

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
September 6, 2016
Perry, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday September 6, 2016 at the Houston County Courthouse in Perry, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners Walker, McMichael, Robinson and Thomson present. Also present were County Attorney Tom Hall, Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Personnel Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Chief Tax Appraiser James Moore, Sheriff Talton, Capt. Harlowe, Lt. Quinones, Capt. Beth Shafer, Interim Public Defender Mike Long, Walton and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, Teresa Hathaway, Engineering Associates VP of Wireless Engineering Mike McGannon, Motorola VP & Director of Sales Marshall Wright, Motorola Account Manager Geoff Thames, Judge Larry O'Neal, Perry Councilman Randall Walker, Warner Robins Mayor Randy Toms, Warner Robins Councilman Chuck Shaheen, Warner Robins Councilman Mike Davis, Warner Robins Councilman Tim Thomas, Warner Robins Councilwoman Carolyn Robbins, Jim Taylor, Family Promise President Dave Razo.

Commissioner Walker led the audience in the Invocation.

MSgt. Randall Pettyjohn, USAF (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and detailed his 21-year military career. He joined the service in September of 1968 and spent his career in the Security Police field. He served at Da Nang Airfield in Vietnam during the war. Some of his later duty assignments were at Lackland AFB in Texas; Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota; Offutt AFB in Nebraska; Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona; and, his last assignment, Robins AFB. Later in his career he became an instructor at the Security Forces training academy at Lackland AFB. After retiring from the service in 1989, MSgt. Pettyjohn served with both the Macon Police Department and the Bibb County Sheriff's Department. He is now fully retired as of December of 2015.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Warner Robins Councilwoman Carolyn Robbins and Ms. Tarusa Stewart of iHOPE and then read a proclamation supporting September as National Recovery Month in Houston County. Ms. Stewart explained that Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective and that people can and do recover leading them to live healthy and more productive lives.

Chairman Stalnaker then recognized Mr. Dave Razo of the Family Promise of Greater Houston County and read a proclamation supporting National Family Promise Week. Mr. Razo explained that the Family Promise is a non-profit, non-denominational organization which provides shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes through a network of 33 local churches. He briefed the Board on their upcoming fund-raising event, 'Car City – Putting the Brakes on Homelessness' that will be held on September 16th in the parking lot of Central Georgia Technical College, and challenged the members of the Board to participate or sponsor through pledges. He introduced several volunteers who all work with the organization. He stated that the program has helped 70 children in the three years that the program has been operating.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the minutes from the meetings of August 16, 2016 and August 17, 2016 with a correction to the minutes of August 17, 2016 changing Sylvia Hill's title from Deputy Chief Clerk to Interim State Court Clerk.

Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews presented Special Exception Application #1995. Mr. Andrews explained that the application was originally tabled at the August 2nd Board meeting and sent back to Zoning & Appeals since the applicants failed to appear at the original July 25th hearing. The applicants subsequently failed to appear at the second hearing held on August 22nd and the Zoning & Appeals Board now recommends #1995 for unanimous denial.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to deny approval of Special Exception Application #1995

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 #1997, #2000, #2001 and #2003 for home occupation businesses. Mr. Andrews explained that each application meets the Section 95 requirements and are recommended by the Zoning & Appeals Board for unanimous approval.

Chairman Stalnaker opened the floor for a public hearing on Special Exception Applications #1997, #2000, #2001 and #2003.

Applicant for #1997 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #2000 was not present. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #2001 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

Applicant for #2003 was present with nothing further to add. There was no opposition.

There being no further comments the meeting continued.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve Special Exception Applications #1997, #2000, #2001 and #2003 to include any and all stipulations as noted on the Zoning & Appeals recommendation and Section 95 requirements staff report.

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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.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously by all to hire Ms. Teresa Hathaway for the position of State Court Clerk at a Grade 25, Step D effective October 3, 2016.

Chairman Stalnaker explained the lengthy process whereby a panel interviewed candidates and then recommended the top three picks to the Board who then interviewed those individuals. Each Commissioner then individually ranked the candidates according to their preference utilizing a points system. Based on the aggregate rankings, Ms. Hathaway had the best score. Chairman Stalnaker commented that all three candidates were outstanding and that the Board looks forward to bringing stability and continuity back to the office such as it had been operated previously by Ms. Sissi Gann. He commended the current office staff of the State Court Clerk's office for working diligently through this long transition period.

Mr. Walker presented a request by the City of Warner Robins, for the Houston County Board of Education, to annex a 0.05 acre parcel of property located near the intersection of Jerry Barker Drive and Bear Country Boulevard. The property is currently zoned C-2 and the proposed zoning upon annexation is the same.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for the property known as tax parcel number 000780 03B000 being Parcel #8E comprising 0.05 acres.

Mr. Walker presented a request by the City of Warner Robins, for The Bank of Perry (Persons Banking Company) who has petitioned for annexation into the City of Warner Robins for a 0.375 acre parcel of property that was formerly right of way at the southwest corner of Lake Joy Road at SR 96 that the County recently abandoned and then subsequently sold to the bank. This parcel will be combined with an adjacent Bank of Perry parcel that is already in the city limits. Proposed use upon annexation will be C-2 General Commercial District for a Kauffman Tire store.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to concur with a City of Warner Robins annexation request for this 0.375 acre parcel of property located at the southwest corner of Lake Joy Road at SR 96 being parcel number 0W1030 018000.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign the annexation request to the City of Warner Robins for the following described property:

Houston County tax parcel no. 001260 02A000

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That certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 9 of the Eleventh Land District, Houston County, Georgia comprising 24.24 acres of land, more or less, as more particularly shown on a plat of survey designated "Survey for The Board of Commissioners of Houston County, Georgia," prepared by Richard L. Jones, Surveyor, dated October 25, 1982, a copy of said plat being of record in Map Book 25, Page 62, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made part of this description by reference thereto.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the County would be requesting annexation of the property into Warner Robins primarily to facilitate the future growth of the area. The growth would be good for the County and by working together with the City and the developer this ensures an orderly process. Mayor Toms and several council members spoke about the cooperation between the County and City and the mutual benefits that can be realized.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign an addendum to the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Community Solutions, Inc. increasing the per diem rate to \$87 per day per youth and removing the language of minimum billing. All other terms of the MOU remain intact as originally written and approved at the May 3, 2016 Board meeting.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker entering into a contract with Ronald Daniels to serve as an indigent defense conflict attorney. The contract will begin September 7, 2016 and end June 30, 2017. Compensation will be eighty-five thousand dollars per year prorated for the ten months of the contract.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to approve Chairman Stalnaker signing an agreement with the Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings for the purpose of holding appeal hearings in the Juvenile Court Building.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign the Infrastructure Agreement with the City of Warner Robins.

County Attorney Tom Hall explained that the agreement was intended to ensure smart and orderly growth of the City into unincorporated Houston County by means of a pre-design meeting to be held prior to the Planning & Zoning approval of a development to facilitate the planning of the development's infrastructure.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized the County's consultant Engineering Associates VP of Wireless Engineering Mike McGannon who briefed the Board on the key components and features of the upgrade, and touched on several new features such as the ability to send text messages to 911 and the ability for operators to view surveillance camera videos monitored online by an alarm company. He also spoke of the project timeline which would be approximately twelve months. Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Thomson for his efforts and recognized Sheriff Talton, Capt. Harlowe and Lt. Quinones. Mr. Thomson remarked that we have the best 911 system in the state because of its operators and thanked the Sheriff, the Chairman, the Director of

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Administration and the taxpayers as this project is fully-funded by the 2012 SPLOST. Mr. Thomson also thanked Motorola for their part in helping us meet our budgetary constraints. On behalf of the E-911 Center, Capt. Harlowe thanked the Sheriff, the Board and the citizens of Houston County.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously by all to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign all contract documents with Motorola Solutions, Inc. to upgrade the E-911 communications system to include the APCO P25 Phase 2 800 MHz Trunking System with Microwave Backbone Network; the IP-Based NG9-1-1 telephony system; the 911 Center Facility refurbishment; and the 911 Center Dispatch Furniture at a total cost of \$6,500,000. This is a 2012 SPLOST funded project

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of the asphalt paving project at the T-Hangar and Georgia State Patrol Hangar site at the Perry-Houston County Airport to Womack Paving, Inc. of Gray, GA in the amount of \$127,848.14.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that a dedication for the GSP hangar facility is anticipated in late October or early November.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously by all to approve the award of one new 2016 Dodge Charger to Ginn Commercial & Fleet of Covington, GA in the amount of \$23,473. This vehicle purchase will be reimbursed 100% by the Sheriff with Inmate Funds.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously by all to approve the payment of bills totaling \$3,222,947.02

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Mr. Ansel Peck, 109 Latham Drive, Warner Robins thanked the Board for their combined efforts during the past year and also commended Sheriff Talton remarking that his office is one of the best in the state of Georgia.

Mr. Walton Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen also commended the Sheriff for the strong law enforcement effort as well as the E-911 center and its staff.

Ms. Becky Wood, 426 Sandefur Road, Kathleen remarked that her experience with Sheriff's personnel have always been professional and that each deputy remains passionate about their duties while at the same time treating citizens with compassion and consideration.

There being no further public comments the meeting continued.

Chairman Stalnaker then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mayor Toms, Council members Shaheen, Thomas, Davis and Robbins, and Perry Councilman Randall Walker for attending.

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Commissioner Thomson thanked all the city officials for attending and everyone that was involved in the E-911 upgrade project.

Commissioner Robinson thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

Commissioner Walker thanked Mr. Thomson for his efforts on the E-911 upgrade project.

Commissioner McMichael thanked developer Keith Newton for his patience concerning the proposed development near Woodard Road and Old Perry Road and also thanked Sheriff Talton and his staff for their efforts.

Chairman Stalnaker asked Mike McGannon to recognize the Motorola representatives that were present. Mr. McGannon introduced Motorola VP & Director of Sales Marshall Wright and Account Manager Geoff Thames. Chairman Stalnaker further remarked that the E-911 communications officers and the Detention Center corrections officers were two of the toughest jobs in the County.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner