

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
December 3, 2024
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, December 3, 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 in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Major Calvin Moore spoke of his military career. Currently the Air Force Lifecycle Management Center, Detachment 10 Commander, he and his unit help maintain various Air Force aircraft. He mentioned he is a third-generation military service member and closed by saying he is glad to be back in Georgia and close to family in Columbus.

Chairman Perdue and each Commissioner thanked Major Moore for his service, complimented his carrying on the family tradition, and thanked him for his work in supporting the United States.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2812 through #2819.

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

Applicant #2812 was present and asked about the process to put out signs for his business. Mr. Andrews replied that he would need to return to Planning and Zoning for a waiver. There was no opposition.

Applicant #2813 was present and clarified that her business was for mediation, not arbitration; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2814 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2815 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2816 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2817 was not present; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2818 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Applicant #2819 was present with nothing further to add; there was no opposition.

Chairman Perdue closed the Public Hearing.

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County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations: 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.

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:

#2812	Michael Keeler	Quail Hatchling Flight Conditioning
#2813	Sharon Kornegay	Non-Attorney Legal Services
#2814	Kevin & Jennifer Taylor	Cleaning & Lawn Care
#2815	Jerron & Cameca Ashley	Lawn Service
#2816	Joshua Brown	Exterior Cleaning & Erosion Control
#2818	Randy Brooks	Lawn Service & Handyman
#2819	Robert Kidney	Playground Equipment and Pressure Washing

and also to table Special Exception Application #2817 submitted by Dylan and Hannah Swafford.

Mr. Andrews instructed the approved applicants that the next step in getting their business license was to go to the Commissioner's Office and apply for it.

Mr. Gottwals presented a request for bid approval on two new Houston County Detention Center administrative trucks.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the low bid from Woody Folsom Automotive Inc., of Baxley, Georgia, for \$109,426 for two new 2024 Chevrolet Tahoes. This purchase will be funded by 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on one new administrative crew cab truck for the Juvenile Division.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, and carried unanimously by all to approve the low bid of \$42,665 from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, Georgia, for one 2024 ½ ton Ford Crew Cab truck. This purchase will be funded by 2018 SPLOST.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a memorandum of understanding representing a community-wide coordinated effort to provide a team response to allegations of child abuse.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Gottwals, and carried unanimously by all to approve signing the Rainbow House community-wide Memorandum of Understanding recognizing Rainbow House Children's Resource Center as the designated Child Advocacy Center for Houston County.

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Chairman Perdue commented that this Memorandum of Understanding is renewed each year and is used by various agencies in Houston County as guidelines for addressing instances of child abuse.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd, and carried unanimously by all to approve the 2025 Houston County Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule.

Chairman Perdue commented that the April and July meetings will be postponed one week to accommodate those who need the flexibility to spend time with family during spring break and the 4th of July week.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson, and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,427,333.76.

Chairman Perdue opened the floor for Commissioner Comments.

Mr. Talton commented on the good meeting, thanked Carolyn Sullivan for her dedicated service, and said that Houston County is a better place because of her service.

Mr. Byrd spoke about local cooperation as signified by the 12 local organizations aligned in support of Rainbow House. He mentioned Thanksgiving being celebrated last week and stated he was thankful to call Houston County Home, for public servants like Carolyn Sullivan who live a life of service, for the Houston County employees, and for the privilege of serving the citizens of Houston County.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and Carolyn Sullivan for her service as the Clerk of Superior Court.

Mr. Gottwals gave a Christmas quote from the literary work, *A Christmas Carol*, and quoted Ebenezer Scrooge about the lessons he learned about Christmas and encouraged everyone to remember the reason for the season.

Chairman Perdue presented a framed copy of Bob Floyd's Commissioners Prayer for the Board of Commissioners. He then discussed ideas for assisting the Lashley Subdivision.

Chairman Perdue recognized Superior Court Clerk Carolyn Sullivan, reading a plaque being presented for her 59 years of service to Houston County.

Carolyn spoke about her love for Houston County, being the Clerk of Superior Court, and how she started with the County right out of high school and never left the office. She stated that the job is very diverse, and every day is different. She closed by saying that her successor has been with the Clerk's Office for over 30 years and that she has confidence in her abilities to take over the office.

Chairman Perdue and the Commissioners thanked Carolyn for her spirit of service to the citizens of Houston County and for her 59 years of service. They thanked her for her leadership not only in Houston County, but in the State of Georgia among other Superior Court Clerks, and for her reputation of running a very efficient department.

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

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner