

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
September 17, 2019
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 17, 2019, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Thomson, Walker, McMichael and Robinson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Community Planner Jake Cox, Ned Sanders, Ray Clark, Walton and Becky Wood and Ansel Peck.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation.

Capt. Katia Pillot, USAF led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed her 10-year military career. Having first enlisted in the Air Force she spent time in the civil engineering field doing drafting and surveying work. She then commissioned as an officer completing Officer Training School (OTS) and became a Logistics Readiness Officer with a degree in supply chain management. She has served at Holloman AFB, New Mexico; Aviano AB, Italy; Osan AB, Korea; and has been at Robins AFB for a year in the Logistics Career Broadening Program during which officers gain leadership skills and experience in depot, supply, sustainment and development missions. She has one year left on her posting at Robins AFB. She remarked that the community was very welcoming and supportive of the military's mission.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Walker presented a request for two surveillance officers for the Accountability Court.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing contracts for services with Kody Barfield and Scott Barfield as Accountability Court surveillance officers expiring on June 30, 2020. The Mental Health Accountability Court grant will fund the services of these officers.

Mr. Walker presented a right of way easement with Flint Energies.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the underground right of way easement with Flint Electric Membership Corporation as depicted on an Exhibit "A" and as described on an Exhibit "B" (property more commonly known as Lake Joy Road, Kathleen, GA 31047, Tax Parcel 800 034) for the transmission and distribution of electric power to the new Lake Joy Road Fire Station and EMA Headquarters facilities.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for the confirmation of Mr. John Applegate's appointment to the Board of Elections.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to confirm the Houston County Republican Party's appointment of Mr. John Applegate to the Board of Elections to fill the unexpired term of Mr. R.A. (Tony) Robbins. The term will expire December 31, 2020.

Mr. Thomson presented a change order on the Davidson Road widening project.

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Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #1 with C.W. Matthews Contracting Company on the Davidson Road Widening Project increasing the original contract amount of \$196,238.48 by \$32,891.32 for a new contract total of \$229,129.80. The contract time will also increase by 77 days to December 31, 2019.

Chairman Stalnaker questioned whether the 77-day extension was too long.

Mr. Dunbar indicated that the contractor needs time to order pipe, have it delivered and then installed.

Chairman Stalnaker stated that the County needs to see more progress made on this job and asked Mr. Dunbar to initiate a discussion with the contractor about shortening the timeframe.

Mr. Thomson presented a request to enter into a service contract for the Houston County Detention Facility chiller plant.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Houston County Detention Center chiller plant service contract to Hays Service of Macon in the annual amount of \$35,740 to be paid in quarterly installments of \$8,935 and charged to 100-3326-52.2200.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for the purchase of two trucks for use in the Building Inspection department.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two new 2019 half-ton quad cab RAM 1500 trucks for use in the Building Inspection department to Ginn Commercial of Covington, GA at a unit cost of \$21,834 or a total cost of \$43,668. SPLOST 2018 will fund the purchase of these trucks.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for the purchase of three new vehicles for use in the Sheriff Department Patrol and Traffic Division.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of two new 2020 Dodge Charger pursuit vehicles for use in the Sheriff Department Patrol Division for a unit cost of \$24,859 or a total cost of \$49,718; and the award of one new 2020 Dodge Charger Pursuit vehicle with an integrated computer display package for use in the Traffic Division at a unit cost of \$28,706.42 to Ginn Commercial of Covington, GA. SPLOST 2018 will fund the purchase of these vehicles.

Mr. Baker explained that the one vehicle with the 12.1" integrated computer display package was a factory wired in-dash computer display with the computer mounted in the trunk with a cooling system. This touchscreen display removes the mobile display terminal from inside the vehicle.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for the purchase of a new SUV for use in the Tax Assessors Department.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one new 2020 Ford Escape for use in the Tax Assessors Department from Brannen Motor Company of Unadilla at a cost of \$21,315. SPLOST 2012 will fund the purchase of this vehicle.

County Attorney Tom Hall conducted the second reading of the Small Wireless Facilities and Antennas Ordinance. The first reading of this proposed amendment was held at the September 3, 2019 Houston County Board of Commissioners meeting.

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

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen asked if the ordinance allowed for the use of eminent domain on private property.

Mr. Hall explained that this allowed the telecommunications provider to place the small wireless facilities and antennas in the public rights-of-way only.

Chairman Stalnaker stated that he does not believe that the telecommunication providers have the power of eminent domain.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Andrews if he had already received any applications from providers.

Mr. Andrews stated that he had several conventional applications but none yet that would fall under the small wireless facilities type.

Mr. Hall commented that there were several companies who were preparing to apply.

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

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve an amendment to the Houston County Code of Ordinances Chapter 68-Utilities by adding a new section titled Article IV – Houston County Small Wireless Facilities and Antennas Ordinance, which section shall read as worded in the AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AN ORDINANCE BY THE HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT REGULATIONS OF SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES AND ANTENNAS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,376,055.62.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Ned Sanders and Mr. Ray Clark, consultant to the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC). He also thanked Jake Cox for his involvement over the years with the Coalition. He remarked that Mr. Sanders has been a leader and a great asset to this organization.

Mr. Clark then presented a brief of the latest clean air initiatives to the Board. He spoke about the initial action where the MGCAC negotiated with the EPA to keep Houston County and Monroe County from being designated as non-attainment for Clean Air Act Standards as well as the solar array on encroachment lands around Robins AFB which will allow both Houston and Macon-Bibb to recoup their respective investments on the land purchases; the Norfolk Southern clean locomotives; the annual and cumulative savings received by all of the cities and counties who are members; developments in electric vehicles; charging stations around Middle Georgia for electric vehicles; air quality standards and how our Middle Georgia area now is well below the threshold; the Ned Sanders Scholarships provided to three students at Mercer University; the partnership with Solarize Middle Georgia for both residential and commercial; the first Solar Energy Procurement Agreement (SEPA) in

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Georgia; the recognition that the organization has garnered from the EPA and others including an award that MGCAC will receive this month from the Southeast Diesel Collaborative; and the efforts to convert streetlights to more efficient and safer lighting.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Clark and Mr. Sanders for their combined efforts over the last fifteen years. He remarked that Mr. Sanders has been dedicated to the cause and that the organization has persevered and prospered during his tenure.

Mr. Sanders thanked the Chairman and Board for their support of the organization and remarked that he was proud of the seven counties and twelve cities working cooperatively toward the common goal of clean air. He also remarked that the organization's goal is to not only improve the air quality of the region which allows the economy to continue to grow but also to protect the health of their respective citizens.

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

As there were no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened Commissioners Comments.

Mr. McMichael remarked that it was a good meeting.

Mr. Thomson thanked Corp. Watkins of the Houston County Sheriff's Department for providing security during the meeting.

Ms. Robinson reminded everyone today is Constitution Day which commemorates the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787. She spoke to the fourth graders of Hilltop Elementary this morning about the importance of this day.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and especially thanked Mr. Sanders and Mr. Clark for the update on the clean air initiatives.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on October 1st at 9:am at the Perry Courthouse.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Commissioners comments.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner