

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
October 16, 2012
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Walton and Becky Wood, Chief Kevin Noles, Angie Gheesling, Executive Director Houston County Development Authority, Mark Byrd, Shaw Blackmon, Daniel Cummings of Middle Georgia Regional Commission, and County Attorney Mike Long.

Commissioner Thomson led the audience in the Invocation.

Mr. Clyde Mathe, retired MSgt, United States Air Force, shared his experiences during his service and began his story by stating that he was proud to be an American. Mr. Mathe served for 28 years and began his career as a waist-gunner in a B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bomber aircraft during World War II. He recounted his service during the war flying on 34 combat missions over Europe. Mr. Mathe shared an incident in which his aircraft was hit by enemy fire and the crew was forced to ditch in the ocean. They were rescued by a British convoy. Mr. Mathe eventually returned to the states by way of New York where he fondly remembered passing by the Statue of Liberty. He has been a citizen of Houston County since 1964 and is also a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Motion by Mr. McMichael second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 2, 2012.

Commissioner Walker presented the resolution on Sequestration. Chairman Stalnaker briefed the audience on the importance of the effort to stop the sequestration process and how it would adversely affect every agency of the federal government, as well as local governments and the citizenry.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried in unison to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a Resolution to Find a Solution to Sequestration. The resolution is to be sent to the Georgia Congressional Delegation and to the President.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a resolution to apply for the Employment Incentive Program (EIP) funding; and, to sign a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) engaging the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to render assistance in preparing the EIP application and for providing administrative services upon any grant award; and, to contract with Carter & Sloope, Inc. as recommended by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to provide the necessary engineering services for the infrastructure improvements.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign Contract Change Order #1 on the 2012 Intersection Improvements contract with Georgia Asphalt. There will be no additional time for completion. The change order will result in a \$13,559.25 increase to the current contract price of \$84,523.01 bringing the new contract price to \$98,082.26.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to extend the performance bond (Charter Bank Letter of Credit #20466033) on Phase 1 of Amelia Place subdivision for a period of one year (expiring on October 28, 2013) contingent upon extension being received by October 27, 2012.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of tools and equipment necessary for the Fire Department rescue trucks in the amount of \$25,088.10. The Volunteer Fire Fund will reimburse the County for the entire amount. The Comptroller is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustment.

County Attorney Mike Long presented Declaration of Takings on six parcels along the Highway 41 widening project.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a Declaration of Taking to acquire Parcel 20 for the right-of-way and easements necessary to widen that section of SR11/US41. The property in question belongs to Mr. Billy Edwards and is valued at \$30,100. Also, to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign Declaration of Takings to acquire the following five parcels belonging to Eagle Springs, LLC: Parcel 19 valued at \$56,500, Parcel 21 valued at \$108,800, Parcel 23 valued at \$18,700, Parcel 37 valued at \$3,900, and Parcel 41 valued at \$500, all for the right-of-way and easements necessary to widen that section of SR11/US41.

County Attorney Mike Long presented Quit Claim deeds on the right-of-way for Wimberly Road.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign quit claim deeds for the Wimberly Road right-of-way Parcel B to Wilson A. Battles; and the Wimberly Road right-of-way Parcel G-B to Charlton Ray Gentry and James Raymond Bauerband.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign a Juvenile Offenders Program Grant from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia in the amount of \$7,500. The grant is designed to help the court pay for psychological exams of juveniles undergoing pre-dispositional and probation services.

County Attorney Mike Long presented a second reading for an Alcohol Beverages Ordinance amending license fees.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

There being no public comments, the meeting was continued.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve an Amendment to Section 6-66 increasing the license fee for the sale of distilled spirits by the package or consumption on the premises to \$4,000, and to Section 6-67 increasing the license fee for the sale of beer and wine to \$500.00.

Executive Director Angie Gheesling presented this request from the Houston County Development Authority asking the Board to back the loan for the American Real Estate property purchase off of I-75 with 2012 SPLOST funds. She thanked the Board for their continued commitment to furthering economic development in Houston County. She also pointed out that this site is a GRAD certified site (Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development). Vice-Chairman Mark Byrd spoke in support of this request pointing out that communities that invest in industrial property are able to more successfully compete for potential prospects.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to pledge sufficient 2012 SPLOST funds to back a loan not to exceed \$9.8 million to be secured by the Houston County Development Authority for the purposes of purchasing the American Real Estate property off of I-75 to be developed and marketed for industrial purposes.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to award a bid for gasoline and diesel fuel requirements covering the period beginning November 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 to Ports Petroleum of Wooster, Ohio at -.01 and +.0075 OPIS markup for gasoline and diesel fuel, respectively.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling \$1,011,375.52.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Walton Wood asked for a more detailed description of the American Real Estate Property which the Houston County Development Authority was purchasing and the Commissioners were backing with 2012 SPLOST funds. Mr. Wood also stated that he felt that the County was investing too much in the A.E. Harris tract of land for industrial development.

There being no further public comments, the meeting was continued.

Tom McMichael stated he was pleased with the progress the County has made toward land acquisition for economic development purposes.

Chairman Stalnaker stated he attended the Breast Cancer Awareness 'Pink Picnic' and urged everyone to support the fight against Breast Cancer as well as every other form of cancer.

Chairman Stalnaker also recognized Shaw Blackmon, Chairman of the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce, who spoke briefly of other local governments that were also signing a Sequestration resolution.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.