



**BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**  
May 16, 2023  
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220  
6:00 P.M.

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**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Emily Davis  
John Westmoreland  
Kendrick Butts  
Henry Craig  
Sammy Hall

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Bandon Palmer  
Carlos Tobar  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Emily Davis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Deacon Chris Hightower delivered the Invocation

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Aaron Wright led the Pledge.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Proclamation Declaring National Salvation Army Week**

County Manager Carlos Tobar read a Proclamation proclaiming the week of May 15-21, 2023 as National Salvation Army Week.

**Proclamation Declaring Older Americans Month**

County Manager Carlos Tobar read a Proclamation proclaiming May 2023 as Older Americans Month.

**Water Tech Degree Program**

Ms. Kate Pope of Georgia Military College presented information about the Water Tech Degree Program now being offered.

**Keep Milledgeville Baldwin Beautiful (KMBB)**

Dr. Jeffrey Wells presented an update on KMBB activities.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting and the April 18, 2023 Executive Session as submitted. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS**

**Motorola Solutions Contract**

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented information on the lease – purchase agreement between Motorola Solutions and Baldwin County for P25 System Enhancement and Radio Upgrades. She presented background information on the present system used by the County which was purchased in 2011 and had a useful life of 10 years. Ms. Hudson reported that as one of the top priorities for the 2023 SPLOST, County Management along with the Sheriff, Fire Chief, E911 Director and EMA Director met with Motorola representatives and technicians to develop a proposal for the system and radio upgrades which are much needed at this time.

Assistant County Manager Hudson presented a Resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of the equipment lease – purchase agreement and other required documents.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented authorizing the execution and delivery of the equipment lease – purchase agreement with Motorola Solutions. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

**Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST) Timeline**

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented information regarding the timeline for getting the T-SPLOST on the ballot. He requested Board authorization to send a letter to the City notifying them of the County's intent to call for a referendum. Mr. Tobar stated the letter will notify the City of a meeting called by the County including date, time, place and purpose. The formal meeting must be called by the County to discuss projects to be included in the referendum and the rate of tax. He reported the law states that the formal meeting must be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the calling of a referendum, and the notice must be delivered or mailed at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Mr. Tobar stated the notification must be received by the City no later than June 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Craig recommended sending the letter to the City right away.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to authorize County Manager Tobar to send a formal notification letter to the City of Milledgeville to begin the process for a T-SPLOST referendum. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Amendment to JAG Contracts**

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson stated the County currently has contracts with Judicial Alternatives of Georgia (JAG) to provide supervision and probation services for Superior Court, State Court and Magistrate Court. She stated JAG has requested an increase in their fees of \$5.00 per month for their services. She reported the three judges have already signed off on the increase which will be effective only on new cases beginning July 1, 2023 until the end of the current contracts. Ms. Hudson stated these fees are paid by the defendants and there are no charges to the County.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the amendments to JAG Contracts for probation services for Superior Court, State Court and Magistrate Court as presented. Vice Chair John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote:

Aye: Craig, Hall, Westmoreland, Davis

Nay: Butts

**Georgia Power Easement**

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported Georgia Power Company currently has an easement on the property owned by the County at 113 Towns Street. He stated Georgia Power is currently working on a tree trimming / clearing project to increase service reliability and are requesting a wider easement on the property. This additional easement will allow Georgia Power permission to trim, cut, and/or remove trees and other obstructions located within twenty (20) feet of the centerline of the existing overhead lines of the company. Mr. Tobar stated the County is not obligated to participate. However, Georgia Power is willing to compensate the County for the rights. County Manager Tobar asked if Commissioners would like to donate the property easement or request reimbursement from Georgia Power.

After discussion, Vice Chair John Westmoreland made a motion to table the matter until additional information is presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion.

County Manager Tobar stated the payment request form included in the documents shows a payment of \$600.00 to the County for the easement.

Based on the additional information, Commissioner Henry Craig requested an amendment to the motion to grant the easement as requested by Georgia Power. Vice Chair John Westmoreland amended his motion to table the matter and motioned to grant the easement to Georgia Power at 113 Towns Street for the amount of \$600.00 pending legal approval. Commissioner Kendrick Butts accepted the amendment. The Board voted unanimously to approve granting the easement to Georgia Power at 113 Towns Street for \$600.00 pending legal approval by the County Attorney.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Representative Mack Jackson addressed the Board.

Chair Davis congratulated Commissioner Henry Craig on being elected President of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia. Commissioner Craig stated he is looking forward to advocating for Baldwin County and other counties as he serves in this capacity. He stated mental health is a major issue in our community and state, and he feels a change must be made in the way the mental health situation is dealt with.

Chair Davis stated she has been chosen to serve on the Middle Georgia Regional Commission Council on Aging.

Chair Davis recognized the following events that have recently taken place: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; Administrative Professionals Day; National Firefighters Day; Public Service Recognition Week and Emergency Medical Services Week.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on County activities / projects to include status of various grant applications; update on Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) meeting; awaiting DCA approval to award the 2024 GICH points for a Baldwin County veterans housing project and another housing rehabilitation grant as well as authorization to go out to bid on the first three homes to be rehabilitated; working on the Urban Redevelopment Plan; FAA certifications and contracts have been signed and submitted for the Terminal Apron Expansion / Precision Approach Path Indicator replacement; County co-sponsoring Juneteenth Celebration; LMIG bid opening June 6 at 10:00 a.m.; disk golf course baskets should be received in early June; fundraising for the Aquatic Center continues; requested authorization for submission of pre-application which will be matched with \$500,000 SPLOST funds; Boddie voting precinct moving to old jail and work will begin soon; Soil and Water Conservation renewed lease for another year with rent of \$646.34 monthly; County Engineer preparing to rehabilitate Meriwether Convenience Center; track at soccer field will be resurfaced and a fence will be constructed around track to keep bikes and motorized all terrain vehicles off the track.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Carol Clowers, 2585 Belfair Drive, addressed the Board regarding an issue with her landlord.

Ms. Susie Marshall, 196 Frazier Drive, thanked County Manager and Commissioner Butts for their assistance regarding the trash situation. She also reported the speed indicator sign on Youngblood Road is not set correctly and discussed law enforcement response time to an incident.

Mr. Danny Blair, 585 Meriwether Road, addressed the Board regarding the condition of the Meriwether Convenience Center. He also stated the County is trimming / cutting trees throughout the County and they desperately need to be cut on Meriwether Road and Lowe Road.

Mr. Gregory Barnes, 3736 Sussex Drive, addressed the Board regarding an Open Records Request that he previously submitted.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reconvene the Regular Session at 8:05 p.m. Vice Chair John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily C. Davis  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk