

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
March 15, 2022
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 15, 2022, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Byrd, Robinson, and Walker present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Fire/HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Dan Perdue, and Billy Jerles.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Ms. Cynthia Malone, co-founder of Chip'n Away @ Heart Disease, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to educate people on the risk factors for heart disease which is the number one killer in America. She introduced April Moss of the Houston Heart Institute who spoke of the services provided by the institute and of the different ways to prevent heart disease through risk factor modification. These include eating a heart healthy diet, managing diabetes, controlling blood pressure, quitting smoking, limiting alcohol use, exercise, and stress reduction. Community education and awareness is an important part of fighting heart disease. Ms. Malone also introduced Christie Lawrence with the Houston Stroke Prevention Center who discussed some of the same factors that contribute to the prevention of strokes. She said there is a great need for more stroke prevention centers in Central and South Georgia. Stroke survival depends heavily upon the individual receiving timely intervention.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Accountability Court to enter into a service contract with IHOPE, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract for services with IHOPE, Inc. for the provision of Peer Support Services in the Accountability Court effective immediately and expiring June 30, 2022. The Accountability Court grant will fund these services.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of a bid on the expansion of the existing elected officials parking lot at the courthouse.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the elected officials parking lot expansion project at the courthouse to JWS, LLC of Perry in the amount of \$62,500. The 2018 SPLOST (State Court Expansion Project) will fund this work. Parking spaces will be assigned once the State Court is completed.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of entering into a one-year extension to an existing contract with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping for maintenance on the County-owned stormwater management facilities.

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Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing a one-year option with Dixie Lawn & Landscaping, Inc. of Cochran, GA in the total amount of \$17,300 effective May 1, 2022 and expiring April 30, 2023.

Ms. Robinson presented a renewal on the mutual aid agreement between the Houston County Fire Department and Robins Air Force Base.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Agreement for Mutual Aid in Fire and Emergency Services between the Houston County Fire Department and Robins AFB effective immediately and expiring March 2, 2027.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a bid on the repair of the Fire Station #4 (Henderson) roof.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Byrd and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Fire Station #4 (Henderson) roofing project to Crosby Roofing and Seamless Gutter in the total amount of \$17,450. SPLOST 2012 will fund this project.

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of a Change Order on the Detention Center HVAC Upgrade project.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #2 with J.M. Clayton Co. of Thomaston, GA on the Detention Center HVAC Upgrade project. The current contract sum of \$3,171,533 will increase by \$48,510 for a new contract total of \$3,220,043. The contract time will increase by 70 days.

Mr. Byrd presented a request for approval of a bid on the Joint 2022 LMIG road resurfacing and repair projects.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve a bid award for the Joint 2022 LMIG road resurfacing and repair projects to Reames and Son Construction in the total amount of \$3,218,074.97 of which Houston County's portion is \$1,147,888.87. The cities of Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry and Byron will be responsible for the balance of \$2,070,186.10.

Mr. Byrd commented that four bids were received with a 20% difference between the successful low bidder and the second low bidder proving that the bid process is favorable for the citizens.

Mr. Byrd presented a bond tax resolution requested by the Houston County School District.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the Resolution providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax to provide funds for the payment of the principal and interest on \$40,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Houston County School District (Georgia) general obligation (sales tax) Bonds series 2022, should the sales and use tax be insufficient to pay the same.

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Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mr. Billy Jerles commenting that the Board of Education is ready to begin some of these projects immediately and this bond package will expedite some of that construction.

Mr. Byrd presented Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreements between Houston County and the City of Warner Robins/City of Centerville on the Elberta Road Widening Project Phase 1.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the Chairman signing Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreements between Houston County and the City of Warner Robins/City of Centerville on the Elberta Road Widening Project Phase 1 Relocation of City Utilities detailing the terms regarding the County superintending the 2012 SPLOST project designated as 2012 SPLOST CW12-04; and the City of Centerville and the City of Warner Robins as being responsible for the cost to relocate each of their utilities that are within the boundaries of the project.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$975,532.70.

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

Chief Stoner thanked the Board for their continued support of the Fire Department and offered an example of cooperation between the County and the City of Perry from a recent house fire on Star Moss Court. Chief Stoner and Chief Parker have an agreement that meant County personnel from Station 5 on Lake Joy Road responded and initiated the fire attack with the City of Perry personnel arriving a few moments later to join in the action. He called it a very good partnership which speaks well of both fire services and of the leadership of both the County and City of Perry wanting to help each other in any way possible for the benefit of our citizens.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that he was proud of the cooperation between departments as well. He also thanked Cheri Adams, publisher of the Houston Home Journal, for their excellent coverage of the incident.

Billy Jerles, Perry-Houston County Airport Authority Chairman, expressed his appreciation for the continued support that the County gives to the airport. He commented that the new terminal building begins operation in a couple of days with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to follow. On April 4th, the runway will be temporarily closed so that it can be resurfaced. The airport is now home base to approximately 100 aircraft.

Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Jerles for his and his father's service to the Airport Authority. Chairman Stalnaker remarked that there has been a lot of progress made at the airport over the past eleven years mainly due to the partnerships between the County, the City of Perry and the Authority.

Mr. Byrd thanked Mr. Jerles for his service to the community.

Daryl Allen, 205 Stonewall Drive, Warner Robins expressed his displeasure for the recent social media post by the Houston County Tax Assessor's Office concerning an ongoing revaluation of residential and agricultural property in the County. He said that these are tough times for people and that they do not need more taxes. He asked that the Board consider lowering expenditures rather than trying to raise more property taxes.

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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 Commissioners Comments.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for coming and expressed appreciation for Houston's outstanding citizens and employees.

Ms. Robinson also thanked everyone for coming and for participating in the meeting. She thanked Ms. Malone for bringing forward the cardiovascular health information.

Mr. Byrd commented on the various agenda items that highlight the cooperation between the cities and county government. He also commended each candidate for local office, two of whom were in attendance, for offering themselves for service to the community.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone that the next Commissioner's meeting would be on April 5th at 9:00 a.m. in Perry at the courthouse. He also thanked Ms. Malone for her efforts in raising awareness of cardiovascular health in the community.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner