

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
November 5, 2019
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met for a regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday November 5, 2019, at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia, with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, Thomson, McMichael and Robinson present. Also present were County 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, Fire / HEMA Chief Chris Stoner, Assistant Chief David Newman, MIS Director Gail O'Quinn, Network Administrator James Faulkner, Jim Taylor, Consultant Bob Lewis and Walton and Becky Wood.

Commissioner Thomson led the audience in the Invocation.

Sgt. Alex Lumpkin, US Army (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his military career. He was born and raised in Perry graduating from Perry High School in 1995. Briefly attending Paine College in Augusta, he realized that he was not cut out for college and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1997. After basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky he was stationed at Fort Gordon as a Signal Support System Specialist or communications officer. During his four years of service he also was stationed in Korea for a year and at Fort Drum, NY. He spent eight months in Bosnia during 1999 and 2000. After his service he returned to Perry and worked as a security officer at the Georgia National Fairgrounds for six months before joining the Houston County Sheriff's Department in February of 2002 where he still serves as courthouse security. He thanked Sheriff Talton for allowing him to serve for the past seventeen years. Also, in 2002 he joined the US Army Reserves and spent nearly three years serving as a communications officer. His wife, twin girls and his mother joined him at the meeting.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting

County Attorney Tom Hall made a blanket statement for the benefit of all applicants for Special Exceptions for home occupations that even if the Board of Commissioners approves an application, neighborhood covenants may still impose certain restrictions upon or against home occupation businesses. These restrictive covenants are superior to any action taken by the Board of Commissioners. The actions taken by the Board will not change any provision within the covenant that prohibits any commercial or business activity.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Applications #2295 thru #2302 and #2304.

Chairman Stalnaker closed the regular meeting and opened a Public Hearing.

Special Exception #2295 applicants were present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2296 applicants were present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2297 applicant was present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2298 applicants were present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2299 applicants were present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2300 applicant was present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2301 applicant was present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2302 applicant was present. There was no opposition.

Special Exception #2304 applicant was present and clarified that she was going to hold off on selling any edible treats until she was cleared by the Health Department. There was no opposition

As there were no further comments Chairman Stalnaker closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular meeting.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the following applications to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 Requirements staff report:

Special Exception #2295	Edwin & Patricia Prime	Postpartum Doula
Special Exception #2296	David & Jennifer Clymer	Goat Milk Crafts
Special Exception #2297	Alvin Beal	Pressure Washing
Special Exception #2298	Windmill at Mossy Lake Homeowners	Pavilion
Special Exception #2299	David & Carla Weber	Sublimation Services
Special Exception #2300	Denise Smith	Crafts
Special Exception #2301	Lawanda Graves-Byron	Health & Beauty Products
Special Exception #2302	Lawanda Graves-Byron	Mobile Oil Change Services
Special Exception #2304	Sabrina Starling	Crafts & Treats

Mr. Andrews gave each applicant approved for a home occupation instruction on the next step of the process which is obtaining their occupational business license from the Commissioner's office.

Mr. Walker presented a request from Austin R. Tosi for abandonment of easement.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Austin R. Tosi's application by signing "A Resolution Abandoning Portion of a Houston County drainage and Utility Easement" and pursuant to the signing of the Resolution approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Quit Claim Deed conveying the north 5-foot of the 10-foot drainage and utility easement located at the rear of his property located at 114 Whippoorwill Drive, Warner Robins, GA to Austin R. Tosi and Elizabeth A. Tosi.

Mr. Walker presented a personnel request from the Engineering Department.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve hiring Mr. Jeffery Smith for the vacant Civil Engineer position in the Engineering Department at a Grade 25-D effective November 6, 2019.

Mr. Walker presented a resolution that offers a defense to county employees and elected officials sued in their individual capacity as well as their official capacity.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker and the Commissioners signing a resolution to provide a legal defense of individual employees and elected officials.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the appointment of the following individuals to the Region 6 DBHDD Advisory Committee:

Jennifer Trawick	11/05/2019 thru 11/04/2022
Chrystal Ann Wasden	11/05/2019 thru 11/04/2022

Ms. Robinson presented a request for approval of the acceptance of the Victims of Crime Act grant funds.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing all documents necessary to accept a total of \$142,284 of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds to be administered by the Solicitor-General and \$203,855 to be administered by the District Attorney for the continuance of the Victim Assistance Program in Houston County State Court and Superior Court.

Ms. Robinson presented an update to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Board of Regents.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Houston County with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

Ms. Robinson presented two Memorandums of Understanding between the County and the City of Warner Robins.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, 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 eighteen street lights along Bear Country Boulevard from Highway 96 to Cohen Walker Drive at a cost of \$11,328 which will come from SPLOST. Maintenance and operation of all the streetlights along said portion of Bear Country Boulevard will be paid by the City of Warner Robins. Also, to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing the Memorandum of Understanding with The City of Warner Robins concerning a traffic study for Lake Joy Road at Russell Parkway intersection and for Tharpe Road at Russell Parkway intersection. The County and City will equally split the cost of the professional engineering traffic study performed by Wilburn Engineering and will also equally split the cost of construction to install the traffic signal at the Tharpe Road and Russell Parkway intersection. The City will invoice the County for its portion of both.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that the Tharpe Road and Russell Parkway intersection has been problematic for years with many traffic accidents. Although an earlier traffic study did not meet warrant for signalization a recent traffic study did meet warrant. He also commented that the addition of streetlights near Freedom Field and other County and Board of Education facilities would greatly enhance the travel experience for citizens. He was pleased that the City of Warner Robins and the County could partner in this endeavor.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for disbursement of the clothing allowance for eligible individuals in the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve the disbursement of a \$450.00 clothing allowance to those twenty-seven Sheriff's Department personnel identified in a letter from Chief Deputy Rape dated October 17, 2019. Total disbursement is \$12,150.

Mr. Thomson presented a request for approval of an Agreement for Consultant Services.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing an Agreement of Consultant Services with Luster National, Inc. of Atlanta for right-of-way acquisition services on the Elberta Road widening project per Task Order Number 001 which term will be for six months.

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this agreement would cover the first phase of the Elberta Road widening project from Carl Vinson to N. Houston Road. The second phase will be from N. Houston Road to Northside Drive.

Mr. Thomson presented a Resolution and Lease Agreement for the Knowles Landing public boat ramp.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the Resolution required by the Department of Natural Resources that authorizes Chairman Stalnaker signing the "Lease To The Department of Natural Resources For Boating Access" and any other related documents or papers necessary to provide boating access at the Knowles Landing public boat ramp.

Mr. Thomson presented agreements for processing the funds collected from the passing school bus citations.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing the Participant Agreement with Official Payments Corporation; the Merchant Services Agreement for Sub-Merchants with WorldPay, LLC; and the Tier 3 Service Election and Acknowledgement with Verra Mobility.

Chairman Stalnaker stated that the bus cameras were a very worthwhile program that brings awareness and enhances safety for the school children.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of a change order.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker signing Change Order #1 with Womack Paving, Inc. on the 2019 Spot Overlay project increasing the original contract price of \$97,210.50 by \$3,379.11 for a new contract price of \$100,589.61.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve support for the upcoming 10th Annual "Run 2 End Alzheimer's at the Landing's" to benefit the Central Georgia Alzheimer's Association. The event will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2020 starting and finishing at the Landing Pointe Plaza in Bonaire. The Sheriff Department has agreed to assist with traffic control during the hours of the race.

Mr. McMichael presented a request for approval of an equipment repair proposal.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the courthouse chiller repair project, to include the installation of a new compressor and condenser fan motor, to Hays Service of Macon in the amount of \$35,614.00.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of the bills in the amount totaling \$5,795,203.50.

Mr. Bob Lewis of Owen-Lewis Consulting gave the Board an update on the court case management and jail management project. He reminded everyone that the scope of the project ties together the Superior Court, Superior Court Clerk, State Court, State Court Clerk, Solicitor-General, Magistrate Court, Public Defender, District Attorney, MIS, Sheriff (Warrant Division), and the Detention Center creating one unified software solution. The system will provide interfaces between the new system and the existing County systems; provide data conversion for all historical data; include reports and inquiries; and all required hardware and networking. The project is on budget and on schedule. The Jail Management system is scheduled to go live January 31, 2020. Data validation training is being conducted this week for the Court Case Management system and the go live is scheduled for January 8, 2021.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Lewis and thought that quarterly updates would be beneficial for the Board.

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

Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen asked for a clarification of the effective date on the personnel request on Item #3. The agenda noted the effective date of October 16, 2019. The motion was made with the effective date of November 6, 2019.

Mr. Holland explained that the agenda was in error and that the correct effective date was made in the motion for November 6th.

Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar further clarified that Mr. Smith would not report to work for the Civil Engineer position until after the first of the year.

Davis Cosey, 809 Evergreen Street, Perry briefed the Board on the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) method of controlling the feral cat population and presented the Chairman a letter from the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) requesting comments from local governments from across the state to help them further assess both the support for, or the opposition against, such programs. The letter indicates that the GDA's current interpretation of record keeping prevents Georgia licensed animal shelters and rescues from participating in TNR programs. They do, however, recognize that if TNR programs are implemented and monitored effectively the programs can result in an effective alternative means of feral cat population control. The local governments comments are an effort by the GDA to gain a comprehensive consensus on this issue.

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

Mr. McMichael thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone to please go vote today. He also remarked that he was glad Mr. Thomson was back.

Mr. Thomson remarked that he was glad to be back.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for being here and thanked Mr. Cosey for his remarks.

Ms. Robinson likewise thanked everyone for being here and wished both Chairman Stalnaker (November 4th) and Commissioner Thomson (November 6th) a happy birthday.

Chairman Stalnaker presented Commissioner Thomson with a birthday card. He remembered Wayne Lowe's wife Betty who passed away on October 31st. Ms. Lowe was a long-time resident; business owner and fellow church member and he offered his thoughts and prayers to the family. He also thanked the Lumpkin family for their long-time presence in the community.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

