

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
August 6, 2024
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Perdue presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, Robinson, and Talton present. County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, and Director of Operations Brian Jones were also present.

Commissioner Robinson gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Talton led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SMSgt Schyler Peck spoke about his work, where his primary duty is serving as an air traffic controller with the 53rd Combat Air Operations Squadron. He stated that he and his team focus on establishing the necessary infrastructure and communication ability with military aircraft to allow those aircraft to have landing capability for combat or humanitarian missions. He spoke about his wife of 12 years and their two children and concluded by talking about the strong support he receives and feels from the Houston County community.

The Board expressed their appreciation to SMSgt Peck for his service and his critical work in supporting the United States military.

Chairman Perdue announced a special called meeting on Tuesday, August 20th, at 6:00 p.m. to approve the millage rate immediately following the next regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting. He stated that the plan is to recommend a full rollback of the millage rate to 8.501, which was 9.561 last year.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2024 meeting.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2782, #2788, and #2790.

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

Applicant #2782 was not present; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2788 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2790 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Byrd, 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:

#2782	Paul Smith	Landscaping & Property Management
#2788	Joo Young Lee	Computer Repair & Tech Support
#2790	Norse & Ashley Hutchens	Short-term Rentals & Property Management

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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 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.

Mr. Andrews instructed those applicants whose applications were approved on the next step in getting their business license: go to the Commissioner's Office and apply for the license.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for abandonment of unused portions of the right-of-way known as Davidson Road that are adjacent to 240 and 248 Davidson Road, Bonaire, Georgia. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 32-7-2(b)(1) the property owners were notified of the intent to abandon the unused portions of this right-of-way. The abandonment was advertised in the Houston Home Journal once a week for two weeks.

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

Chairman Perdue explained this action was being taken concerning the paving work on Davidson Road.

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

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all approve the Board of Commissioners signing the Resolution abandoning the unused portions of the right-of-way known as Davidson Road adjacent to 240 and 248 Davidson Road.

Utility Director Terry Dietsch presented information on the proposed solid waste management plan consistency determination.

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

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

Mr. Dietsch explained that a vote on this expansion for the C&D landfill would take place following a second public hearing, which will be held at the August 20th commissioners meeting.

Chairman Perdue recognized Centerville Mayor John Harley and thanked him for having the City of Centerville use the Houston County landfill. He then recognized Greg Boike of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, who attended the meeting.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for the distribution of Project SOAP funds, which Houston County received on October 13, 2023, to the Development Authority of Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the distribution of Project SOAP funds of \$431,220.46 to the Development Authority of Houston County.

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911/MIS Computer Department Surplus:

3 each Computer Rack Shelves

Sheriff Department Surplus:

1 each Credenza Desk

1 each Refrigerator

Office Panels (To make cubicles)

1 each Plotter/Printer

Security Cameras (Perry S.O.)

Chairman Perdue commented that in the past, the County has given surplus equipment, such as Sheriff's vehicles and radios, to other law enforcement agencies and is happy that the County can support the Georgia National Fairgrounds by donating surplus office equipment that they can use.

Mr. Talton presented a request for an addition to the Water Purchase Agreement between the Houston County Board of Commissioners and the City of Perry.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the addition of property located at 2141 Hwy 127, to serve Apex of Perry, to the Water Purchase Agreement between the Houston County Board of Commissioners and The City of Perry with the following stipulations:

- That the developer posts a bond covering 125% of construction cost for work performed on the Houston County Water System.
- Adherence to the rate structure approved by the Houston County Board of Commissioners on November 19, 2019.
- The issuance of a utility permit to the City of Perry based on all conditions being met according to "Houston County Utility Accommodations."

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$6,065,347.79.

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

As there were no comments, Chairman Perdue closed Public Comments.

Chairman Perdue opened Commissioner's Comments.

Mr. Gottwals thanked the County staff for the diligent and excellent way the agenda was prepared and developed for each meeting. He also expressed how thankful he was for Houston County being spared from the recent hurricane and to be mindful of those impacted by the large amount of rain this hurricane has brought to the region.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending and commented on the progress made at the meeting and how well the County is progressing.

Mr. Talton expressed his appreciation for the opening of new businesses and the local and regional cooperation, as evidenced by the agenda items discussed and voted on at today's meeting.