



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

May 18, 2021

1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220

5:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

ALSO PRESENT

David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Henry Craig called the May 18, 2021 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and the May 10, 2021 Called Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to amend the Agenda to consider a Letter of Intent to engage Raymond James Associates as underwriter / placement agent to advise Baldwin County on financial matters. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

E911

Sheriff Masee introduced E911 Director Mandy Ptak to give an update on the E911 Center. He stated the center is state of the art, and Ms. Ptak has been very instrumental in moving the Department forward. She has obtained numerous certifications, attended available training and written grants to secure funds for improvements / upgrades to the Department. He stated GEMA has requested her assistance during natural disasters. Sheriff Masee commended Ms. Ptak on her accomplishments and her leadership of the Baldwin County E911 Center.

Director Ptak presented information on the growth and improvements of the Department and discussed upgrades and statistics for calls / responses of the E911 Center.

Construction Ready Training Program

Ms. Alexis Mvir gave a presentation on the Construction Ready Training Program. She stated the program provides training for various jobs in the construction field. The program is free, participants must be 18 years old, provide a resume, pass a drug screen and background check. She reported the program helps unemployed and underemployed workers find career pathways. The program has a 97% placement rate. Ms. Mvir encouraged those interested in the program to visit constructionready.org for additional information.

ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS

Letter of Intent for Underwriting

Chair Craig presented a Letter of Intent between the County and Raymond James Associates (RJA) for the Board's consideration. He stated the Letter of Intent authorizes the County to engage the company as underwriter for potential bonds to be issued to finance and/or refinance certain infrastructure, improvements, equipment purchases and/or economic development. As underwriter, RJA, may provide financial advice to the County. He reported the engagement letter is nonbinding and may be terminated by either party at any time.

County Attorney McRee reported this process is a regulatory requirement by the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding underwriting services.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the Letter of Intent for Underwriting Services for potential bond issues and to authorize the Chair to execute the document. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Airport Agreement Amendment # 3

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented Amendment # 3 to the Airport Contract. He reported the term of the lease shall be extended two (2) years until December 31, 2026. Also, beginning June 1, 2021, the proposed amendment adds additional areas to be mowed at the Airport by the FBO (depicted in Exhibit A) for a total of \$22,000 per year.

Vice Chair Westmoreland made a motion to approve Amendment # 3 to the Airport Contract as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of Amendment # 3 is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit FY 22 Budget

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented the Superior and Juvenile Court budgets for FY 2022. She stated the circuit budget fiscal year is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 which falls within two (2) County budget years. Ms. Hudson reported the proposed budget includes an increase of \$17,425 for Superior Court due to increases in Judges' supplements. Also, HB 81 provided for increases for law clerks for Judges. She stated the July, 2021 – December, 2021 portion of the circuit budget will be funded through the County's current budget, and the January, 2022 – June, 2022 portion will be a part of the County's FY 22 budget allocation.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to approved the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Budget as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Region 5 EMS Advisory Council

Chief Victor Young reported Dwayne Morgan currently serves as one of Baldwin County's representatives on the Region 5 EMS Council, and his term is expiring. Chief Young requested the reappointment of Mr. Morgan to serve another three-year term on this Council. He stated Mr. Morgan has been an active member of the Council and represents Baldwin County well.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reappoint Dwayne Morgan to serve another three-year term on the Region 5 EMS Council. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Emily Davis asked why County employees are being interviewed regarding a scheduled personnel hearing. County Attorney McRee responded employees who have

knowledge of the matter are interviewed as part of the necessary preparation for him to represent the County at the Appeals Hearing.

Chair Craig stated this personnel matter would need to be addressed in Executive Session. Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to amend the Agenda to include discussion of a personnel matter in the Executive Session. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Westmoreland requested an update on the Meriwether Road / 441 intersection. County Manager Tobar responded he had no received information from Georgia DOT.

Chair Craig stated the County rescinded the Emergency Order for Baldwin County at a previous meeting. He reported the vaccination rate for the County is on low due to the fact that more people are choosing not to get vaccinated. He stated that now no appointment is required to get the vaccine, and encouraged citizens to get vaccinated.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Tobar reported the following updates: the plat for Walter B. Williams Park property is complete; a new agreement with the State should be received soon for execution by the County; the Georgia College swimming pool will be closed to everyone this summer; Middle GA Regional Commission submitted the PlanFirst application to DCA; clearing and grubbing continues at the new aquatic center; OSHA training was conducted May 17th for the Road and Water/Sewer Departments; Property Standards Ordinance notices are being placed in the Union Recorder and Baldwin Bulletin; CDBG sewer project in Hardwick is nearing completion; and the Middle GA Regional Commission has prepared a draft resolution for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to add the Broadband component; a public hearing will be scheduled to address the amendment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jack Trask addressed the Board regarding his property assessment.

Will Burnett addressed the Board regarding his property which is the carwash located next to the County property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss potential litigation, property acquisition, and personnel. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:48 p.m. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:49 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk