

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting  
December 20, 2022  
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 20, 2022, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Talton, Robinson, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Community Planner Jake Cox, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Solid Waste Superintendent Terry Dietsch, Chairman-Elect Dan Perdue, Commissioner-Elect Shane Gottwals, Coroner James Williams, Capt. Mikki Quinones, Superintendent of Public Buildings Michael Phillips, Tom McMichael, Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Talton led the audience in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Alice Johnson, Chief of Staff for Congressman Austin Scott's Office, presented a proclamation to Chairman Stalnaker recognizing his service to Houston County on the occasion of his retirement from public service. Ms. Johnson read the proclamation which was also read on the floor of the US House of Representatives and presented to Chairman Stalnaker a United States flag flown in his honor above the US Capital building on December 2, 2022.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 6, 2022.

Ms. Robinson presented a renewal of Professional Service Agreement with Houston County State Court and CSRA Probation Services Inc.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a renewal contract with CSRA Probation Services Inc. to provide private probation services in accordance with O.C.G. A. § 42-8-100 et seq. for the Houston County State Court.

Ms. Robinson presented a renewal of Professional Service Agreement with Houston County Superior Court and CSRA Probation Services Inc.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of a renewal contract with CSRA Probation Services Inc. to provide private probation services in accordance with O.C.G. A. § 42-8-100 et seq. for the Houston County Superior Court.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the Sheriff's Department to sell a surplus 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe (unit 901) to the Cordele Police Department. The Sheriff's Department is also requesting to donate a surplus 2014 Ford F-150 (Unit 943) to the Haralson County Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the sale of a surplus 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe (unit 901) from the Sheriff's Office to the Cordele Police Department and donating a surplus 2014 Ford F-150 (unit 943) to the Haralson County Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Stalnaker advised that giving surplus vehicles to other public safety agencies is not an uncommon practice and helps those agencies receiving the equipment and helps to remove these surplus assets from the County's inventory.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the City of Perry for annexation of property located at 2031 N. Hwy 41.

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Chairman Stalnaker explained the annexation process by a city wishing to annex property in the unincorporated area of Houston County and asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor or against this proposed annexation by the City of Perry. No questions or comments were raised.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Perry request for annexation of property located at 2031 N. Hwy 41 Perry, GA. Current zoning of the property according to Houston County Tax Assessors is County RAG, proposed zoning is City C-2.

Mr. Byrd presented a Government Agency Agreement with Flock Group Inc. This agreement was contingent upon each city entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for Safety Camera Placement in the spirit of cooperation to work together to implement the placement of the devices at key locations throughout the County.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the Safety Camera Placement with the City of Centerville, City of Perry, and City of Warner Robins to work together in the spirit of cooperation to implement the placement of the devices at key locations throughout the County.

This Memorandum of Understanding executed by all parties removes the contingency from the December 6, 2022, meeting for the signing of the Government Agency Agreement by the Chairman in order to enter into the agreement with Flock Group Inc. for the initial purchase of the equipment and continued term services for four years necessary to implement the placement of safety devices throughout Houston County.

Chairman Stalnaker said this action will be highly beneficial to law enforcement and assist in both apprehending criminals and assisting in humanitarian cases as well.

Commissioner Byrd commented that this camera system will be a force multiplier for law enforcement in Houston County.

Chairman Stalnaker said it will be like having an additional "24/7" law enforcement asset at work.

Mr. Byrd presented a request from the Public Works Department to enter into a construction contract for the Houston Lake Water Treatment Plant Remote Well Addition.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing an agreement with Hammack Well & Pump, LLC, of Ellaville, Georgia, for the Houston Lake Water Treatment Plant Remote Well Addition. The total of this contract will be \$1,483,345 and will be paid by ARPA funds from budget line item 230-4400-54.1400 WMC8.

Commissioner Byrd commended the bid process and the cost savings the process gives to the citizens of Houston County.

Chairman Stalnaker mentioned that a lot of pre-approval and background work must occur before work begins on projects such as this and hopes that this action will improve the quality of life for those living in the project service area regarding access to County water.

Mr. Byrd presented a request from the Public Works Department to enter into a construction contract for the Houston Lake Remote Well 16" Raw Water Main Extension.

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Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing an agreement with John R. Walker, Inc. of Macon, for the Houston Lake Remote Well 16" Raw Water Main Extension. The total of this contract will be \$988,979.30 and will be paid by ARPA funds from budget line item 230-4400-54.1400 WMC8.

Chairman Stalnaker discussed the supply chain issues that were faced regarding the pipe needed for this project in regard to PVC versus ductile iron pipe.

Mr. Byrd presented a Memorandum of Understanding For Medical Office Building in Bonaire between Houston County, Georgia, the Hospital Authority of Houston County, Georgia, and Houston Hospitals, Inc. for use by the Hospital under the terms and conditions of the 2009 Lease and Transfer Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding For Medical Office Building in Bonaire between Houston County, Georgia, the Hospital Authority of Houston County, Georgia, and Houston Hospitals, Inc. for use by the Hospital under the terms and conditions of the 2009 Lease and Transfer Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the reappointment of Ron Grace to the Board of Tax Assessors for a term of three years to start 01/01/2023 and end 12/31/2025.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the Purchasing Department for approval of a bid on five 2023 one-half Ton Pickup Trucks with Crew Cabs for use by the Houston County Sheriff's Office Warrants Division.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of five 2023 F-150 Pickup Trucks with Crew Cabs for use by the Houston County Sheriff's Office Warrants Division, from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, at a unit price of \$41,162 and a total price of \$205,810. This purchase is to be charged to 320-3300-54.2200 and paid from 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the Purchasing Department for approval of a bid on one new one-ton truck w/ Service body for use by the Houston County Public Buildings Department.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one new F-350 w/ Service body for use by the Houston County Public Buildings Department, from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, at a unit price of \$55,200. This purchase is to be charged to 320-1565-54.2200 and paid from 2018 SPLOST.

Mr. Talton presented a request from the Purchasing Department of a bid on one new one-half Ton Pickup Truck with Crew Cab for use by the Houston County Engineering Department.

Motion by Mr. Talton, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one new F-150 Pickup Truck with Crew Cab for use by the Houston County Engineering Department, from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, at a unit price of \$41,162. This purchase is to be charged to 320-4100-54.2200 and paid from 2018 SPLOST.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Purchasing Director Mark Baker about the availability and cost of vehicles that the County purchases.

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Mr. Baker mentioned that vehicle costs have increased with a longer lead time for delivery. He also mentioned that the cost for one vehicle now was what the County used to pay for two vehicles.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Purchasing Department for approval of a bid on one new in-stock SUV for use by the Houston County Tax Assessors Department.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of one new in-stock SUV for use by the Houston County Tax Assessors Department, from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, at a unit price of \$39,700. These funds will be paid from the 2018 SPLOST account 320-1550-54.2200.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Purchasing Department for approval of a bid on two new 2023 one-half ton Extended Cab 4X2 Trucks with six-foot bed for use by the Houston County Water Department.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the purchase of two new 2023 F-150 Extended Cab 4X2 Trucks for use by the Houston County Water Department, from Phil Brannen Ford of Perry, at a unit price of \$38,971 and a total price of \$77,942. These purchases will be paid from Water System Capital Funds.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Personnel Director Ken Carter to present the details of this Personnel item.

Mr. Carter presented a recommendation regarding staffing requests from earlier in this year. The recommendation included changes to the Houston County Position Control for FY23 and a 2% salary adjustment for all full and part-time employees with a pay grade classification, all employees of constitutional officers eligible for adjustments, all elected and appointed officials, and all county paid supplements effective February 20, 2023. Mr. Carter then thanked all the commissioners for their consideration.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Ken Carter for his work developing this idea and laying the groundwork for this initiative.

Commissioner Byrd mentioned that in his opinion this action is needed to help retain and attract the employees that Houston County needs.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve changes to the Houston County Position Control for FY23 and a 2% salary adjustment for all full and part-time employees with a pay grade classification, all employees of constitutional officers eligible for adjustments, all elected and appointed officials, and all county paid supplements effective February 20, 2023.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that Commissioner Walker has always been a strong advocate for the County's employees and this vote is another example of that by him. He then thanked Chairman-Elect Dan Perdue for his work and involvement on this initiative as well.

Commissioner Robinson mentioned this is a well-deserved action for the Board to take for the benefit of all full time County employees.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Talton and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$2,593,179.26.

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

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Walton Wood presented pictures to the Commissioners he had taken and expressed his appreciation to Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker for their service to the citizens of Houston County.

Former Commissioner Tom McMichael thanked Chairman Stalnaker for his public service for the past 50 years and Commissioner Walker for his long friendship.

Brian Jones thanked the Board and Chairman for the pay increase and presented a gift to Chairman Stalnaker on his retirement from the public works staff.

Walt Exley thanked the Board and Chairman for the retirement gift he received when he retired.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Walt and made mention of the positive comments he has received regarding Walt's new career of instructing others in the construction field.

Commissioner Byrd thanked Walt for the work he did while he was employed with the County in the Building Inspections Department.

Commissioner Talton congratulated Walt for the good work he did while a county employee and said that his work benefitted every citizen of Houston County.

Commissioner Robinson and Walker both expressed their thanks to Walt for his work with the County and wished him well in his retirement.

Tim Andrews expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Walker for appointing him to his position when he started with the County and for Chairman Stalnaker keeping him in the position he holds and thanked both Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker for their work serving the citizens of Houston County.

There being no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed Public Comments and reopened the regular portion of the meeting.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Commissioner's Comments.

Chairman Stalnaker began by saying he was appreciative of everyone's attendance at the meeting and said that his career with Houston County has been tremendously rewarding and is grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the citizens of Houston County. He recognized Chairman-Elect Dan Perdue for the time and work preparing himself to take over the role of Chairman in January. Chairman Stalnaker reminded those in attendance of the list of items he presented just over a year ago and remarked that the items had been either completed, substantially finished, or begun which will pay huge dividends for Houston County residents for years to come. He then spoke highly of the history and service that Commissioner Walker has had both on the Board of Commissioners and service in the Georgia General Assembly and thanked him for his and his family's friendship and relationship. He concluded by thanking Walt and Becky Woods for their service and assistance to the Board for taking the pictures of the military speakers each month and providing them with the framed photos.

Commissioner Jay Walker thanked Chairman Stalnaker for his friendship and read a prepared letter expressing his appreciation and thanks for his time serving as a Commissioner with Houston County.

Commissioner Robinson expressed her appreciation to both Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker for their service on the Board and expressed that Houston County is a better place because of the service of those two gentlemen.

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Commissioner Talton expressed his appreciation and thanks to both Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker and said that he greatly admires the way that both live their lives and serve as role models.

Commissioner Byrd expressed appreciation to both Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker for their work on the Board on behalf of the citizens of Houston County and remarked how both gentlemen made a large impact on his life personally. He concluded his remarks by thanking them both for helping to foster a culture of cooperation both on the Board and towards the Cities of Centerville, Perry, and Warner Robins.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Commissioner-Elect Shane Gottwals, County Attorney Tom Hall, and Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar to make remarks.

Mr. Gottwals said that in his travels to new Commissioner training that he constantly heard about the inner strife on Commission Boards around the State of Georgia and expressed his appreciation for Chairman Stalnaker leading by example to make sure that did not happen in Houston County.

Mr. Hall said that he very much enjoyed working with both Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker and expressed his thanks for the legal support from Commissioner Walker and for Chairman Stalnaker giving him the opportunity to be the first full-time County Attorney for Houston County.

Mr. Dunbar expressed appreciation to Chairman Stalnaker for being a man of his word during the time he has worked at the County for 31 1/2 years and thanked Commissioner Walker for his service to the people of Georgia and Houston County as a public servant during his time in the Georgia General Assembly and as a Houston County Commissioner.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Chairman-Elect Dan Perdue who expressed his appreciation and thanks to Chairman Stalnaker and Commissioner Walker for their work in service to the people of Houston County and assured them both that the work and foundation that both men laid is a solid one that he will rely on in his role as incoming Chairman.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all, meeting adjourned.

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Robbie Dunbar  
Director of Administration

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Chairman

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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