Houston County Commissioners Meeting November 17, 2020 Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 17, 2020, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Thomson, McMichael, and Robinson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Commissioner-elect Dan Perdue, and Commissioner-elect Mark Byrd.

Commissioner Thomson gave the Invocation, and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 3, 2020.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of the 10^{th} Annual "Run 2 End Alzheimer's at the Landing's".

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve support for the upcoming 10th Annual "Run 2 End Alzheimer's at the Landing's" to benefit the Central Georgia Alzheimer's Association. The event will take place on Saturday, April 3, 2021 starting and finishing at the Landing Point Plaza in Bonaire. The Sheriff Department has agreed to assist with traffic control during the hours of the race.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the appointment of Chief Steve Lynn to the Region 6 DBHDD Advisory Council for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2023.

Mr. McMichael commented that Chief Lynn will also begin serving on the POST Council in January.

Mr. McMichael presented a Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program Agreement.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a Local Government Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement Program Agreement covering a Scrap Tire Amnesty Event (Project 21-ST-076-003) with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to be held on April 9, 2021, and April 10, 2021 with three collection/drop-off locations at the Houston County Annex, the Houston County Public Works, and the Houston County Landfill. The EPD agrees to reimburse the County up to \$20,894.11 for the scrap tire abatement project.

Mr. Walker remarked that this is a good program in that it encourages people to properly dispose of their scrap tires.

Mr. McMichael commented that this program is intended for residential customers only and does not include commercial customers.

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Chairman Stalnaker clarified that additional funds could be applied for if the County collected more tires than the \$20,894.11 would reimburse.

Ms. Robinson presented a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant for the District Attorney's office.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing all documents necessary to accept \$124,687 of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds (sub-grant #C19-8-103 Continuation) and \$79,168 of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds (sub-grant #C19-8-102 Compensation Advocate) to be administered by the District Attorney for the continuance of the Victim Assistance Program in Houston County Superior Court.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,805,748.27.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Public Comments.

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

Chairman Stalnaker then closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Commissioners Comments.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming, wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and reminded everyone to vote in the up-coming run-off election.

Mr. Walker wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and remarked that it's great to be a Houston County resident, a Georgia resident and to live in this great country.

Mr. McMichael wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and thanked Mr. Dunbar and all the Public Works employees for their recognition of his and Mr. Thomson's service at an event a few days ago.

Mr. Thomson likewise thanked Mr. Dunbar and his staff for their very touching recognition.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone of the upcoming ground-breaking ceremonies for the State Court expansion project at the courthouse and for the new Government Building to be held at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. respectively on December 17th. He commented that he had received a letter today announcing that Waste Management had acquired our garbage collection contractor, Advanced Disposal. In the near future we'll see them begin the process of rebranding the trucks and carts, but the same local office will still provide services as per our current contract. He also commented on Governor Kemp's press release today outlining Silicon Ranch Corporation's pending \$55 million 68-megawatt solar project that will be located in Houston County on approximately 800 acres off Firetower Road on the east side of I-75. He announced

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that early voting for the January 5th run-off election will begin on December 14th and continues through December 31st. The 24th and 25th, as well as January 1st are County holidays. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and remarked that it has been a hard year but ultimately a good year for the County mostly due to the sales tax and ad valorem tax revenues. He remarked that we should have a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) on the new Government Building project to be built on Kings Chapel Road next to the Purchasing Warehouse soon and that the building construction needed to be completed by September of 2021 to allow for the Board of Elections, County Extension Office and the Soil Conservation Office to move in. Those departments must be out of the old building downtown Perry by December 31, 2021.

Mr. Thomson commented that the GMP on the new Government Building was shaping up good and asked Mr. Dunbar to provide the Board more detail.

Mr. Dunbar said that the first cost estimate is close to the target GMP and that the value engineering process is already underway. Hard bids will be received the second week of December. The building is roughly 20,000 square feet with lots of storage for the voting equipment and will be a nice addition for the County and the City of Perry as well.

Chairman Stalnaker then shared a few architect renderings of the new state court expansion project showing several angles of the exterior of the building and one of the courtroom's interior. He recognized both Commissioner-elect Mark Byrd and Dan Perdue remarking that they will attend a newly elected commissioner training conference in December. Lastly, he reminded everyone that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the Boardroom of the courthouse in Perry.

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