



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

August 03, 2021

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 August 3, 2021 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Renaming of Government Building

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented a report regarding the renaming of the Government Building as required in the County Building Naming and Renaming Policy. He stated he had submitted the report to all proposers of the nominees and Commissioners prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Tobar reported he had reviewed all documentation, and all three (3) candidates met the requirements of the policy. He stated no name received support from three (3) Commissioners which is a requirement to advance the name of a nominee to a formalized vote at a Commission Meeting.

Mr. Alan Wicker, Mr. Clarence Hall and Mrs. Cynthia Edwards addressed the Board requesting the building be named for Oscar Davis, Sr. All stated that it was fitting that the building should be named for Mr. Davis because of his service as a County Commissioner and his many

contributions to the community. Ms. Edwards questioned how Mr. Tobar had polled Commissioners regarding their support of a nominee to advance to the full Board.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated he had worked with Mr. Davis as well as a lot of other deserving Commissioners including Smokey Simmons during his tenure as Commissioner. He said he did not support naming the building after any one individual when there are so many who are deserving of the same.

District Attorney's Budget Request

District Attorney Wright Barksdale introduced the District Attorney's staff. He addressed the Board regarding his FY 22 Budget requests. He stated the County funded position for prosecutor has been vacant since March, and the position is currently filled by Sydney Segers who took the Bar Exam in July. She began work August 1st and will be working under Graduate Practice Act which allows her to practice law while awaiting Bar results. District Attorney Barksdale requested a starting salary for Ms. Segers of \$25,000 per year which will be increased to \$50,000 per year once she passes the bar. Her results of the exam should be received in October or November. Mr. Barksdale reported he is also requesting the \$5,000 supplement that was paid to the previous prosecutor. He stated this practice is consistent with what Board has funded in past. Mr. Barksdale requested the funding for a full-time investigator position for the District Attorney's office to work only Baldwin County cases.

He asked that the starting salary for the position be based on the same salary level as a deputy with equal experience.

Mr. Barksdale commended the Sheriff's Department and Police Department for their assistance to the DA's office in efforts to curtail crime that we are facing in the community.

Commissioners discussed the County budget process which will begin shortly for the upcoming January 2022 budget year. Commissioners concurred that the County supports the District Attorney's office and will do whatever they can in budget process to support the DA. Commissioner Davis questioned how the DA can legally pay someone that has not already passed the bar. Mr. Barksdale responded that the County has done it with previous attorneys in office.

Mr. Barksdale stated that the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit participates in a State reimbursement program whereby those non-state paid District Attorney employees are allowed to be processed through the State payroll system, thereby entitling those employees to the same fringe benefits as other State employees. The State Prosecuting Attorneys Council (PAC) pays these employees, and Baldwin County reimburses the State. He reported that when he took office, the Ocmulgee Circuit was in debt to State, and he paid the debt from a DA victim account. The Assistant County Manager and Finance Director stated the State could not provide documentation for the costs, and the County had financial records supporting the position that the funds were not owed to the State.

Mr. Barksdale reported the Prosecuting Attorneys Council now requires Counties to enter into a contract with PAC in the event the counties do not pay back any associated costs, PAC can end employment of any employee who falls under the contract. He stated to continue to participate in this, either the County has to sign a contract or pass a resolution to authorize the District Attorney to enter into the contract.

2021 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program

County Engineer Brian Wood reported bids were solicited for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant program, and two (2) bids were received. He stated the bids include paving the golf course parking lot which cannot be paid with LMIG funds; however, purchasing larger quantities gets a better price of the materials. He stated 5.58 miles of roads will be leveled, patched and resurfaced under the contract which also includes the golf course parking lot. The bid price for Pittman Construction is \$168,126.85. He recommended the bid be awarded to Pittman Construction as presented.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts requested a list of roads that would be resurfaced under the 2021 LMIG program.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to award the bid for the 2021 LMIG to Pittman Construction in the amount of 168,126.85 as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Recreation Department Rental Policy and Fee Schedule

County Manager Tobar discussed proposed changes to the Recreation Department Rental Policy and Fee Schedule and presented a revised Rental Policy and Fee Schedule for the Board's consideration. Revisions include: Deletion of Section C (2) and Section C (5) related to exceptions related to prohibited or limited uses. Section D (4) Addition of sentence that reads 'Applicant will receive proof of reservation'.

Mr. Tobar discussed the Fee Schedule which included a revision in the price per hour for rental of the banquet room with kitchen to \$100 per hour with a minimum of four (4) hours. Mr. Tobar reported the Collins P. Lee Center is on a list for possible State funding in the amount of \$900,000 for use as a library. The proposed revision to uses of the Collins P. Lee Center is to allow only meetings at that facility for \$25 per hour Monday – Friday.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to approve the Recreation Department Rental Policy and Fee Schedule as presented. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Policy and Fee Schedule are herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Commissioner Davis stated the name of the Collins P. Lee center should not be changed due to the fact that use of the facility will now be a library.

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 Tobar presented the following report:

Splash pad open & temporary features to be swapped out with permanent features this week; Bonner Road one-half mile from Pettigrew Road has reopened; Stembridge Road at Crawford Road has reopened; Kings Road between Hwy 24 and Stembridge will be closed for approximately three days to have wing wall repaired and public will be notified prior to closure; Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) application has been submitted & there will be a site visit if we move forward up the list. Housing Committee members will be asked to attend the site visit to show that we are serious.; replaced 6,300 linear feet of 6,600 linear feet of defective water pipe at Erin Shores; drive entrance at Government Building set for completion in mid-August; Baldwin County has highest rate of residents with library cards in the region at 42%.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Gloria Wicker addressed the Board about uncut grass on Bell Avenue leading up to Swint Avenue as well as Swint Avenue, Youngblood Road, and Combs Avenue. She stated she has come before the Board previously to ask for help with blight especially in the Oconee Heights area. She said she is asking again for help in getting grass cut to make the community look better.

Ms. Cynthia Edwards - no comment.

Ms. Susie Marshall stated she has also been before the Board regarding grass cutting along the roadway especially on the southside of the County and lack of lighting on Frazier Drive; Ms. Marshall reported high grass can cause accidents due to the grass habiting the sight when a car pulls out in the road. She stated an accident occurred recently on Youngblood Road.

County Manager Tobar asked Ms. Marshall to speak with Engineer Brian Wood after the meeting about her concerns.

Chairman Henry Craig stated Baldwin County is fortunate to have had many successful national, state, city and county leaders of all races. He felt to name buildings after any one of them diminishes the success and reputation of others. He stated he feels this building's name should reflect its obligation to all citizens of the community. Therefore, the current name of the building, Baldwin County Government Building is a very appropriate name reflecting its obligation to all citizens.

Chairman Craig also discussed TSPLOST which is the answer the state has given all counties to fix roads. Since the State will not fix the road problem, they gave us the option for TSPLOST to fix our own roads. He stressed how important it is to have the TSPLOST revenue to enable the County to address the problem of deteriorating roads throughout the County.

Chairman Craig encouraged everyone to be vaccinated against COVID. Statistics show that 99% of those in hospitals now are unvaccinated.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk