



**BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING AND
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2022
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

OTHERS PRESENT

David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henry Craig called the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Dr. Gloria Wicker delivered the invocation.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Baldwin High School Naval JROTC presented colors.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Craig led the pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2023 Budget

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented information on the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. She discussed revenues and expenditures totaling \$25,800,000 for the General Fund budget. She reported tax revenue makes up 79% of General Fund revenue with the budget based on property tax revenue of \$15,200,000 and Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue estimated at \$5,300,000. Grant revenue is \$1,822,000 in 2023; charges for services remain the same at \$2,241,000; fines and forfeitures expected to be \$679,000 and other revenue of \$99,000. Ms. Hudson highlighted General Fund Expenditures reporting an 8% cost of living adjustment for classified employees to bring the minimum starting salary to \$15.00 per hour. She stated also included are increases in the retirement contribution and insurance costs, cost of supplies and maintenance costs. She said the FY 2023 budget includes a modest contingency of \$216,000. Ms. Hudson explained the majority of expenditures are for mandated services with discretionary services comprising a very small part of the budget.

Ms. Hudson discussed the following Special Revenue Funds which account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specific purposes. She stated Special District Funds account for each special taxing district in a separate fund whereby a government may provide services only in the unincorporated area of the County and tax only those properties located in the unincorporated area to pay for these services. The Unincorporated Service Fund is a special revenue fund for the unincorporated area only with the major source of revenue being the insurance premium tax which is dedicated for fire services. The Solid Waste Disposal Fund accounts for collection and disposal of solid waste in the unincorporated area of the County. She stated the contract with Waste Management Services was extended in July 2021 and the current fee is \$18.54 which will cover the current estimated cost of \$2,500,000. The E911 Fund accounts for operations of

E911 center, and E911 fees are expected to remain the same in fiscal year 2023. Ms. Hudson stated the \$307,000 revenue shortfall will be covered by General Fund Revenue.

Ms. Hudson reported enterprise funds may be used to report any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods and services. The County has a Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund with operating revenues for FY 23 estimated at \$5,300,000 based on current water and sewer rates. She stated budgeted revenues are sufficient to cover operating and debt service costs. Ms. Hudson reported the County currently has 9,570 water customers and 1,865 sewer customers with the average water usage of 4,800 gallons and the average bill being \$45.98.

Ms. Hudson reported the current Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) expires in March 2024. The SPLOST extension passed by referendum in March 2017 and collections began in April 2018. She discussed projects included in the SPLOST including the Government Building, Courthouse renovations, law enforcement facilities and equipment, health facilities, recreation aquatics facility, fire administration facilities and equipment, economic development, public works facilities and equipment, roads and bridges, water and sewer, animal control facilities and equipment and City projects.

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated the County has also repurposed buildings such as the previous health department building which now houses EMS, EMA and Drug Task Force; the UGA Extension Office moved into the building that previously housed the Drug Task Force and the Water Department building was renovated for the Adult Treatment Court offices, and the Nelson Road culvert was installed among other projects.

Ms. Cindy Humphrey asked about projects that may be unfinished when tax collections stop. Ms. Hudson responded that even when collections stop the money is still there to finish the projects.

Assistant County Manager Hudson stated the budget is scheduled for adoption at the December 6, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 Work Session, October 18, 2022 Regular Meeting, October 18, 2022 Executive Session, and October 24, 2022 Planning Session. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Noris Price, Superintendent of Baldwin County Schools presented an update on the Baldwin County School District including the various schools, demographics, the strategic plan and the mission and vision.

ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS

Food Service Fees

Mr. Colin Duke, with the Baldwin County Health Department, presented information about the proposed Food Service Fees. He discussed current annual food service fees, factors used to calculate current and proposed fees, frequency of inspections, time required for routine inspections and follow-ups. Mr. Duke presented examples for random establishments in Baldwin County and how the proposed increase in fees would affect the fees charged.

Mr. Duke requested approval from the Board for proposed food service fees.

Commissioner Butts requested additional information about local food service establishments and fees. Mr. Duke stated he would provide additional information as requested.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to accept the food service fees as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Airport Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated Mr. Wolfgang had given an update on the Airport and the Capital Improvement Plan at the Work Session, and he had no additional comments.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the Airport Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities

County Manager Carlos Tobar discussed grant applications for security cameras, Harrisburg project, a park at the Government Building and the aquatic center.

Mr. William Bailey and Mr. Sean Held addressed the Board in opposition to cameras being placed throughout the County.

Major Scott Deason responded that there is no expectation of privacy on a public roadway, and technology is a great help with solving crimes. He stated the Department must use every available resource since being so understaffed, and it is truly an effort for law enforcement to help provide a safe community.

Mr. Tobar reported three of the four grant applications are requesting 100% funding. The Aquatic Center application is for \$2,000,000 with a project total of \$5,000,000. He stated the application for cameras is for funding to purchase additional cameras to be placed throughout the County in crime ridden areas and entrances into the County to assist in solving crime. The Harrisburg project is to improve the alignment of an intersection and improve safety into park. The proposed park at the Government Building will include a pickle ball court, water park and restroom.

Mr. Tobar stated any grant awards will come back before the Board for acceptance.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the submission of grants as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Housing Revitalization Form

County Manager Tobar reported there is a housing component in the Comprehensive Plan; however, there is not a Housing Revitalization Form in the Service Delivery Strategy. Mr. Tobar stated since Baldwin County is now a GICH community we can apply for CDBG funds each year; however, the application must have a \$250,000 housing component. In order to apply for these grants the SDS must have a Housing Revitalization form. He presented a Resolution to authorize an amendment to the Service Delivery Strategy to approve including an SDS Form for Housing Revitalization. He stated this is a Joint Resolution that must be adopted by the City as well.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated there is a misspelled word in the document that should be corrected.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts amended the motion to approve the Resolution with noted correction. Commissioner Emily Davis accepted the amendment and the motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Proposed Amendment to Personnel Policies

Commissioner Kendrick Butts requested the Juneteenth Holiday be made an official County Holiday.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated the County currently has eleven holidays and it costs the County approximately \$48,000 per day for each holiday.

After discussion, Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to table the matter. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it failed by the following vote:

Aye: Hall, Westmoreland

Nay: Butts, Davis, Craig

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to amend the County Personnel Policies to include the Juneteenth Holiday as an official County holiday. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote:

Aye: Butts, Davis, Craig

Nay: Hall, Westmoreland

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Board.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on County projects to include the installation of defibrillators in County facilities; a grant application for boxes of Naloxone has been submitted by Grady EMS, and Baldwin County will receive \$22,609.78 as an opioid settlement; BCHIP presentation will be at the Eggs & Issues November 16th; a Kick Off meeting and Public Hearing for the 2022 CDBG will be held November 17th; a Comprehensive Plan meeting will be held November 30th for the development of the community work program; the zoning map is finished and will be distributed to Commissioners for their review and the Airport will be closed November 21st – January 7th.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments for non-agenda items to come before the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to postpone the Executive Session until the December 6th meeting. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk