

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Vice Chair Henry Craig presiding.

Members Present: Henry Craig
Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall

Members Absent: John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham
Jill Adams

Call to Order

Vice Chair Henry Craig called the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for FY 2020

Vice Chair Henry Craig called the Public Hearing to order on the proposed budget for FY 2020. He stated notice of the public hearing was published as required, and the purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments and input on the proposed budget for the January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 County Fiscal Year.

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported a copy of the proposed budget was made available for public review in the Commissioners' office, on the County website and at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library.

Mr. Tobar presented the proposed budget for the period January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. He stated the budget which consists of: General Fund; Special Service District Funds including Unincorporated General Services Fund, Solid Waste District Fund, and Water / Sewer Fund; and Special Revenue Funds including Drug Treatment, E911, Law Library, Drug Task Force, Drug Education, Drug Seizure, Jail Inmate, Power Point Training Facility and the Hospital Special Service District. He stated the Special Service District Funds total \$9,599,000 and provide services for the unincorporated area only. Mr. Tobar stated the General Fund totals \$21,231,000. He presented a breakdown of Special Revenue Funds and the Water / Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Tobar discussed the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax which was extended by referendum in March 2017 with collections beginning April 2018 with the expiration in March 2024. He presented an update on projects including the Administrative building, Courthouse renovations, law enforcement facilities and equipment, health facilities, recreation facilities; fire administration facilities and equipment; economic development; public works facilities and equipment; roads and bridges; water and sewer; animal control facilities and equipment and City projects.

Vice Chair Craig opened the floor for public comments / questions on the proposed FY 2020 budget.

Mr. Jonathan Styre, Forte Drive, questioned why the proposed budget did not include a Contingency Fund. Vice Chair Craig stated the proposed budget is a working document and changes can be made to the FY 2020 budget until it is adopted. Mr. Styre asked about the increase in the budget for elections. Vice Chair Craig discussed the change in State mandated regulations regarding new voting procedures and equipment. He stated these costs are being passed on to counties with a minimal amount of the cost being provided at the State level. Commissioner Sammy Hall commented that additional supplies, more training for poll workers and possible modifications to polling places will be costs to the County associated with elections.

Ms. Cindy Humphrey asked if the County would be asking the State for assistance with these additional costs. Commissioner Sammy Hall responded he felt the County should send a letter to the Secretary of State, with a copy to the Governor, expressing concerns about the extra expenses associated with elections.

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson added that elections and voter registration costs increased this year. She stated there were no elections held in the past year; however, there could be as many as seven (7) elections in the upcoming year.

There being no more public comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. by unanimous vote upon motion of Commissioner Emily C. Davis, seconded by Commissioner Sammy Hall.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Work Session and the November 5, 2019 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Department of Public Health

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County and the Department of Public Health for construction of a new health department facility to be located on Highway 22 West.

He reported the IGA outlines the obligations of the Board of Health to fund the project through its restricted fund balance in the amount of \$2,178,320.00 which shall be transferred to a bank account established by Baldwin County and with funds from the North Central Health District WIC Program in the amount of \$235,994.00 to be drawn down and paid directly to the County upon completion of the project's WIC space. The IGA further provides definitions and rules of construction, issuance of obligations in the event the project is completed under budget, title to project, disbursements for project activities, liabilities, remedies on default by either party and miscellaneous items addressing terms and reporting requirements.

Commissioner Sammy Hall asked what provisions are included in the IGA to over cost overruns should there be any. Mr. Tobar stated this is addressed in Section 4.03 and states the Board of Health shall pay the excess of project overruns.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Health as presented. Commissioner Tommy French 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 _____.

Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Awards

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented the following two (2) WIOA grant awards for the period October 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021: Adult Program – funds in the amount of \$588,295 and Dislocated Worker Program in the amount of \$812,478.

Commissioner Emily C. David made a motion to accept the Adult Program and Dislocated Worker Program grant awards as presented. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FY 2021 Section 5311 Transit Grant Application

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson presented a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the US Department of Transportation for a grant for public transportation assistance under Section 5311. She stated the FY 2021 grant has a proposed total operating budget of \$156,104.00 and proposed capital budget of \$3,200.00 for a total of \$159,304.00. She reported the County's share for the operating and capital budget is \$78,372.00. Ms. Hudson reported this amount is included the proposed County budget.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented and to authorize the Chair to execute related documents. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated he realizes this is a much needed service; however, he feels it is a most inefficient use of County funds. He stated the service needs to be revamped so it can be provided more effectively and efficiently; but, there are State program requirements that must be followed. Commissioner Tommy French reiterated the fact that the program needs improvement; but, this is all there is until a better solution can be found. Commissioner Emily C. Davis recommended that County Manager Tobar meet with the Fire Chief and interested citizens to see where improvements can be made.

Vice Chair Craig called for a vote to adopt the Resolution as presented, and the motion passed by the following vote: Aye: Davis, French Nay: Hall

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

Contract for County Manager

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to table action on the Contract until further review. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution Supporting Home Rule for Counties

Vice Chair Henry Craig reported there is an initiative at the State to set standards statewide for building design standards in single and double-family dwellings thereby eliminating locally tailored approaches to design standards. He said he felt local officials are elected to make decisions that are best for their communities and they should be empowered to enforce building design standards for the safety and welfare of the citizens of Baldwin County. He recommended the Board adopt the Resolution Supporting Home Rule for Counties, and the Resolution be forwarded to ACCG.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Tommy French 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 _____.

Old Business

Vice Chair Henry Craig asked for an update on fire hydrants in Waters Edge. County Manager Tobar stated he had received word from the City that they are working on it.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis requested a point of privilege. She read a statement regarding the continuing SDS negotiations with the City. She stated her district mainly lies within the incorporated area, and she feels the County and City must come to agreement in the best interest of all citizens.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Tobar presented an update on County projects including the CDBG sewer line design; West Apron Project construction; kickoff meeting for the multipurpose trail; Department of Public Health groundbreaking and pre-construction meeting; groundbreaking ceremonies for the Water Meter Project, Senior Center and Animal Shelter; and the public hearing on proposed amendments to three ordinances that will be held December 3, 2019.

Public Comment Period

The following people addressed the Board:

Gregory Barnes – Expressed his concern about the continued SDS issues with the City and County bringing the consolidation movement back to the forefront.

Pam Peacock – Reported Paws for Change, Judy Veal and volunteers have collected donations to purchase a dishwasher and hydraulic lift table for the Shelter. She requested the volunteers be sent thank you notes by the County. She presented an update on the SAFE mobile unit that will be in the County on December 4th. She stated thirty-three (33) appointments have been made for that day.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Vice Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk