

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
November 7, 2023
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, GA, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Utility Director Terry Dietsch, Director of Purchasing Vanessa Zimmerman, Chief Financial Officer Danyelle George, Senior Accountant Will Davis, District Attorney William Kendall, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, and Community Planner Jake Cox.

Commissioner Robinson gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Gottwals led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Colonel Deedrick Reese, Installation & 78th Air Base Wing Commander, spoke about the units at Robins Air Force Base that would be standing up in the future and those soon to be standing down. He then spoke of his plans and vision for the Base and his vision to improve interaction within the community. Col. Reese spoke about his career, spanning 24 years in the USAF, and stated that his career field was in aircraft maintenance. Col. Reese said that with 14 assignments, coming to Robins AFB felt like coming home, and that his hometown of Charleston, SC, was only a few hours away.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Col. Reese for his service, patriotism and words about the Base and the Houston County community.

Chairman Perdue stated that as Honorary Commander for Col. Reese, he has seen firsthand how well Col. Reese leads those at Robins. He then thanked him for his humble and passionate spirit. He also thanked Lisa Ham with Base Public Affairs and Chief Magana for attending with Col. Reese.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2719 and #2722.

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

Applicant #2719 was not present, there was no opposition.

Applicant #2722 was present and talked about the clothing and accessories business. There was no opposition.

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

County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations stating that even if the Board of Commissioners approves an application, neighborhood covenants may still impose certain restrictions upon or against home businesses. These restrictive covenants are not superseded by any action the Board of Commissioners takes. The actions taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

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

#2719	Karena Zaloudek	Handywoman Business
#2722	Delbert & April Golden	Clothing & Accessories (Internet Sales)

Mr. Andrews advised the approved applicants of the next step in the process: obtaining their business licenses through the Commissioner's office.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Russell Damon to fill the vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill at a Grade 10 Step C effective November 8, 2023.

Mr. Byrd presented a request from the City of Warner Robins to annex the property at W. Wrasling Way. This annexation clears up an unincorporated island.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Public Comments.

As there were no comments, the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to concur with the annexation of property located on W. Wrasling Way containing 1.15 acres, also known as Tax Parcel 00077D 11A000. This property is zoned County C-2, and the proposed zoning is City C-2.

Mr. Byrd presented a resolution to adopt a Water Conservation Plan as part of the groundwater withdrawal permit process.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a resolution adopting the Water Conservation Plan.

Mr. Byrd spoke about the annual water audit and how it will help the County identify and stay ahead of the water demand created by existing and future growth.

Chairman Perdue commented that the audit compares how much water is being produced to how much is being billed, which helps to determine how much water is being lost due to leaks. He went on to express his appreciation to the Water Department personnel for their direct efforts in reducing the number of leaks and repairing them quickly.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following board appointments:

Brian Wise to the Mental Health Developmental Disabilities & Addictive Diseases Advisory Council Region 6 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (MHDDAD/Region 6 DBHDDAC) for a term to start 11/7/2023 and end 11/4/2025.

Michael Chaloult to the Adjustments & Appeals Board for a term to start 11/7/2023 and end 11/1/2024.

Jarett Davis to the Adjustments & Appeals Board for a term to start 11/7/2023 and end 7/6/2025.

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Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on a 2023 Chevrolet Cargo Van.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the bid on one new 2023 Chevrolet 3500 Extended Cargo Van from Hamby Automotive of Perry, Georgia, for use in the Warrants Division. This purchase in the amount of \$43,553 will be paid for by the 2018 SPLOST.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a change order for the expansion of the gas collection and control system for Phase V of the Landfill.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve Change Order No. 1 for a decrease in the contract price with Blue Flame Crew, LLC of Naperville, IL for the 2022 Gas Collection and Control System Expansion at the Landfill. This decrease, in the amount of \$27,225, will lower the contract amount from \$621,830 to \$594,605.

Mr. Talton presented a request for approval of a change order for a water system improvement contract.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Change Order No. 1 for a decrease in the contract price with John R. Walker, Inc. of Macon, Georgia for work on the *Water System Improvement Phase II to serve Gilbert Road project*. This decrease, in the amount of \$20,536.92, will lower the contracted price of \$937,305.32 to \$916,768.40.

Mr. Talton commented that he was happy to see change orders that reduced the price of these contracts.

Mr. Talton presented a request for repair of failing culverts on Smoke Rise Dr. found by the GDOT's inspection of the County's bridges.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of a contract to Utility Asset Management, Inc. of Butler, Georgia for repair work on the Smoke Rise Dr. culverts in the amount of \$60,000. This project will be paid for by the Storm Drainage Budget.

Mr. Talton commented on the fact that the bidding process realized a 50% cost savings.

Chairman Perdue asked Director of Operations Brian Jones to describe what spin casting is.

Mr. Jones described the method of repairing metal water pipes by spraying the interior of those pipes with concrete to create a coating of concrete inside. He finished by saying this method allows for pipe repair without having to dig up the pipe or block roads to perform the repairs.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$5,434,444.57.

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

Mr. Adam Watson asked a question about the status of the Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

Chairman Perdue advised that persons were still being asked to serve on this Board and that he would have staff advise Mr. Watson once this Board was ready to hear his appeal regarding a second electric meter being installed on his property.

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With no further comments, Chairman Perdue closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting and opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Byrd spoke of the importance of remembering Veteran's Day and expressed his appreciation and thanks to those who have served. He then expressed his condolences to the family of Cheri Adams for her recent passing. He finished by mentioning that today was election day and encouraged all Houston County citizens to vote.

Mr. Talton commented on the important County business that was handled at today's meeting.

Ms. Robinson echoed Mr. Byrd's comments and spoke of her appreciation to veterans for their service and sacrifice. She expressed her condolences to the family of Cheri Adams and finished by saying that election day was today and the need for everyone to vote.

Mr. Gottwals expressed his thanks that, living in the United States, we don't face the fear of terrorist attacks like he has heard from friends living in Israel. He asked that everyone pray for Israel and was grateful to live not only in America, but also Houston County.

Chairman Perdue expressed his appreciation to the Commissioners for their humility, wisdom and knowledge and commented that the military has taken an oath to protect the United States with their lives and expressed his thanks to our veterans for their service.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all. Meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner