

April 23, 2024

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STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF HENRY

The Henry County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Public Meeting *in-person* on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.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, Vice Chair/District 1 Commissioner
Neat Robinson, District 2 Commissioner - via telephone
Dee Anglyn, III, District 3 Commissioner
Michael T. Price, District 4 Commissioner
Kevin J. Lewis, District 5 Commissioner

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

HENRY COUNTY CODE OF CONDUCT (Sec. 2-2-128: Conduct during public meetings)

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given.

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, April 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to order.

Announcement

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

1. The following Public Hearing was advertised for the April 23, 2024 BOC Meeting, but has been removed by staff: Request to abandon a portion of a Bridges Road Right-of-Way.
2. Chair Harrell added an executive session for litigation purposes.
3. Chair Harrell announced that Woodland High School, recognized during the March 19, 2024 BOC meeting, reported winning the following awards: Jayden Clark, Best Attorney; Team, State Professionalism Award; Abranah Ashme, Best Witness. The BOC extended their congratulations to the team for their accomplishments.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of Treandos and Noah Thornton for their community service (*Presenter: Nicholas Ivey, Public Relations Specialist*)

Brothers Treandos and Noah Thornton were extended a recognition for their civic engagements including food, toy and book drives over the last seven years. A photograph was taken of the children with the Board of Commissioners and family.

B. National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week (*Presenter: Nicholas Ivey, Public Relations Specialist*)

National Animal Control Appreciation Week was observed April 14-20, 2024 in Henry County. A photograph was taken of the Henry County Board of Commissioners and Henry County Animal Care and Control employees.

C. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (*Presenter: Nicholas Ivey, Public Relations Specialist*)

Henry County 911 Dispatchers and Operators were recognized for their contributions. A photograph was taken of the Henry County Board of Commissioners and dispatchers and operators.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Henry County Board of Elections & Registration Update (*Presenter: Ameika Banks, Director*)

Director Ameika Banks discussed voter registration numbers and announced advanced voting which will begin on April 29, 2024. Director Banks acknowledged the error made on the sample ballot that left out the Board of Commission Chair race. She explained the process of proofing and correcting the ballot with the Secretary of State's office. Director Banks also explained the new process that will take place to ensure such an error does not occur again. In addition, steps were taken with the cities to ensure ballots are correct. **Ms. Banks** is working with the City of Locust Grove and the City of McDonough so that residents voting in city elections do not have to visit a separate location when there are city and county elections. Director Banks explained the process of election preparation - delivery of equipment, scheduling with polling locations, delivery and pickup of equipment, scheduling poll workers and training from start to finish.

Chair Harrell noted that Elections & Registration should have a list of all races, referring to the error made on the sample ballot. Additionally, Chair Harrell said she was concerned that voters given a provisional ballot must be made aware they have to return within three days to prove their identity.

Director Banks said they have individuals trained to inform provisional ballot voters.

Chair Harrell said it is the duty of the county as leaders to ensure voters are educated about what they can do when they have a problem at the poll.

Vice Chair Johnny Wilson asked Director Banks to explain the poll pad process.

Commissioner Kevin Lewis asked if the ballots were vetted the day before the polls open. He stated he was also concerned that a vetting process is not in place to make sure the information sent by municipalities is correct. In addition he said things on the website are not correct. He also said an SOP (Standard Operation Procedure) needs to be in place as a failsafe and know all the races and cycles.

Director Banks explained the Logic and Accuracy tests done by elections and registration. She noted that even though it works, there are times the machines do not operate correctly. She said SOPs are now being put in place and they are making changes to be sure everything is correct.

Commissioner Michael Price asked if voters who may have to use a provisional ballot are given information to ensure their vote is counted.

Director Banks said they are provided a slip and verbally instructed how to fill out the ballot and the next steps they need to take.

Chair Harrell asked why parties had to find another location to hold their qualifying rather than the elections office?

Director Bank said having both parties in the same building creates conflict. This was a way to cut down on the conflicts and people bumping heads in 2020. She explained that they are a nonpartisan office.

Chair Harrell asked if the Elections & Registrations staff knows each City's charter for elections.

Director Banks said she is working with city clerks to make sure employees are more familiar with the charters for each city.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Extension Services

- A. Resolution of the Henry County Board of Commissioners requesting approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Regents regarding Cooperative Extension. *(Presenter: Jonathon Penn, Leisure Services Cluster Leader)(Exhibit 1)* Resolution 24-119

Financial Services

- A. Resolution approving FY 2021-2022 BOC Governmental Final Budget Appropriation Amendment *(Presenter: David Smith, Financial Services Director/Cluster Lead)(Exhibit 2)* Resolution 24-120

Human Resources

- A. Resolution of the Henry County Board of Commissioners to Approve and Adopt the Henry County Employee Benefit and Medical Insurance Plan for 2024-2025 *(Presenter: Holly Lafontaine, HR Director)(Exhibit 3)* Resolution 24-121

Planning & Zoning

- A. ADE-AX-24-01 (Not a Public Hearing)
Henry County has received a request for de-annexation of a total of ten (10) county owned properties located along Henry Parkway, Industrial Boulevard, and Highway 20/81, consisting of a combined 508.806 +/- acres in Land Lot 164+ of the 7th District – (Parcels 093-01003000, 093-01006000, 093- 01006001, 093-01006002, 093-01006003, 093-01006006, 093- 01007000, 093-01007001, 093-01014000, and 093-01016000). District 5 *(Presenter: Kamau As-Salaam, Assistant Director)(Exhibit 4)* Resolution 24-122
- B. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for Newberry (Phases 1 and 2) Subdivision on Mount Carmel Road. District 5 *(Presenter: Heidy Liahut, Planner I)(Exhibit 5)* Resolution 24-123

- C. Resolution approving a request for a new streetlight district for Hawthorne Ridge Subdivision on Mount Carmel Road. District 5 (*Presenter: Heidy Liahut, Planner I*)(*Exhibit 6*) Resolution 24-124

Commissioner Dee Anglyn made a motion to approve the consent agenda; **Vice Chair Johnny Wilson** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

(This ends the consent agenda)

REGULAR AGENDA

County Attorney

A. Ordinance amending Section 3-3-68 of the Code of Henry County, Georgia, increasing the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax from 5% to 8%, and for other purposes (*Presenter: Serena Nowell, County Attorney*)(*Exhibit 7*) Ordinance 24-2

County Attorney Serena Nowell presented the ordinance and stated it will increase the Hotel/Motel Tax from 5% to 8%. Resolution 10-52 was adopted on March 15, 2010 requesting the Henry County Legislative delegation to present the local legislation to the 2010 Georgia General Assembly. The purpose of the legislation was to get permission to increase the hotel/motel tax rate to 8%. The legislation was passed in 2010 by the General Assembly and it was signed by the Governor into law the same year. After it was authorized, Henry County's ordinance was never amended to the 8% as approved so the ordinance being presented today codifies the changes that were authorized by the General Assembly.

Vice Chair Johnny Wilson asked how the county can spend the unrestricted funding received.

Ms. Nowell stated half of the increase in taxes (3%) must be used for the purposes named in the legislation. This includes the Interchange Beautification Program, way-finding signage and road enhancement, parks, trails, museums, theme parks, veterans memorials, recreational facilities, meeting conventions, exhibit and public assembly facilities and other tourist product development activities.

Vice Chair Johnny Wilson made the motion to approve; **Commissioner Dee Anglyn** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

B. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Project Development Agreement with TRANE U.S., Inc. for the development of a Central Energy Plant (CEP) (*Presenter: Serena Nowell, County Attorney*)(*Exhibit 8*) Resolution 24-125

County Attorney Serena Nowell explained the resolution will allow TRANE to start developing a project plan to create a central energy plant.

Hutch Purvis, Cluster Leader, explained the central energy plant will allow the county to consolidate and save money by creating chill and hot water and pumping them to the buildings around the area. The plant will also provide backup power capabilities in the event of a power outage.

Vice Chair Johnny Wilson made the motion to approve; **Commissioner Dee Anglyn** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0

C. Resolution approving Intergovernmental Agreement with Henry County Development Authority

(HCDA) regarding conveyance of 28.7 acres located at the Atlanta Speedway Airport in Hampton, in order to market the subject property for data centers, advanced manufacturing/aerospace, and/or advanced manufacturing/automotive. *(Presenter: Serena Nowell, County Attorney)(Exhibit 9)* Resolution 24-126

County Attorney Serena Nowell said the agreement authorizes the development authority to market the property for data centers, advanced manufacturing/aerospace, and/or advanced manufacturing/automotive.

Chair Harrell said she wanted a time length included in the agreement in the event the county found a different use for the described property.

Rod Medows, Development Authority Attorney, said a provision has been included that if the county has a project the Development Authority will work with the county to promote the project.

Commissioner Dee Anglyn made the motion to approve; **Commissioner Kevin Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Public Comments

No one signed up for public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A. March 19, 2024 regular BOC Meeting

Commissioner Kevin Lewis made the motion to approve; **Commissioner Dee Anglyn** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- May 7, 2024 at 9 a.m. is a regularly scheduled BOC meeting
- Notice of Date Change - the May 21, 2024 regularly scheduled BOC meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session

(Added) Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Commissioner Dee Anglyn made the motion to go into executive session; **Commissioner Kevin Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Reconvene from Executive Session

Commissioner Dee Anglyn made the motion to reconvene from executive session; **Commissioner Kevin Lewis** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Approval of an Affidavit and Resolution pertaining to Executive Session

Commissioner Kevin Lewis made the motion to approve; **Vice Chair Johnny Wilson** seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

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ADDED (after Executive Session):

Resolution authorizing settlement of item discussed in Executive Session (re: Western Parallel Parkway/Parcel 11) Resolution 24-127

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Carlotta Harrell, Chair

Stephanie Braun, County Clerk