



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

June 6, 2023

1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220

6:00 P.M.

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

Rev. Donald Hill delivered the Invocation

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kendrick Butts led the Pledge.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Chair Emily Davis asked for a motion to amend the Agenda for Recognitions. Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to amend the Agenda to allow a time for Recognitions. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

Commissioner Kendrick Butts recognized Commissioner Henry Craig and congratulated him on being elected to serve as President of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

Chair Emily Davis recognized Deputy Hayden Blackburn for his service above and beyond the call of duty in assisting a citizen. Chair Davis stated she had received phone calls commending Deputy Blackburn for his service and his interactions with the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 Regular Meeting, the May 16, 2023 Executive Session and the May 30, 2023 Called Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE / FISCAL MATTERS

Faithful Guardian Aviation Contract

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported the Airport Advisory Committee has recommended that the contract with Faithful Guardian Aviation be terminated. He stated the company did not perform commitments as outlined in the contract. Mr. Tobar and County Attorney Palmer have contacted Faithful Guardian Aviation notifying them of their deficiencies in meeting the contract requirements with a thirty (30) day period to correct these deficiencies. No response has been received from the company. Mr. Tobar presented a Resolution authorizing termination of the Faithful Guardian Aviation Contract with Baldwin County.

Vice Chair John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented terminating the Faithful Guardian Aviation Contract. 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 _____.

Public Defender Budget for FY 2024

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented the FY 2024 Budget for the Public Defender's Office. Ms. Hudson reported the FY 2024 budget is for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The cost to Baldwin County totals \$232,354.38, which is \$193,054.38 for representation of indigent defendants in Baldwin Superior Court and Baldwin Juvenile Court and \$39,300 for representation of indigent defendants in Baldwin State Court. Additionally, the Public Defender's office provides representation of defendants in the Ocmulgee Circuit Adult Treatment Court including both the Drug and Mental Health Courts. Ms. Hudson stated this amount is in the County's budget. Assistant County Manager Hudson presented the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for the Circuit Public Defender Office of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit beginning July 1, 2023.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Public Defender's budget and the Indigent Defense Services Agreement as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Indigent Defense Services Agreement is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Superior and Juvenile Court Budgets for FY 2024

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented the FY 2024 budgets for Superior Court and Juvenile Court for their fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. She stated Baldwin County's portion of the Superior Court budget is \$37,338.00 and the County's portion of the Juvenile Court budget is \$81,496.00. She reported these amounts are included in the County's FY 2023 budget.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Superior Court and Juvenile Court budgets as presented. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Chair Emily Davis reported the County has received two additional grants in the amount of \$530,000 from the State of Georgia for public safety. She stated the grant funds will be used to purchase additional security cameras and training equipment.

Sheriff Bill Masee thanked the County staff for their hard work in securing the grants.

Chair Emily Davis stated there has been discussion about inadequate parking at the Courthouse. She asked that approval be given to the County Attorney to draw up an ordinance restricting parking at the Courthouse to Courthouse business only. Chair Davis stated there is very much a need to control the parking in order for citizens who are called to court or who have other Courthouse business can have a place to park and conduct their business.

Sheriff Masee asked to comment on this matter. He stated that there is not enough parking for employees, Courthouse business, court services, etc. and he feels there will never will be. He stated it would be very difficult for the Sheriff's Department to enforce such an ordinance. He suggested that those involved should meet to discuss the situation before a potential parking ordinance is put together. Commissioner Henry Craig recommended that County Manager Tobar, Sheriff Masee and a couple of Commissioners meet to discuss a potential ordinance to address the parking situation.

Chair Davis reminded everyone that the Firefighters Graduation will be held Thursday, June 8th at 6:30 p.m. at The Club at Lake Sinclair. She also stated that June is Pride month and Black History month.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair John Westmoreland asked for an update on the Meriwether Convenience Center repairs. County Manager Tobar responded he met with Waste Management regarding the removal of yard debris. He reported the County Engineer is working to determine the proper depth for a ramp. Mr. Tobar stated County crews are completing other projects and it will be at least three (3) weeks until this project begins.

Vice Chair Westmoreland stated there should be a policy specifically defining what constitutes yard waste. He stated Waste Management must take more responsibility in these matters. Commissioner Sammy Hall concurred that Waste Management's services are not acceptable especially in keeping the bins dumped.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts discussed a problem with feral cats and requested assistance in trapping these cats. County Manager Tobar stated the County does not trap wild animals and feral cats are considered wild animals. After discussion, County Manager Tobar reported Animal Control will trap the cats; however, they must be euthanized. Commissioner Hall asked if it is a County policy that feral cats are considered wild animals. County Manager stated he will get Mr. Hall a copy of the Department of Agriculture regulations.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on County activities / projects to include: Lighting equipment that was damaged by lightening was replaced at Meriwether E911 tower; Disc Golf Course baskets are arriving within two weeks; maintenance still to be done; Coopers water line replacement is ongoing; Allenwood subdivision storm drain pipe replacement continues and should be done in 3 weeks; contracts have been executed for the Terminal Apron Expansion and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Replacement. PAPI and work starts soon; CHIP grant walk through with contractors is June 14th; CDBG sewer line replacement project going out to bid within 30 days; jury selection was held yesterday in Suite 210; basement bathrooms in Courthouse should be ready by end of July and we Expect all court proceedings to take place at courthouse by August 1st; LMIG Bids were opened today and County Engineer will have a recommendation for contract award at next meeting; roads to be paved: Russell Dr, Fox Lair Rd, Lawrence Rd, Forte Ave, Merry Lane/Court, Union Hill Church Rd, Watson Reynolds Road; submitted Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant application; Baldwin County has received over \$6,000 in donations; completed environmental documents for aquatic center and submitted them to OPB for review; reviewed environmental bid for Collins P Lee library; work continues on Boddie precinct which is moving to old jail between Animal Control and Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) office; County Engineer is preparing to rehabilitate the Meriwether convenience center; At some point the center will need to be closed for repairs; however, it is still four to five weeks out before work begins; Recreation Department track will be resurfaced and a fence will be constructed around entire upper complex; GDOT approved issuing letters to property owners around airport trail project area; bridges that require posting: Deepstep Rd over town Creek, N Jefferson St over Tobler Creek, Linton Rd over Town Creek, Allen Memorial Dr over the railroad tracks.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Melissa Smith, 614 GA Hwy 22 W, addressed the Board regarding a survey being conducted on violence in the community. She discussed various aspects of the survey results, as well as, efforts to continue to gain insight into what the community feels is the major problem and how it can be addressed.

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. He asked for County Manager Tobar to contact him with a timeframe that these things can be done.

Mr. Larry Mathis, 169 Martindale Road, addressed the Board regarding the youth in the community. He asked that the County, City, Board of Education and law enforcement agencies partner together to use our resources to provide more activities for the youth.

Mr. Dick Joiner, 167 Forte Drive, addressed the Board about the condition of the Meriwether Road Convenience Center, the condition of Meriwether Road and Forte Drive and the lack of resources being spent in his area of the County.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:55 p.m.
Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily C. Davis
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk