training Facility on Hwy. 247 near the Landfill on Thursday, November 29th at 11:00 a.m. He thanked the citizens for voting for the SPLOST which funded this much needed project. He then asked everyone to keep Chief Jimmy Williams in their thoughts and prayers. He also reminded everyone to keep those who are experiencing difficult times in their thoughts during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. McMichael wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, thanked General Lupenski for coming and speaking and acknowledged former County Attorney Mike Long who was filling in for County Attorney Tom Hall in his absence.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Robinson likewise thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Thomson commented to General Lupenski that the County had recently constructed a helicopter aviation hangar at the Perry-Houston County Airport for the Georgia State Patrol and that possibly he would enjoy a tour of the facility at a later date. He also recognized former County employee Clarence Long who was in attendance.

Each of the Commissioners offered their thoughts and prayers for Chief Williams as he battles his illness.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner