

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
January 2, 2024
Perry, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, GA, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. County Attorney Tom Hall and Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar were also present.

Mr. Byrd gave the Invocation.

Mr. Gottwals led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Col. Ned Sanders, USAF (ret.), former Houston County Board of Commissioners Chairman, spoke of his time serving in the military. He spoke of attending the Citadel at age 17 on a scholarship, graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant, and going through pilot training. He also spoke of serving in the Vietnam War and being assigned to Scott Air Force Base and later Robins Air Force Base where he eventually retired. He finished by speaking of running for and winning the Chairmanship of the Houston County Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Sanders for his service, patriotism, and leadership during his time as Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners. They stated that any successes that Houston County was able to achieve under his leadership were made possible by the outstanding employees of Houston County and his fellow commissioners.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the City of Perry for deannexation of property located on GA Hwy 127.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to concur with the deannexation of property located at 2440 GA Hwy 127, and 0 GA Hwy 127. This property is also known as Tax Parcel # OP0490 080000 and Tax Parcel OP0490 079000. Property is currently zoned City of Perry R-3 and proposed zoning is County R-3. Also, to approve the signing of the Resolution for Deannexation of Property.

Chairman Perdue stated that the ability to have a deannexation of property from a city is new and that property owners are able to ask for this action due to a law recently passed by the Georgia General Assembly.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on a 2023 Straw Blower.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one (1) in-stock 2023 FINN B770T Straw Blower from Dobbs Equipment, of Macon, Ga, in the amount of \$45,297.90. This purchase will be paid from the 2012 SPLOST fund.

Chairman Perdue confirmed that the purchase of this piece of equipment would be purchased with 2012 SPLOST funds.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for the addition of one (1) Deputy Sheriff position to the position control listing.

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Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the addition of one (1) Deputy Sheriff's position (#223) to the Houston County Position Control Listing at a Grade 17 Step "B". Also, to authorize accounting to make any necessary budget adjustments.

Chairman Perdue confirmed with Personnel Director Ken Carter that newly hired Sheriff's Deputies who are already POST certified are hired at the "B" step.

Mr. Carter stated that he was correct.

Ms. Robinson presented the qualifying fees as required by Georgia Code O.C.G.A. §21-2-131 (1) (A).

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the following qualifying fees for the offices listed below. Qualifying will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, and will end at noon on Friday, March 8, 2024. Qualifying for Nonpartisan offices will be held at the Board of Elections Office, Houston County Government Building, 2030 Kings Chapel Road, Perry, Georgia. The General Primary/Nonpartisan General Election will be held on May 21, 2024, and the General Election will be held November 5, 2024.

Judge of Probate Court	\$2,767.14
Clerk of Superior Court	\$2,767.14
Sheriff	\$2,994.37
Tax Commissioner	\$2,767.14
Solicitor-General	\$4,531.82
Coroner	\$1,531.10
County Commissioner – Post 3	\$ 510.00
County Commissioner – Post 4	\$ 510.00
County Commissioner – Post 5	\$ 510.00
Chief Magistrate	\$ 2822.48
Board of Education – District 1	\$ 216.00
Board of Education – District 3	\$ 216.00
Board of Education – District 5	\$ 216.00
Board of Education – Post 7 (At Large)	\$ 216.00

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$5,205,574.16.

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

There being no comments Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioner's Comments.

Mr. Gottwals spoke of the inspiration that Ned Sanders is and expressed his thanks for hearing more about his life's story of service and leadership. He wished everyone a happy New Year and said that most people break their new year's resolutions by the spring and encouraged everyone to make small changes that they can keep which can lead to bigger changes in the future.

Ms. Robinson stated that she hoped everyone had a great holiday season and wished everyone a prosperous and happy New Year.

Mr. Talton thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a happy New Year and commented on the short but productive first meeting of the year.

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Mr. Byrd wished everyone a happy new year and expressed his appreciation to the County's public works department personnel, all law enforcement and first responders who continued to work during the holiday season. He reminded everyone that January 9th is law enforcement appreciation day. He concluded his remarks by recognizing Superior Court Clerk Carolyn Sullivan who was recently presented the Good Government Award by the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Perdue wished everyone a happy New Year and said that it had been an honor and privilege to serve with this Board the previous year. He concluded by saying that he looked forward to more positive work taking place by the Board in 2024.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

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