

HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Warner Robins, Georgia
April 19, 2022
5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Turn Off Cell Phones

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Byrd

Approval of Minutes from April 5, 2022

New Business:

1. City of Warner Robins Annexation Request (Richardson & Evans / 1128 Hwy. 96) – Commissioner Byrd
2. Court Appointed Attorneys Fees (Superior Court) – Commissioner Byrd
3. Bid Approval (Houston Lake & Feagin Mill Intersection Improvements) – Commissioner Byrd
4. Independent Contractor Agreements (Superior Court / Indigent Defense) – Commissioner Walker
5. Policy for Professional Services Amendment – Commissioner Walker
6. Personnel Request (Landfill /Equipment Operator-Compliance Officer) – Commissioner Walker
7. Poll Workers for General Primary/Special Election – Commissioner Robinson
8. Emergency Purchase (District Attorney / SUV) – Commissioner Robinson
9. Bid Approval (Landfill / Bulldozer) – Commissioner Robinson
10. Approval of Bills – Commissioner Robinson

Public Comments

Commissioner Comments

Motion for Adjournment

Scott Free of Coldwell Banker Free Realty, on behalf of property owners Robert L. Richardson, Jr. and Weyman D. Evans, has requested annexation into the City of Warner Robins for a portion of property totaling 25.636-acres (portion of Tax Parcel 000520 007000) located at 1128 Highway 96, Kathleen. The property is currently zoned County R-AG (Residential Agricultural District) and the proposed zoning upon annexation is Warner Robins R-4 (Multi-Family Residential District). The property is contiguous to the Warner Robins city limits and will not create an unincorporated island.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- concur**
- non-concur**
- table**

with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for property totaling 25.636-acres (a portion of Tax Parcel 000520 007000) located at 1128 Highway 96, Kathleen.

The current fees paid to court-appointed attorneys are \$60 per hour for in-court services and \$45 per hour for out-of-court services. These rates have not been adjusted for many years. Staff recommends raising the in-court fees from \$60 to \$75 per hour and the out-of-court fees from \$45 to \$60 per hour.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

raising the fees paid to court-appointed attorneys from \$60 per hour for in-court services to \$75 per hour and from \$45 per hour for out-of-court services to \$60 per hour effective May 1, 2022.

3

Bids were solicited for the South Houston Lake Road and Feagin Mill Road Intersection Improvements project with two contractors submitting. Based on the evaluation scores, the Engineering Department recommends award to low bidder C.W. Matthews Contracting Company.

The project will widen South Houston Lake Road and Feagin Mill Road to provide two dedicated left turn lanes on South Houston Lake Road in the northbound and southbound lanes and on Feagin Mill Road to provide dedicated left turn, straight, and right turn lanes in the eastbound and westbound lanes. Also included is full width milling and asphalt overlay on South Houston Lake Road and Feagin Mill Road within the project limits.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

the award of the South Houston Lake Road and Feagin Mill Road Intersection Improvements project to C.W. Matthews Contracting Company of Marietta, GA in the amount of \$2,538,147. This is a SPLOST 2018 funded project.

These independent contractor agreements between the County and the four local attorneys will provide for the defense of indigent persons in cases where there has been a declared conflict of interest. The agreements have been modified to include a \$5,000 increase in the annual rate of compensation and includes a cap of 125 cases that may be assigned to each attorney at any one time.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

Chairman Stalnaker signing independent contractor agreements for the purposes of providing defense of indigent persons in cases where there has been a declared conflict of interest with David G. Daniell, Jonathan Perry Waters, Jeffrey L. Grube, and Carl Veline, Jr. effective May 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

5

On May 15, 2012, the Board of Commissioners adopted a policy for professional services requiring any contractor performing professional services for the County (including but not limited to attorneys, architects, engineers, surveyors, or geotechnical experts) to maintain errors and omissions (professional liability) insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000. The policy took effect on August 1, 2012. The Board of Commissioners now desire to omit the Independent Contract Attorneys contracted for indigent defense services in Juvenile Court and Superior Court from the current policy and adopt a new policy to the lower the minimum amount of errors and omissions (professional liability) insurance coverage to \$300,000 for these attorneys only.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

omitting the Independent Contract Attorneys contracted for indigent defense services with Juvenile Court and Superior Court from the current policy that has been in effect since August 1, 2012, requiring a coverage amount of \$1,000,000 and adopting a new policy that requires the Independent Contract Attorneys contracted for indigent defense services in Juvenile Court and Superior Court to maintain errors and omissions (professional liability) insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$300,000.

6

Landfill Superintendent Terry Dietsch is requesting to hire Ronnie Beard to fill the vacant Equipment Operator/Compliance Officer position at a Grade 10-E. Staff agrees that Mr. Beard possesses the requisite qualifications and experience to qualify for the E-step.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

hiring Ronnie Beard to fill the vacant Equipment Operator/Compliance Officer position at the Landfill at a Grade 10-E effective May 2, 2022.

Election Supervisor Debra Presswood has requested to hire the following poll workers for the May 24th General Primary/Special Election:

		AMOUNT	TOTAL
16	Managers (Precinct)	\$175.00	\$2,800.00
32	Assistant Managers (Precinct)	125.00	4,000.00
116	Clerks	115.00	13,340.00
6	Janitors	15.50	93.00
4	Janitors	25.00	100.00
313	BMD (Ballot Marking Device)	2.00	626.00
3	Election Supply Load Out Help	75.00	225.00
3	Election Night Equipment Return Help	75.00	225.00
3	Election Night Check-In Clerks	75.00	225.00
16	Supply Pick up / Return Supplies	10.00	160.00
16	Cell Phones	10.00	160.00
4	Ballot Scan Clerks	100.00	400.00
2	Election Day Techs	250.00	500.00
	GRAND TOTAL		\$22,854.00

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

the hiring of poll workers for the upcoming May 24, 2022 General Primary/Special Election.

The District Attorney's office has an immediate need to replace a vehicle which was totaled in an accident. Purchasing staff has found a suitable vehicle available from Brannen Motor Company for \$38,000. Mr. Kendall has agreed to reimburse the County for 100% of the vehicle cost from his available forfeiture funds.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

the award of one new 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV from Brannen Motor Company of Perry for use in the District Attorney's office in the amount of \$38,000. The District Attorney will reimburse the County for the cost of this vehicle from Forfeiture Funds.

9

The Purchasing Department solicited bids for one new high-track bulldozer for use at the Landfill. Yancey Brothers submitted the only bid for a Caterpillar D7. Staff recommends acceptance of this bid along with the extended warranty option.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

the award of one new 2022 Caterpillar D7 Bulldozer from Yancey Brothers Co. of Macon for use at the Landfill for \$713,120 plus a 60-month Premier Equipment Protection Plan Extended Warranty for an additional \$48,420 to total \$761,540. This equipment is funded by Solid Waste Capital Funds.

10

Summary of bills by fund:

• General Fund (100)	\$
• Emergency 911 Telephone Fund (215)	\$
• Fire District Fund (270)	\$
• 2006 SPLOST Fund (320)	\$
• 2012 SPLOST Fund (320)	\$
• 2018 SPLOST Fund (320)	\$
• Water Fund (505)	\$
• Solid Waste Fund (540)	\$
Total for all Funds	\$

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

- approve
- disapprove
- table
- authorize

the payment of the bills totaling \$