

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HENRY**

The Henry County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Public Meeting *in-person* on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 9:00 a.m. at the Henry County Administration Building (Community Room), 140 Henry Parkway, McDonough GA. HenryTV also streamed this live online at its website, as well as Charter/Spectrum Channel 180 and Facebook Live.

Carlotta Harrell, Chair
Johnny Wilson, District 1 Commissioner
Neat Robinson, District 2 Commissioner
Dee Anglyn, III, District 3 Commissioner
Vivian Thomas, District 4 Commissioner
Kevin J. Lewis, Vice Chair/District 5 Commissioner

Also in attendance: Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager; Serena Nowell, County Attorney; and Stephanie Braun, County Clerk.

HENRY COUNTY CODE OF CONDUCT

(Sec. 2-2-128: Conduct during public meetings)

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Pastor Leonard Himes of Henry County Fire Rescue.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

CALL TO ORDER

Carlotta Harrell, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Henry County Board of Commissioners for Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., to order.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Henry County Year in Review (Presenter: Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager)

A video was played entailing numerous accomplishments and stats by Henry County employees. Team members present were recognized for their work in 2023.

B. Recognition of Henry County Employee Leadership Development Graduates (Presenter: Shannan Sagnot, Cluster Lead)

Members of the inaugural leadership class were recognized. Photos were taken with the board

(Photos were taken with the Board)

CONSENT AGENDA

County Manager Cheri Hobson-Matthews read the consent agenda as follows:

Fire Rescue

A. Resolution Accepting a Reimbursement Grant from The Georgia Trauma Commission in the amount of \$14,906 to reimburse the purchase of Trauma Equipment and Emergency Medical Supplies for Henry County Fire Rescue. (Presenter: Fire Chief Jonathan Burnette)(Exhibit 1)
Resolution #23-340

Police Department

A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners accepting a donation of fitness equipment from the Dasai Family to the Henry County Police Department. This equipment is valued at an estimated \$4,500. (Presenter: Lt. W. Powell, HCPD)(Exhibit 2)
Resolution #23-341

B. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving a purchase of forty-five (45) in-car radios from Loudoun Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$324,644 for the Henry County Police Department, utilizing Red Speed Funds. (Presenter: Lt. W. Powell, HCPD)(Exhibit 3)
Resolution #23-342

C. Resolution to accept a grant award in the amount of \$25,000 from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for the Henry County Police Department to provide de-escalation training. (Presenter: Lt. W. Powell, HCPD)(Exhibit 4)
Resolution #23-343

Sheriff Department

A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving the acceptance of The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in the amount of \$43,309 for Henry County Sheriff's Office with no matching funds. (Presenter: Lamarion Green-Hughey, Finance Director, HCSO)(Exhibit 5)
Resolution #23-344

B. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving the acceptance of State of Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) FY24 Georgia Gang Activity Prosecution Grant in the amount of \$28,876 to the Henry County Sheriff's Office with no matching funds. (Presenter: Lamarion Green-Hughey, Finance Director, HCSO)(Exhibit 6)
Resolution #23-345

SPLOST

A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving the contribution of fixed assets to the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) in the amount of \$114,437 and authorizing the Chair or

County Manager to execute all necessary documents for conveyance of fixed assets relating to Mickie D. Cochran Park Improvements. (Presenter: Lynn Planchon, Capital Projects Director)(Exhibit 7)

Resolution #23-346

(This ends the consent agenda)

With no further questions from the Board, Chair Harrell called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. **Commissioner Dee Anglyn** made the motion to approve; **Vice Chair Kevin Lewis** seconded. Motion carried (6-0-0)

REGULAR AGENDA

VIII. Human Resources

A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners to Rescind Resolution #23-75 which Amended the Adoption Agreement for Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Henry County Employees. (Presenter: Holly Lafontaine, HR Director)(Exhibit 8)

The resolution was first adopted in February 2023. Staff has determined there are errors in it and the correction resolution was read. Base pay only will go towards retirement. This will fix the system so the pension plan is not underfunded. Employees are retiring at two or three times what their base pay was because of overtime which is draining the retirement fund.

Chair Harrell made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Robinson** seconded. The motion carried 5-1-0, with Commissioner Wilson voting in opposition.

Resolution #23-347

B. Resolution to Amend the Adoption Agreement (Amendment #10) for Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Henry County Employees as it relates to base pay (Presenter: Holly Lafontaine, HR Director)(Exhibit 9)

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve; **Vice Chair Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 5-1-0, with Commissioner Wilson voting in opposition.

Resolution #23-348

Chair directed staff to look into other options for employees dealing with overtime. Overtime will still be permitted, but it will not be a part of the employee's County pension. Chair asked staff to explore some other ways employees could take that overtime money and invest it into other plans which might be beneficial.

C. (Changed to Discussion Only) Resolution of the Board of Commissioners to Amend the Adoption Agreement for Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Defined Benefit Plan for Henry County Employees as it relates to Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees. (Presenter: Holly Lafontaine, HR Director)(Exhibit 10)

This will be a resolution to look at a COLA for retirees. The proposal is to offer a 2% COLA to retirees starting on Jan. 1, 2024. In order to receive same, employees must have been retired at least two years before the increase kicks in. Staff would come back to the board to approve the retiree COLA every two years.

No action was taken. The board will be presented with a resolution on Jan. 3, 2024 for a vote.

IX. Police Department

A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners authorizing the placement of a memorial marker on Jonesboro Road, East of Foster Drive, in memory of Henry County Police Sergeant James Curtis Gilbert, Jr. (Presenter: Lt. W. Powell, HCPD)(Exhibit 11)

Sergeant Gilbert served in law enforcement for a total of twenty years, exhibiting courage and professionalism, protecting and serving the public, and upholding the rule of law. On August 2, 1993, he began his career with the Henry County Police Department and served faithfully for nearly eleven years. On the morning of May 2, 2004, while on duty, Sergeant Gilbert tragically lost his life when his patrol car struck the back of a tractor trailer that was illegally parked on the shoulder of the I-75 exit ramp to Jonesboro Road. To recognize the dedicated service Sergeant Gilbert rendered to the community he protected, the Henry County Police Department finds it appropriate to place a memorial marker, named in his honor, on Jonesboro Road, East of Foster Drive.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve; **Vice Chair Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Resolution #23-349

X. SPLOST

A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving a Budget Amendment and awarding RFP #24-13 for the Construction of the Henry County Aquatic Center to Integrated Construction and Nobility, Inc. of Whitesburg, Georgia in the amount of \$50,207,898 utilizing SPLOST V Funds. County Wide (Presenter: Lynn Planchon, Capital Projects Director)(Exhibit 12)

The aquatic center is an approved SPLOST V project in the amount of \$22 million. Project bids came back in the amount of \$53 million. The requested amendment would shift \$31 million in SPLOST V collections to the aquatic center. *(A video of the proposed aquatic center was played.)*

Lynn Planchon, Capital Projects Director, explained the good economy has allowed collections to be ahead of projection.

Commissioner Wilson noted the SPLOST V project list indicates transportation and public safety projects have not been completed or started yet. Those projects equate to about \$66 million. He would like to see all our transportation and public safety projects completed and suggests then going back and

revisiting the \$22 million Aquatic Center later. He asked what the operation cost of the Aquatic Center would be?

Vice Chair Lewis stated that we are in an inflationary period, and that all projects have increased in cost from the original allocations. He said the bottom line is that this was a SPLOST project voted upon by the citizens and that we need to complete all projects because we said we would. The citizens of Henry County asked for a first-class Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Anglyn added that the Aquatic Center will serve multi purposes and will bring people from all over to use the facility. He explained that we will continue to collect SPLOST taxes from this facility and thanked the team for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Thomas asked how much over are we trending in collections?

David Smith, Financial Services Director, stated that SPLOST IV collected about \$30 million more than projected; and SPLOST V is projected to collect about \$50 million more than what was initially projected. Regarding SPLOST VI, we are projecting to collect about \$300-\$350 million. Henry County is unique in this because even through the Covid-19 pandemic we continued to see greater than what the State was collecting overall. **Commissioner Thomas** added that we have many interests that bring individuals to Henry County and spoke about the world-class disc golf at J.P. Moseley Park that have brought people in from all over the U.S. They are now trying to plan a regional and national event at J.P. Moseley Park because we made this type of investment.

Chair Harrell agreed with Commissioner Thomas and stated this project will be self-sufficient because it will be multi purpose facility (i.e. State and National swim meets, etc.).

Commissioner Robinson spoke about creating quality of life for our citizens and she does not want them to have to go outside of the county for things when we can build them right here at home. She also wanted to charge her colleagues when talking about SPLOST and infrastructure to look at the roads and instead of splitting into districts, to look at the ratings Countywide and work on those areas that are in the most need of repair.

Chair Harrell asked Roque Romero to come forward and talk about incomplete SPLOST projects. **Mr. Romero** stated that there a few transportation projects, as Commissioner Wilson mentioned, that are incomplete, but pretty much everything listed on SPLOST V and TSPLOST are in some phase (either design, right-of-way, or construction). Regarding TSPLOST, they are very close to bidding out McDonough Parkway in District 3, which goes from State Route 42 to State Route 155 (with a bridge over SR 155). We should receive the permit this week and as soon as that comes through we will put it out for bid. Another project is Mill Road and they will start acquiring right-of-way in the near future. Jonesboro Road is another project where right-of-way is close to being completed and the project is ready to be staked out and started by the beginning of 2024. In District 2, Fairview Road is in design and all utilities and water are being coordinated now and then we will move into acquiring right-of-way. In District 1, we will be paving on Peeksville. This is a project that took several SPLOST(s) to get through, but we are finally getting to the end. He summed up by saying that everything is getting close to the construction phase and 2024 should be a big year where we will see some end results.

Vice Chair Lewis made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Thomas** seconded. The motion carried 5-1-0, with Commissioner Wilson voting in opposition.

Resolution #23-350

ADDED by Chair Harrell:
Henry County Police Department

Resolution accepting donations in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the Henry County Police Department for “Holidays for Heroes” event. HCPD will take 37 children shopping for the Christmas holiday. (Presenter: Officer J. Braswell, HCPD)

Officer Braswell, HCPD, came forward and explained that this is the first year that are doing the “Holidays for Heroes” event which replaces the “Shop with a Cop” event they have done in the past. The received donations in the amount of \$7,500 from businesses in Henry County. That money was deposited into Henry First, our 501C3. They have partnered with DFCS and A Friend’s House and they will be servicing 37 children this year. Event will be held on December 16, 2023 where they will take them to shop at Target and then meet back at Jason T. Harper Event Center where the children and their families will receive a hot meal.

The HCPD is requesting that the money held in Henry First be deposited in the HCPD’s account so they can move forward with this event.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Anglyn** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Resolution #23-351

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up for public comment.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- A. January 3, 2024 (Wednesday due to holiday) at 9:00 a.m. is a regularly scheduled BOC meeting.
- B. January 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. is a regularly scheduled BOC meeting

Executive Session (Re: Litigation and real estate) (10:26 a.m.)

Commissioner Dee Anglyn made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Litigation and real estate; **Vice Chair Kevin Lewis** seconded. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Reconvene from Executive Session (11:56 a.m.)

Commissioner Neat Robinson made the motion to reconvene; **Commissioner Dee Anglyn** seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0 (Commissioner Vivian Thomas not present during vote).

Approval of an Affidavit and Resolution pertaining to Executive Session

Commissioner Dee Anglyn made the motion to approve the affidavit and resolution; **Vice Chair Kevin Lewis** seconded. Motion carried 5-0-0 (Commissioner Vivian Thomas not present during vote).

Added items:

- 1) Resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with Piedmont Bank regarding real estate (96 acres adjacent to Henry County Airport/Parcel #004-01005000). **Vice Chair Kevin Lewis** made a motion to approve; **Commissioner Johnny Wilson** seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0 (Commissioner Thomas not present during vote)
Resolution 23-352
- 2) **Chair Carlotta Harrell** requested that staff and County Manager bring back options for increasing impact fees to the January, 2024 BOC Meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Carlotta Harrell, Chair

Stephanie Braun, County Clerk