



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

**February 01, 2022
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

ALSO PRESENT

David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Jill Adams
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henry Craig called the February 1, 2022 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Dr. Gloria Wicher delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kendrick Butts led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION

Chairman Craig presented a Proclamation to Dr. Noris Price in honor of her being named Georgia School Superintendent of the Year and being a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year. The Proclamation also expressed appreciation to Dr. Price for her many contributions to the Baldwin County School District as well as the entire community.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to amend the Agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss litigation. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and the January 18, 2022 Executive Session. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Appointment of District 4 Representative to Board of Assessors

Chairman Craig reported the term of Colonel Thomas Torrance on the Board of Assessors is expiring, and he recommends the reappointment of Colonel Torrance as the District 4 representative for another six (6) year term beginning February 1, 2022 and ending January 31, 2028.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to reappoint Colonel Thomas Torrance to the Board of Assessors for District 4. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staggered Terms of Office for Commissioners

Chairman Henry Craig reported he sent information to Commissioners about how staggered elections for office of commissioners could be considered in Baldwin County. This change would require local legislation and could potentially be accomplished this year if information could be submitted to the legislative delegation in time for their consideration. He stated since all Commissioners have the same term of office there could be a time when all Commissioners would leave office at the same time. This potentially could be less than efficient for elected direction for the budget, policy and other functions of the County. He asked that Commissioners review the information and provide comments for a discussion at the next meeting.

Key Event Calendar

Chairman Craig stated several important issues are coming up within the next year(s) such as LOST, T-SPLOST, and SPLOST. He has asked staff to prepare a timeline so that required deadlines may be met. This calendar will be discussed at future meetings as the need arises.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Kendrick Butts stated citizens are dumping in the Richard Street area which is making the community look bad. He urged citizens to utilize convenience centers and to take pride in their community.

Commissioner Hall recommended code enforcement officers look through trash, identify the violators and prosecute them.

Vice Chairman Westmoreland reported the fence at the Meriwether Center needs to be repaired.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Tobar announced Baldwin County is one of forty-nine recipients of Broadband grants. The County's grant award is \$917,474.00 of the total project investment of \$1,835,853.00. Mr. Tobar thanked the Board for their \$151,000.00 commitment to the project which will make it possible for the entire County, including the city limits, to have access to high-speed broadband internet service.

Mr. Tobar reported on the following projects: work on the roundabout is nearing completion, and it should be open within the next two weeks; the landscaping in front of the Government Building will be done this week; local legislation for the County redistricting was introduced by Representative Williams; the Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) grant has been submitted. Mr. Tobar presented an update on the PlanFirst designation. He stated Baldwin County applied for 2022-2024 designation and was not selected. He reported the County will continue to seek the PlanFirst designation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The following addressed the Board:

Diane Lucette discussed reconstruction, citizens right to vote and laws to protect voters' rights.

Brittany Warthen read the 13th amendment and section 1 of the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

Nadira Colbert read the remainder of 14th amendment.

Cedric Evans read the 15th amendment.

Judy Veal discussed the animal shelter and requested pictures of shelter animals be posted on the website in order to better their chances for adoption. She also requested the County find ways to make the shelter more available to citizens.

Pam Peacock discussed the relationship between the County and Friends of Baldwin County in regards to animal control services. She submitted list of questions to the Board regarding animal control. County Manager Tobar stated he would provide answers to her questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss litigation. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REOPEN REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk