

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
November 3, 2020
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday November 3, 2020, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, 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, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Library Director Sara Paulk, President/CEO Perry Chamber of Commerce Ellen Palmer, Dan Perdue, and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner McMichael gave the Invocation.

Col. Brian Moore, USAF led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his 24-year military career. He remarked that the County's and community's support of Robins AFB is nothing short of incredible. He introduced his wife of 24 years, Barbara. They have three daughters ages 17, 21, and 24. Both he and his wife grew up in Washington State and have experienced fourteen moves and twelve permanent change of stations during his service. He received his commission through ROTC at Central Washington University, and he has an aircraft maintenance tech and also manpower and personnel specialty background. His assignments over the years include Tokyo, Japan; Langley AFB, VA; Holloman AFB, NM; Randolph AFB, TX; the Navy Command and Staff College at Newport, RI; Tinker AFB, OK; the Pentagon for several assignments; the National War College at Ft. McNair, Washington D.C.; and since July of 2019, Robins AFB as the Installation Commander and Commander of the 78th Air Base Wing. He remarked that the community is the base and the base is the community. Lastly, he thanked Mr. McMichael and Mr. Thomson each for over two decades of service to the community and support of the base and presented them with Robins challenge coins and hats as small tokens of appreciation.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Perry Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Ellen Palmer who made a special presentation to Mr. McMichael and Mr. Thomson in honor of their service on the Board of Commissioners. She presented each with a framed picture of the Dogwood Festival as a token of appreciation.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2020.

Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Application #2396.

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

Special Exception Application #2396, applicant was not present, there was no opposition.

As there were no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

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

Application #2396 Kimberly Wright Elderly Care Services

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.

Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2404 thru #2408, and #2410 thru #2416.

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

Special Exception Application #2404 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2405 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2406 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2407 applicant was present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2408 applicant was not present, and the application is recommended to be tabled.

Special Exception Application #2410 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2411 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2412 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2413 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2414 applicant was not present there was no opposition.

Special Exception Application #2415 applicant was not present, and the application is recommended to be tabled.

Special Exception Application # 2416 applicant was present there was no opposition.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to table special exception applications #2408 and #2415 and send back to Zoning & Appeals for reconsideration. Application #2409 was withdrawn by the applicant before the Zoning & Appeals hearing.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve special exception applications #2404 thru #2407 , #2410 thru #2414 and #2416 to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report.

Mr. Andrews gave the applicants 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.

Mr. Boyd Hall, applicant for #2415, stated that he was in the hospital under quarantine and could not attend the Zoning & Appeals hearing. Mr. Andrews advised Mr. Hall that the Zoning & Appeals Board would reconsider his application at their next meeting on November 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the County Annex building. There is no need to reapply.

Ms. Robinson presented a request to disburse Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) funds.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize the Comptroller to make the necessary budget adjustment to the Health Department's FY20 budget for \$43,023 of Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) funds to be disbursed to the Health Department for use in Houston County only.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked staff members, especially Community Planner Jake Cox, for their efforts securing these grant funds. He reiterated that the funds being transferred to the Health Department were to be spent in Houston County specifically and not in other counties within the North Central Health District. A motion will be made to that effect later this week at the Board of Health meeting. He commended County Nurse Manager Chris Sikes and her entire staff for their tireless efforts during the pandemic.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a purchase of Air Pack equipment for use in the Fire Department.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of \$52,519.80 of Air Pack equipment from Fisher Scientific of Suwanee, GA for use in the Fire Department to be reimbursed 100% through GEMA-HS GSAR sustainment grant (SH019-054).

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval of a bid for the Courthouse Chiller Replacement Project.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Courthouse Chiller Replacement Project at the courthouse to J.M. Clayton Company of Thomaston, GA in the amount of \$261,000. This project is funded by the 2018 SPLOST.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the temporary chillers that are located on the south side of the building are very expensive to rent. Completion date for this project is expected to be March 2021 at the latest. The good news is that the bid has come under our original engineering estimate.

Mr. McMichael presented an amendment to a bid award on a service truck for use in the Public Buildings department.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve amending the award made to Peach State Ford of Cedartown, GA at the October 6th Board meeting from a unit price of \$32,983 to a unit price of \$33,615.20. This vehicle purchase is funded by the 2012 SPLOST.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$4,637,701.55.

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

Sara Paulk, Houston County Library System Director, thanked the Board for their continued support and presented the Library's Annual Report for 2020 showing various statistics and accomplishments from the year. She also recognized Mr. Thomson who has long served as the Commissioners liaison to the library thanking him for his wisdom, guidance, and support. She presented him with books that will be dedicated to the three branches of the library in his honor.

Chairman Stalnaker commented on the amazing number of patrons that have been served over the year and thanked the Friends of the Library for their efforts as well. He commended Mr. Thompson and also Mr. Walker and his wife Mary for their long-standing support of the library system.

Mr. Walker commented that Ms. Chris Thompson should also be recognized for her support as a former Library Board of Trustees member.

There being no further 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

Mr. McMichael thanked Ellen Palmer and the Perry Chamber for their recognition of his and Mr. Thomson's service. He also thanked Sara Paulk and the library for their efforts in the community.

Mr. Thomson thanked Col. Moore for speaking to the Board, Ellen Palmer for her presentation and recognition, and Library Director Sara Paulk for the book donation's in his name.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and thanked the library for their efforts. She thanked Mr. McMichael and Mr. Thomson for their good work on the Commission.

Mr. Walker also thanked Mr. McMichael and Mr. Thomson for their faithful service to our community. He remarked that the library system is so important for our community and also expressed appreciation for all the outstanding County employees.

Mr. McMichael thanked Chrissy Miner for her work at the Museum of Aviation and in the community.

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Chairman Stalnaker remarked that although there have been some minor hiccups in the voting process the Board of Elections staff and poll workers have been doing a great job during this largest turnout in County history. He reminded everyone that the Perry Chamber of Commerce will hold their State of the Community Luncheon on Thursday, November 5th beginning at 11:30 a.m. moderated by Larry Walker and will include panelists Perry Mayor Randall Walker, Robins AFB Installation Commander Col. Brian Moore, Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Mark Scott, Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling, and himself. He announced that the ground-breaking ceremony for the new State Court Expansion will be held Thursday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. at the courthouse site in Perry to be followed at 2:30 p.m. across the street on Kings Chapel Road for the ground-breaking on the new Houston County Government Building. The Government Building will be the new home of the Houston County Board of Elections, the County Extension Office and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These agencies will have to vacate the existing Government Building downtown Perry by December of 2021 after which the City of Perry will take possession. Lastly, he recognized Chrissy Miner and Dan Perdue who has no opponent in his bid to fill the soon to be vacant Commissioner seat.

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