

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
July 16, 2019
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Thomson, Walker, Robinson and McMichael present. Also present were Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Comptroller Sandi Stalnaker, Sheriff Cullen Talton, Major Tommy Jackson, Fire / HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Flint Energies VP of Member Solutions Rogee Roberson, Jim Taylor, Ansel Peck and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Walker led the audience in the Invocation.

CMSgt. Timothy Wieser, US Air Force led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then briefed the Board on his 20-year military career. He grew up in a small town in Minnesota where he worked on a farm and in a warehouse before enlisting in the Air Force November of 1998. Chief Wieser has held various leadership and management positions at both the squadron and group level. Prior to his assignment as the 78th Air Base Wing Command Chief at Robins AFB in May of 2019 he served at bases in Texas, South Korea, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alaska, Arkansas, Kuwait and New Mexico. He has deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Pacific Angel and Inherent Resolve.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized County employees Arthur L. Adams, Jr. of the Roads Department for reaching his 30-year service milestone and Dorothy W. Harden and Randall K. Banks of the Sheriff's Department as well as Phyllis A. Duncan of the Accounting Department for reaching their respective 40-year service milestones. He thanked each employee for their outstanding service to the citizens of Houston County and presented them with a clock, a service pin and a cash award.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Scout Master Aindra Braswell who was there with six members of Houston County's first BSA Girl Troop, Troop 247 and Assistant Scout Master Mary Ricker. Those members were Laela Freeland, Madyson Dunn, Amelia Ricker, Rachael Wittington, Gwendolyn Ricker and Bethanie Brooks. Also, in attendance were one boy scout, Jeremiah Ricker, from Troop 566 and a cub scout, Tristan Freeland, from Pack 170. Each scout was in attendance working on a Communication and Citizenship in the Community merit badge. The Chairman engaged each scout in a discussion about their schooling and hobbies and presented each with a County lapel pin.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the meeting minutes of July 2, 2019.

Mr. Walker presented a request to fill a vacant Equipment Operator position at the Landfill.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Mr. James Ray for the vacant Equipment Operator position in the Landfill at a Grade 10-D effective July 17, 2019.

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Mr. Thomson presented the uncollected bad debt for FY2019 from the Water Fund, Waste Collection and Solid Waste Disposal that needs to be written off.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the FY2019 Water Fund debt write-off of \$18,756.67; the Waste Collection (Sanitation) debt write-off totaling \$10,126.22 (\$7,321.59 for routes 10 thru 80 and \$2,804.63 for route 90); and the Solid Waste Disposal (Landfill) debt write-off of \$18,887.53.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mr. Dunbar to pass along a thank you to his staff for their diligent efforts during the past year.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for land acquisition for a potential new well site.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Property with Frito-Lay Inc. in order to purchase a tract of land of 6.486 acres for a potential new well site for the unincorporated area of Houston County and to further authorize the payment of the purchase price of Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$64,860.00) and closing costs associated with the purchase. Funds will be drawn from the water fund.

The property is more particularly described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 4 of the Eleventh (11th) Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being more particularly described as a triangular shaped tract of land of 6.486 acres according to a plat of survey prepared by Steve Coleman and Associates, Inc. , dated May 25, 2007 and revised May 15, 2007, said plat is hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for sales tax information from the Georgia Department of Revenue on sales and use tax information on all vendors who filed a sales tax return with amounts attributable to a certain political subdivision for a designated period.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize the Board of Commissioners signing a resolution requesting sales tax information from the Georgia Department of Revenue pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-2-15(d.1) for the period of July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019.

Mr. McMichael presented a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Warner Robins for installation of streetlights along Houston Lake Road.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Warner Robins concerning the purchase and installation of the streetlights along Houston Lake Road from the Highway 96 intersection to the intersection with

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Russell Parkway at a cost of \$200,000 which will come from SPLOST. Maintenance and operation of all the streetlights along said portion of Houston Lake Road will be paid by the City of Warner Robins.

Ms. Robinson presented a contract for State Court fines and fees collection services.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P. of Houston TX to provide collection of delinquent court fines, fees and court costs as necessary in Houston County State Court.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$1,730,340.35.

Chairman closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened public comments.

Ansel Peck, Burns Drive, Warner Robins expressed his gratitude to the County employees that have reached their thirty and forty-year service milestones.

Chief Stoner asked everyone to remember Chief Bob Smith and his family as he passed away this morning. Chief Smith served in the US Army, retired from a career at Robins AFB, and served in the Houston County Emergency Management Agency as well at the City of Centerville. Chief Stoner also announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Houston County Fire / EMA Headquarters and Fire Station #5 to be held on Thursday, August 1st at 9:00 a.m. The site does not have a permanent address yet; however, it is located just north of the current Lake Joy Station #5 and is across from 439 Lake Joy Road, Kathleen.

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

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened Commissioners comments.

Mr. McMichael thanked the scouts for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Thomson thanked the scouts and CMSgt. Wieser for coming to the meeting.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for coming and expressed her appreciation for all the wonderful County employees that reached their thirty and forty-year service milestones.

Mr. Walker commented that the employees recognized for their service to the citizens brought great experience and leadership to the County. He also thanked the scouts and scout leaders for attending.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked the great citizens of this County for supporting the governing body and thanked the Sheriff's deputy for providing security at the meeting. He then reminded everyone that the first of three public hearings on the proposed millage rate will be held tomorrow July 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Boardroom at the Annex building. The second hearing will be held Thursday, July 18th at 11:00 a.m.; the third hearing will be held Friday, July 26th

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at 11:00 a.m.; to be followed by a special-called Board meeting at 11:30 a.m. to adopt the millage rate and tax digest. Each of these hearings will be held at the Commissioner's Boardroom at the Annex building in Warner Robins.

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

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner