

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 7, 2019
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair John Westmoreland presiding.

Members Present: John Westmoreland
Henry Craig
Sammy Hall
Tommy French

Members Absent: Emily C. Davis

Also Present: David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair John Westmoreland called the May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements by County Manager

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported Chair Westmoreland received certification in County Operation and Management and Intergovernmental Relations Specialty Tracks in ACCG's Lifelong Learning Academy. Commissioner French received certification in Quality of Life / Social Issues Specialty Track.

County Manager Tobar also reported that Vice Chair Craig received the ACCG Legislative Advocacy Award for 2019.

Proclamation for Firefighters Appreciation Month

Commissioner Sammy Hall read a proclamation honoring Baldwin County firefighters and proclaiming May as Firefighters Appreciation Month. On behalf of the Board, he presented the Proclamation to Chief Somers and Firefighters Phil Adams, Sheri Kniep, Tony Waller, Raymond Somers and Frank Yates who were in attendance.

Update on Navicent Health Baldwin

CEO Todd Dixon and three members of the administrative team of Navicent Health Baldwin presented an update on changes and improvements that have taken place since Navicent Health purchased the hospital in October 2017. They discussed renovations to the ER and other areas of focus to include service line growth, recruitment, inpatient medicine, surgery and imaging, quality care, hospital employees, community involvement and improved financial status.

Update on Mental Health Services

Oconee Center Executive Director Tyrone Evans presented information on the Oconee Center discussing their mission to provide high quality and cost effective behavioral health care services that meet customer expectations. He stated the Center has services throughout a six county area with the main sites located in Milledgeville. Mr. Evans, along with Dr. Mary Bonner and Mr. Reggie Rogers, two staff members of the Oconee Center, discussed mental health services offered by the Center to include an array of services such as outpatient mental health, addictive disease and developmental disabilities, crisis intervention, residential options, relapse prevention and management planning, case management and outreach activities. Mr. Evans reported the Center also provides physician care and diagnostic assessment, individual and group training and counseling, medication management, as well as an on-site pharmacy. He discussed the change in funding and reimbursement formulas.

Vice Chair Craig stated there is a mental health crisis, and the Oconee Center should be more visible and should make their services known throughout the community so that people can take advantage of the services being offered. He recommended working with Judges and Drug Courts to help with substance abuse. Mr. Evans stated the services provided by the Center are on a voluntary basis; open therapy - no one can be made to come.

Mr. Evans thanked Commissioners for providing funds for the Oconee Center budget. He stated a stakeholder's summit was held to bring interested parties to the table to address mental health and offered to organize another summit.

Appointment to Board of Health

Chair John Westmoreland reported this item was tabled at the April 16th meeting until this meeting. He stated he would entertain a motion for appointment to the Board of Health.

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to appoint Mr. David Glover to serve on the Board of Health to fill the unexpired term in Position 3 as Consumer or Advocate for Consumers of health services. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GDOT Project Frame Agreement (PFA) for Multipurpose Path

County Manager Tobar presented a Project Frame Agreement between GDOT and Baldwin County for transportation facility improvements. He stated this agreement outlines the responsibilities of the County and GDOT for the multipurpose path at the Airport and certifies the County's compliance with required federal regulations.

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to approve the GDOT Project Frame Agreement (PFA) for the Multipurpose Path as presented. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Amendments to Employee Handbook

County Manager Tobar stated proposed amendments to the Employee Handbook were brought before the Board at the April 16th meeting, and no action was taken at that time.

He requested acceptance of the amendments to Section 902 of the Employee Handbook to replace Section 902 (j) with revised language and to add a subsection (ee).

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adopt the amendments to Section 902 of the Employee Handbook as presented. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Tax Reimbursement

County Attorney David McRee requested this item be moved on the Agenda until after the Executive Session.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to amend the Agenda to move the Tax Reimbursement item until after the Executive Session. Vice Chair Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Chair Westmoreland requested an update on the Animal Shelter. County Manager Tobar responded the County Engineer is preparing a proposal for a metal building as an alternative to renovations at the Old Jail. He stated cost proposals are being sought for the kennel layout, and Public Buildings' staff will be compiling costs for materials for the renovation. He stated he would report back to the Board with information to determine the best option for the Animal Shelter.

New Business

County Manager Tobar reminded everyone that a ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of the Baldwin County Airport will be held Tuesday, May 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the Airport.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on County activities to include: receipt of GEMA funds in the amount of \$16,234.64 for disaster relief; consideration of an Ordinance to address Courthouse parking congestion; Navicent Health Baldwin ER Renovation Ribbon Cutting on May 21st at 11:00 a.m.; May 21st Work Session at 5:00 p.m. to review the Emergency Operations Plan with EMA Director; donation of 50 dog and 50 cat vaccines by Paws for Change; GDOT investment of \$15.5 million dollars on Highway 49 improvements near Baldwin County High School with a traffic signal being installed at Blandy Road.

Commissioners recommended the County Manager and County Attorney meet with Sheriff Massee regarding Courthouse parking situation.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments to come before the Board.

Executive Session

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. for discussion on potential litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 8:48 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tax Reimbursement

Vice Chair Henry Craig made a motion to remove the item regarding tax reimbursement from the Agenda. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Vice Chair Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Westmoreland
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk