

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**  
**April 16, 2019**  
**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular called session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 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, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Asst. Fire Chief Chris Stoner, Chief Investigator Bill Smith, Administrative Assistant Jenna Edger, Houston County Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling, Perdue Farms Director of Operations (Perry Harvest) Craig Pugh, Centerville Mayor John Harley, Councilman Cameron Andrews, Councilman Michael Evans, Councilman Justin Wright, Councilman Ed Armijo, Walton and Becky Wood and Ansel Peck.

Chairman Stalnaker led the audience in the Invocation.

MSgt. Jeffrey Copeland, US Air Force (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and briefed the Board on his 24-year military career. He grew up in Pensacola, FL and early in his career spent three years as a crew chief on the KC-10 Extender aerial refueling tanker. He then retrained as a radio operator and spent time with the Special Operations Command and the MC-130P Combat Shadow which refuels special operations helicopters and resupplies their forces by airdrop and other means. During his service he spent time at McGuire AFB, NJ; AFSOC Command at Hurlburt Field, FL; Kirtland AFB, NM; and has completed tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been at Robins AFB for the last six years with the J-Stars program. MSgt. Copeland recently retired from the Air Force in March of 2019 and has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Houston County Fire Department for the last five years.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Houston County Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling who in turn introduced Perdue Farms Director of Operations Craig Pugh. Chairman Stalnaker read key points of a proclamation naming the week of April 15th thru the 19th as Manufacturing Appreciation Week and congratulated Perdue Farms, Clean Control Corporation and Interfor and their respective employees for being nominated for the 2019 Manufacturer of the Year award.

Mr. Pugh thanked the Board for not only their support but also for the community's support of local industry.

Chairman Stalnaker noted that existing industry in the County is equally as important as is bringing in new industry.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Carol Norris and her daughter Kelsey and presented them with a resolution recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month. Chairman Stalnaker encouraged everyone to learn more about autism and to give support and encouragement to individuals and families in our community affected by this challenging disability.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Family Promise of Greater Houston County Board of Directors President Ronnie Shivers, Board members Carolyn Schomer and Dan Bibler who briefed the Board on their upcoming fundraiser 'Car City Family Fun Sleep Out' which begins at 6 p.m. Friday, April 26th and concludes at 7 a.m. Saturday,

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1627**

April 27th at the Central Georgia Technical College parking lot. They invited everyone to spend the night in their car at the event site as they raise awareness for the nearly 700 homeless children in our community. Activities include live music, a scavenger hunt, movie night, breakfast and more.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from both the regular scheduled and the special called meetings of April 2, 2019.

Chairman Stalnaker then called on Assistant Chief Stoner to help recognize the many Houston County Fire Department volunteers in attendance. Approximately thirty members were on-hand to be recognized.

Assistant Chief Stoner reviewed highlights from the 2018 Fire Department stats which included 4,009 calls; total response staff hours of nearly 11,500 hours of which nearly 4,200 were volunteer call hours and over 7,300 were career staff hours; over 20,000 training hours of which 10,900 were volunteer training hours and over 9,100 hours career and part-time training hours. The total of 10,900 volunteer (training and call) hours equates to over \$423,268 of value added to the Fire Department. The top three busiest stations were Station #2 (Bonaire) with 1,126 calls, Station #5 (Lake Joy) with 738 calls, and Station #1 (Carl Vinson) with 735 calls.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked all the Houston County Fire Department personnel for a fantastic job and commended them for their service to our community. With the help of Assistant Chief Stoner and Administrative Assistant Jenna Edger, Chairman Stalnaker presented each member a framed certificate of appreciation honoring their devotion to public safety.

Assistant Chief Stoner stated that he is proud of the entire department for the exceptional job that they perform.

Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar made a recommendation to the Board to promote Assistant Chief Stoner to Fire Chief / EMA Director Grade 30-E effective April 17, 2019.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second in unison by all to promote Assistant Chief Stoner to Fire Chief / EMA Director Grade 30-E effective April 17, 2019.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the Board has a lot of love and respect for former Chief Jimmy Williams and that they have a high level of confidence in Chief Stoner. The Chairman and each of the commissioners congratulated Chris while Ms. Robinson pinned on his new chief's badge.

Chief Stoner thanked the Board for their confidence and said he is proud to lead the Houston County Fire Department into the future. His wife Crystal was in the audience supporting Chris as he received his promotion.

Ms. Robinson presented a request from the City of Warner Robins for annexation of property totaling 3.44 acres located at the intersection of West Wrasling Way and Ely Place.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for the property described as:

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1628**

Property totaling 3.44 acres (being a portion of Tax Parcel 00077D 001000) located at the intersection of West Wrasling Way and Ely Place as shown on a plat of survey by Robert L. Story, G.R.L.S. 1853, for Mason Financial Services, LLC dated January 21, 2019.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Engineering staff for release of a cul-de-sac bond on Oakley Court.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the release of the cul-de-sac bond on Oakley Court (Sun Trust Bank Letter of Credit #70003524, Expires September 19, 2019) on Forestbrooke Subdivision Phase 2 and Stratford Hills Phase 2.

Mr. Walker presented a request for approval of a bid for the Church Street widening project. Three bidders responded with staff recommending award to the low bidder Georgia Asphalt.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the Church Street widening project to Georgia Asphalt of Juliette, GA in the amount of \$1,525,081.47. This is a 2012 SPLOST (CW12-03) funded project.

Chairman Stalnaker acknowledged Mayor Harley and the entire Centerville council who were in attendance and then thanked each County staff member involved in this project to this point for their efforts as well as the City of Centerville staff members. He explained that this project may well be the most expensive road project ever, by linear foot, and thanked the voters for approving the SPLOST that will fund the work.

Mayor Harley stated that he was excited about this project because it has been a long time coming. He also expressed his appreciation to the County and to the citizens for approving the SPLOST. Each councilmember echoed those sentiments.

Mr. Walker presented a request from the Engineering Department to extend the cul-de-sac bond for one year on Harley Estates Subdivision Phase 2 to give the developer an opportunity to extend Rosales Drive.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the extension of the cul-de-sac bond (Persons Banking Company Letter of Credit #432946, expiring May 1, 2019) for Harley Estates Subdivision Phase 2. If the bond is not extended by May 1, 2019 the County will draw the bond and contract the work.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for the Engineering Department to enter into an agreement with Enviro Trenchless to rehabilitate the storm water drainage pipes located near 123 Falcon Crest.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve a professional services agreement with Enviro Trenchless, LLC of Warner Robins to rehabilitate the storm water drainage pipes located near 123 Falcon Crest in the amount of \$32,250.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval to enter into a professional services agreement with Saunders Engineering Consultants to provide the construction plans for the new fire station and emergency management complex project on Lake Joy Road.

## **Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1629**

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve entering into a professional services agreement with Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc. of Centerville to provide construction plans for the new Lake Joy fire station and emergency management complex project in the amount of \$16,600.

Mr. Thomson presented a request to enter into an agreement with Lovin Contracting Co., Inc. for additional mowing cycles to various County roads.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing an agreement with Lovin Contracting Co., Inc. for additional mowing cycles to various County roads in order to maintain the roads to the standard demanded by the citizens of Houston County. Lovin Contracting Co. will be paid on a cost per mile basis depending on the type of road per Exhibit A of the agreement.

Chairman Stalnaker stated that this is a first for the County and that this privatized mowing contract will 'test the waters'.

Mr. McMichael presented a request from the City of Warner Robins for the installation of a master water meter for Century Market Plaza.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve a request from the City of Warner Robins to include Century Market Plaza located at Hwy.96 and Houston Lake Road in the current water use agreement between the City of Warner Robins and Houston County. A four-inch water meter will be installed for this location.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for Chairman Stalnaker to sign contracts with the Department of Corrections for inmate work details.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing a contract with the Georgia Department of Corrections to provide the County with nine inmate work details from the McEver Probation Detention Center at a cost of \$39,500 per detail; and a contract for one inmate work detail from the Dooly State Prison at a cost of \$39,500. The contracts will be effective July 1, 2019 and will expire June 30, 2020. Total cost to the County is \$395,000.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a bid for the 2019 Spot Overlay project. Three bidders responded with staff recommending award to low bidder Womack Paving.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the 2019 Spot Overlay project to Womack Paving of Gray, GA in the amount of \$97,210.50. Funds for this project will come from the SPLOST resurfacing allocation.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$899,827.92.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Comment.

There being no comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting Continued from Page 1630**

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular meeting and opened the Commissioners Comments.

Mr. McMichael remarked that it was a great meeting and congratulated Chief Stoner on his well-deserved promotion.

Mr. Thomson commented that he was glad the Board could recognize each of the volunteer firefighters and congratulated Chief Stoner. He also said that Houston County had lost a great citizen today, Mr. John Knowles, a WWII decorated veteran and namesake of the boat ramp on the Ocmulgee River in Bonaire, Knowles Landing.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and congratulated Chief Stoner.

Mr. Walker congratulated Chief Stoner and the volunteer firefighters. He also thanked Mayor Harley and Council for the graciousness and hospitality that they extend to him each time he attends one of Centerville's council meetings.

Chairman Stalnaker announced to the Board that the FY20 budget as requested will be made available to them on Friday and that he will present a more detailed brief at the May 7th Board meeting. He did comment that there was a large gap between projected revenues and requested expenses. He also thanked Carol and Kelsey Norris for coming to the meeting and for helping to bring awareness to autism.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Holland  
Director of Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner