



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2021

1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220

6:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall**

OTHERS PRESENT

**Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
David McRee
Jill Adams
Cindy Cunningham**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henry Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the following minutes as submitted: August 17, 2021 - Called Meeting, Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Executive Session; August 23, 2021 - Public Hearings, Called Meeting and Executive Session; September 1, 2021 - Public Hearings, Called Meeting and Executive Session; September 8, 2021 - Public Hearing, Called Meeting and Executive Session. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Life Saving Awards

Chairman Henry Craig stated that in early September, Baldwin County Fire Rescue Station 5 and Baldwin County Sheriff's Office Deputies were dispatched to the area of Rocky Creek Park in reference to a possible drowning. Thanks to the heroic efforts of SGT Jerome Roberts, Deputy Artrail Braziel, Firefighter Chris Thomas, Firefighter Wes Folendore, Major Linc Boyer, SGT Brandon Towe and citizen Matt Hall, a woman's life was saved. The quick response and recognition of the severity of this emergency, as well as the immediate life saving measures provided, resulted directly in saving of the life of a Baldwin County citizen. As a result of their efforts, these individuals were presented Certificates of Commendation from the county.

COVID Update by Atrium Health Navicent Baldwin

Mr. Todd Dixon, CEO Atrium Health Navicent Baldwin, presented an update on COVID. He discussed how COVID is affecting area hospitals as well as all hospitals throughout the Country. He discussed statistics of vaccinated and non-vaccinated people. Mr. Dixon discussed locations for vaccinations, testing and monoclonal antibody infusions. He encouraged citizens to get vaccinated to protect themselves and our community.

On behalf of the Board, Commissioner Hall expressed his appreciation for all the efforts made by health care providers and how important it is having hospital in our community.

COVID Update by North Central Health District (NCHD)

Mr. Michael Hokanson, Public Information Officer / Risk Communicator, for the North Central Health District presented statistics on the State vaccination rates and how Baldwin County compares to overall statewide percentages. He stated the State numbers show that 47% are fully vaccinated while Baldwin County is 40% fully vaccinated. There is a 3% in breakthrough cases in the North Central Health District.

He discussed the three (3) different vaccinations and the potential for booster shots in the future. He reported the FDA Advisory Council Committee will make the decision regarding additional vaccination.

Mr. Hokanson concluded by stating that all 13 health departments throughout the NCHD administer vaccines on specific days. A list of the schedules can be found on the NCHD website or by calling the respective health departments. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated even if they have had COVID.

Georgia Military College

Lt. General William Caldwell expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing him to present the Executive Update for Georgia Military College (GMC). He introduced Col Nelson Kraft, Main Campus Executive Director and Dr. Steve Greer, Prep School Principal. Lt. General Caldwell discussed the global online college, main campus, twelve (12) community campuses and the prep school. He stated the total enrollment currently is 14,240. He presented information on the sports programs, corps of cadets, number of employees in Milledgeville, facilities and the economic impact of GMC.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Selection of Grant Writer / Administrator and Engineering Firm(s)

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported Baldwin County has undergone the Federal Procurement Process for professional Administrative Services for its FY2022 Community Development Block Grant project as required by Local, State and Federal Guidelines. He stated the County advertised for requests for qualifications from grant writers / administrators and engineering firms.

Mr. Tobar stated County staff reviewed and rated qualifications received from grant writing / administration and engineering firms. The recommendation is that Allen-Smith Consulting be selected for grant writing / administration and Carter & Sloope Engineers be selected to provide engineering services.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to select Allen-Smith Consulting for grant writing / administration for the 2022 CDBG application. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to select Carter & Sloope Engineers as the engineering firm for the 2022 CDBG application. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Manager Tobar recommended Gilbert and Associates be selected as the grant writing / administration firm for the Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP) application for housing rehabilitation.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to select Gilbert and Associates as the grant writing / administration firm for the CHIP application.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Application

County Manager Tobar presented an update on the Aquatic Center. He stated he met with the engineer from the Freeman Engineering Group who submitted qualifications and a proposal for the preliminary engineering report, design services and construction administration for the center. He stated the firm has extensive experience on many aquatic facility projects and is being recommended for selection. Mr. Tobar recommended the County apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) application for the facility. He stated that in order for the facility to be sustainable the entire facility should be completed. The project is anticipated to

cost \$5 million dollars; with the county seeking \$4 million dollars in grant funds and a County commitment of \$1 million dollars. He requested authorization for the Chair to sign letter of commitment to apply for the grant --- fund \$1 million. Mr. Tobar stated a motion is needed to approve Freidman Engineering Group and to approve the Chairman to sign a letter of support for \$1 million commitment from the County.

Commissioner Hall reported the original commitment in SPLOST was \$1 million dollars. Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson concurred and stated the original plan was to construct the facility in phases. However, if the County receives grant funding the project can be done all at one time rather than in phases. Commissioner Hall reiterated the fact that it will have to pay for itself. Chairman Craig stated the County has a unique opportunity to seek funding.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to select Friedman Engineering Group as engineer for the project. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute a letter of commitment for \$1 million dollars for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) application. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ogden Road Inert Landfill

County Manager Tobar stated many years ago a permit was issued for an inert landfill on Ogden Road. The landfill was not closed properly by the owner, and the Department of Natural Resources took the owner to court, a court order was issued to clean up the site which was not done. The Department of Natural Resources contacted the County to assist with the situation, and various options were discussed. The property owner agreed to sell all twenty-one (21) acres to Baldwin County for \$1.00 if the County will clean up the site and pay the owner \$1,179.63 for scrap metal of a tractor located on the site. Mr. Tobar reported DNR has issued a letter approving the cleanup plan. The cost to the County will be approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 for equipment rental.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the sales agreement. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair - landfill in middle of neighborhood & desperately needs to be cleaned up; opportunity for developer to build houses.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Awards

Finance Director Jill Adams presented a WIOA Adult Program grant award in the amount of \$98,596 and a Dislocated Worker Program award in the amount of \$128,020 She reported both are continuation grants with no required match, and the County will serve as grant administrator of both awards.

Vice Chairman Westmoreland made a motion to accept both grant awards as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amendment to Personnel Policies and Procedures

Finance Director Adams reported that in order to comply with federal regulations applicable to federal grant awards the County must amend the Personnel Policies and Procedures to include specific language regarding Equal Employment Opportunity. She discussed specific verbiage for inclusion in Section 301 - the "Code of Ethics for Government Service". For reporting and data compilation requirements, the language will be listed in one section of the Personnel Policies and Procedures.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to approve the amendment to the Personnel Policies and Procedures as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Board

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Westmoreland stated the convenience center on Meriwether Road needs a cleanup and repairs. He recommended talking to Advanced Disposal about replacing rusty skids. Commissioner Hall stated all the centers need to be cleaned up. Commissioner Davis stated she has received calls that trash is not being picked up on schedule.

Vice Chair Westmoreland asked that the bushes be cut back at the 441 & Meriwether Road intersection because they impede the line of sight.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Tobar presented an update on the following projects: wing wall was repaired at Kings Road between Highway 24 and Stembridge Road; onsite visit for GICH application was held and answer should be received next week; all 6,600 linear feet of defective water pipe has been done in the Erin Shores area; paving has started on various roads throughout the County; the driveway construction and entrance to Government building will begin soon; 212 structures demolished; and the Department of Agriculture stop order has been lifted.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Clarence Hall addressed the Board to again request that the Government Building be named after Oscar Davis, Sr.

Cynthia Edwards stated she brought her son who is a political science major to witness the decision makers of the County. She asked that Commissioners reach out to all segments of the community. Things can be done if everyone works together.

Susie Marshall who lives on Frazier Drive stated she had talked to Mr. Tobar about her yard washing out. She reported she hasn't heard from the County about this. The grass was cut in the area; but, now it has grown up again on Youngblood Road to Vinson Highway.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss litigation. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETINGADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hall made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Vice Chair Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:03 p.m. Vice Chair Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk