



**BALDWIN COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING**
November 19, 2024, 2024
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT

Johnny Westmoreland, Chair
Kendrick Butts
Sammy Hall
Emily Davis
Henry Craig

OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar
Brandon Palmer
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham
Bo Danuser

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION

The invocation was delivered by County Manager Carlos Tobar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Butts.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Westmoreland called the budget public hearing to order.

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson gave a budget presentation on the 2025 proposed budget in which she discussed the process of getting information from the departments, compiling the figures, and presenting a budget ready for adoption. She reviewed the expected revenues and expenditures in the general fund including mandated funding and discretionary funding. She provided information about the special revenue funds and the special district funds.

Commissioner Butts asked if the van was included in the recreation budget. Ms. Hudson responded that the van was not included in the operational portion of the budget, most vehicles were paid from the SPLOST funds and it would be up to the commission to authorize SPLOST funds to purchase the van.

Chairman Westmoreland recognized speakers who signed up to address the commission regarding the budget.

Desiree Liggins of 103 Pine Ridge Road addressed the commission asking if the county would ever get revenue from the Water Park, the golf course, the pickleball courts or the airport. Ms. Hudson responded to the cost and revenue streams for the water park, golf course and pickleball courts. Mr. Tobar responded the airport's revenue.

Savannah Neal of 135 Woodland Drive addressed the commission stating she was an Assistance District Attorney; she gave her employment history and information about the duties and the staff of the District Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The budget public hearing was adjourned.

PRESENTATIONS

Joy Moten-Thomas, Atrium Health Navicent - Vice President for Government Relations addressed the Commission. Ms. Moten-Thomas recognized Milledgeville business owners Robin Dixon and Annie Miller who provided day care services for second and third shift employees; she stated that these two ladies stepped up to the plate and agreed to keep their centers open until midnight and on the weekends to provide high-quality child-care options in Baldwin County. Atrium Health Navicent received a grant and would pay 100% of the staffing salaries for the caregivers that worked evening shifts and weekends and would pay half of the child care for those families who had to work second and third shifts in this community. Everyone attending applauded to show appreciation for these two business owners and what they did for the community.

MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024 public hearing, regular meeting, and executive session. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Amendments to the Agenda

Commissioner Hall made a motion to remove item 7 terminating the contract with the Animal Rescue and Adoption from the agenda. Commissioner Craig seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. The animal rescue and adoption contract was removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution for participation in the State mandated first responder PTSD program. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. The agenda was amended to add the PTSD program participation.

Commissioner Craig made a motion to remove item 6 authorizing a Fire Apparatus Purchasing Agreement from the agenda. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Approval of the Fire Apparatus Purchasing Agreement was removed from the agenda.

Housing Policies and Procedures for CDBG

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated the County received a 1.25 million dollar grant from the Department of Community Affairs for sewer replacement and housing rehabilitation; adoption of these policies and procedures was required to move forward with the project.

Commissioner Craig made a motion to approve Housing Policies and Procedures as presented for the Community Development Block Grant. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Language Access Plan

Mr. Tobar stated that the Language Access Plan was also required by the Community Development Block grant.

Commissioner Craig made a motion to adopt the resolution to approve the updated Language Access Plan. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages 324 and 325.

Land Development Code

There was discussion as to whether the county should accept and maintain roads in gated communities. County Manager Carlos Tobar stated that there needed to be a consensus for the

changes to the gated communities section of the Land Use Code. County Attorney Palmer stated that there was no precedence to whether such an ordinance would be lawful; it was a policy question.

Chairman Westmoreland recognized speakers who signed up to make comments on this agenda item.

Cindy Humphrey of 158 Simpson Proctor Lane stated the public should not have to pay for road maintenance in gated communities.

Desiree Liggins of 103 Pine Ridge Road stated she didn't want the county to use her money to pay for private roads; Sidney Butts Road needed to be paved. She stated there needed to be transparency and wanted to know what codes were being discussed. Commissioner Hall responded that the code was on the website.

Mr. Tobar stated that he needed direction on the Land Development Code. Commissioner Butts and Commissioner Davis expressed their desire to remove the gated communities section of the code. The discussion about maintaining roads in gated communities continued including grandfathering current gated communities. Mr. Tobar was asked to schedule another meeting to further discuss the Land Development Code.

There was a discussion about having a synopsis of changes available when amending regulations.

Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome Insurance Program Participation

Assistance County Manager Dawn Hudson stated that House Bill 451 required the county to purchase PTSD and long-term disability insurance coverage for first responders; she needed authorization to participate in the ACCG Interlocal Risk Management Agency Supplemental Medical, Accidental and Disability Fund First Responder PTSD Program.

There was a discussion about providing first responders with what they needed including supplementing health insurance and income.

Commissioner Craig made a motion to approve the County's participation in the ACCG First Responder PTSD program. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

A copy of the resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages 320 and 337.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Butts stated the residents were satisfied with roads in his district; he thanked Mr. Tobar.

Commissioner Davis asked that trash be picked up on Meriwether Road where the grass was cut.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager Carlos Tobar announced that the transit reached 10,000 riders; he recognized Fire Chief Young, Chief Adams and transit dispatcher Tiffany Jordan. Ms. Jordan introduced herself and coworkers Craig Pearson and Shanirika Waller; she commented on the services the transit program provided to the community and meeting the milestone of 10,000 riders.

Mr. Tobar announced that the County received a \$700,000 grant to replace galvanized water pipes; paving on Log Cabin road would begin the next day; the Fishing Creek Trail extension received the authorization to proceed and would be advertised shortly; the Walter B. Williams trail phase 2 was funded by a grant and would begin soon; and the Walter B. Williams ball field lighting bids were due Friday for the lower ball fields.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Westmoreland recognize the individual who signed up to speak on non-agenda items.

Desiree Liggins of 103 Pine Ridge Road addressed the commission to complain that Log Cabin Road was being repaved and that Sidney Butts Road was gravel, the Frank Bone Road Recycling Center needed to be cleaned, the field across from Kroger needed to be fixed, trouble she had getting the Maplewood Lane sign picked up, and the number of animals being euthanizing at animal control.

Pam Peacock of 196 Montego Bay informed the commission that the animal shelter had not submitted reports to the Department of Agriculture since May and the animal shelter's administrator was the CFO of the organization contracted for rescue and adoptions. She asked if that wasn't a conflict of interest.

Marshall Berry of 139 Hardwick Street requested that Hardwick Street be renamed in honor of his grandmother Pearl Smith Berry. She ran a boarding house in Hardwick and was the first lady to drive a taxi in the 1920s. She lived on the street roughly 78 years. He asked how to follow up on the road name change; he had signatures from the people who lived on Hardwick Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Hall made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and litigation. Commissioner Craig seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The commission went into executive session at 7:32 pm.

Commissioner Craig made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The commission reconvened into open session at 8:57 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

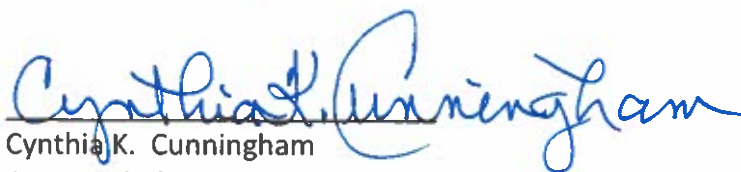
Commissioner Craig made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



John Westmoreland
Chairman



Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk

RESOLUTION
ADOPTION OF UPDATED LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

WHEREAS, Baldwin County wishes to be in accordance with Title VI non-discrimination laws regarding the provision of appropriate access to services and activities provided by federal agencies and recipients of federal assistance, and

WHEREAS, Baldwin County is in receipt of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has encouraged and provided guidance for the adoption of a Language Access Plan (LAP) for Limited English Speaking Persons (LEP),

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, that Baldwin County has prepared and is updating its adopted Language Access Plan (LAP) related to the awarded FY 2024 CDBG funding of the Sewer Improvements, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Carlos Tobar, County Manager has been named in the LAP as the LAP Coordinator, and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the LAP will be updated as new Census Data regarding LEPs is presented and/or a new CDBG or other Federal grant is awarded and requires the LAP to be updated or revised.

BE IT RESOLVED this 19 day of Nov. 2024.

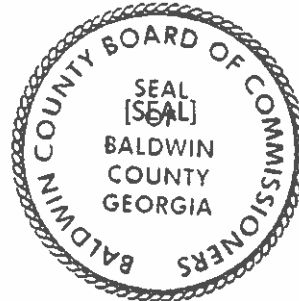

Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners on the date so stated in said Resolution. I further certify that I am Cynthia Cunningham, County Clerk and that said Resolution has full force and effect the 19 day of November 2024.

ATTEST:


County Clerk



**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE
ACCG - INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY
SUPPLEMENTAL MEDICAL, ACCIDENT, AND
DISABILITY FUND:
FIRST RESPONDER PTSD PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Article 9, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of Georgia authorizes counties and other political subdivisions to contract with each other for activities which the contracting parties are authorized by law to undertake; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes counties to execute intergovernmental contracts to form, and become members of, an interlocal risk management agency for the purpose of sharing the risks of accident, disability, supplemental medical, general liability, motor vehicle liability, property damage, or any combination of such risks with those of other counties; and,

WHEREAS, counties within Georgia have found it increasingly difficult to obtain commercial insurance protection, and have found the costs of such protection often exceed the ability of a county to pay; and,

WHEREAS, counties in Georgia need a stable method for managing their risks to avoid the unpredictable and cyclical nature of the commercial insurance market; and,

WHEREAS, many Georgia counties do not have sufficient resources to self-insure their risks on an individual basis; and,

WHEREAS, through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia counties have created an intergovernmental risk management agency so that the Georgia counties may insure and/or self-insure their risks; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Baldwin is an existing member of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia – Interlocal Risk Management Agency (hereafter referred to as ACCG-IRMA), an interlocal risk management agency formed pursuant to Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, and previously has entered into an intergovernmental contract for the purpose of joining ACCG-IRMA and participating in the ACCG-IRMA Property and Liability Fund and/or the first Supplemental Medical,

Accident and Disability Fund known as the Firefighters' Cancer Benefit Program (the "Fund(s)"); and,

WHEREAS, ACCG-IRMA has also established a second Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund known as the First Responder PTSD Program for the purpose of protecting against certain other liabilities imposed upon Georgia counties by state law; and,

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the County of Baldwin finds that it is in the best interest of its citizens to participate in this second ACCG-IRMA Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund (the First Responder PTSD Program),

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of the County of Baldwin, Georgia:

SECTION 1

The governing authority of the County of Baldwin hereby authorizes the County to become a participant in the ACCG-IRMA Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund known as the First Responder PTSD Program for the purpose of providing coverage for those risks imposed upon the County by state law and for which the Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund has been established. The County's continuing participation in the ACCG-IRMA Fund(s) in which the County is currently enrolled is hereby confirmed.

SECTION 2

The _____ Chairman _____ of the County
(Insert Title of Chief Executive Officer)
of Baldwin is authorized to execute on behalf of the County any and all documents necessary and proper to become a participant in the ACCG-IRMA Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund known as the First Responder PTSD Program.

SECTION 3

The powers of ACCG-IRMA, unless the intergovernmental contract and ACCG-IRMA bylaws are amended, shall be limited to those authorized by Chapter 85

of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, and the related Rules and Regulations of the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Georgia.

SECTION 4

The continuing operations of ACCG-IRMA and the obligation of the County to fully participate in such operations shall be effectuated in accordance with the intergovernmental contract and ACCG-IRMA bylaws.

SECTION 5

The _____ Chairman _____ is designated as the County's
(Insert Title of Designated Person)
representative to ACCG-IRMA. The County may change its representative by informing ACCG-IRMA of the change in writing.

SECTION 6

This resolution shall be effective upon its passage and approval.

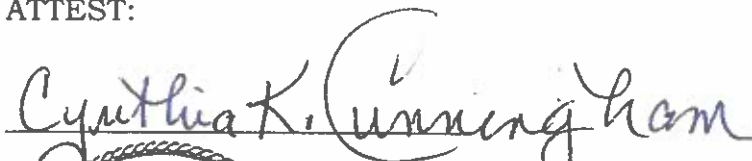
Adopted this _____ 19 _____ day of _____ November _____ 20 _____ 24 _____ .



Chairman or Sole Commissioner

County of _____ Baldwin _____

ATTEST:



Cynthia K. Cunningham
Clerk of the County of _____ Baldwin _____
(Insert County Seal)

