



**BALDWIN COUNTY
CALLED MEETING**

**October 21, 2024
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
1:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Henry Craig
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham
Bo Danuser

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Westmoreland called the October 21, 2024 Called Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Contract to Dyer Construction for Pickleball Courts

County Manager Carlos Tobar called on Grant Administrator Haly Hicks to present an update on the program for Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities through the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Ms. Hicks stated that since the inception of this grant there have been external factors that have caused the County to consider a change in scope. One factor is the change in election law. The County has established a Board of Elections, and there is a need to construct a building at the Government Building site to house the Board of Elections and a new voting area. The proposed change will result in deviations from the original purpose and site location. The change relocates the project site from the Government Building to Walter B. Williams Park. Rather than constructing a park at the Government Building, the desire is for the funds to be used for the continued revitalization and expansion of Walter B. Williams Park with the emphasis on construction of 20 new pickleball courts, lighting at the pickleball courts, a pavilion, two restrooms and replacement of lights at four ball fields with LED lights. Ms. Hicks reported there will be changes to the purpose and site; however, the overall goal remains the same and that is to improve neighborhood outcomes through providing increased opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. She discussed details of the project and budget as well as the many benefits to Baldwin County and its citizens. Ms. Hicks stated the required documents were submitted and the State approved the change in scope.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts made a motion to amend the Agenda to include the Harrisburg Streetscape Project. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Contract for Dyer Construction for Pickleball Courts

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated the project has been bid out and the County is ready to award the bid for construction of pickleball courts and lighting for the courts. He reported the County will need to prepare a bid for the pavilion with restrooms. Mr. Tobar requested Board approval to award Dyer Construction the contract for construction of 20 pickleball courts. Mr. Tobar read an email confirming that the prices quoted for construction and lighting of the courts by Georgia Power would remain effective.

Commissioner Sammy Hall asked if this includes lighting for the ballfields. Mr. Tobar stated the remainder of the grant funds would be enough to cover the cost of restroom facilities and lights for the ballfields. He stated County staff will begin the process of advertising for bids right away. Commissioner Sammy Hall expressed the importance of providing new lights at the ballfields.

The following citizens addressed the Board expressing appreciation to Commissioners and staff for their work on this project also requesting that the Board move forward and approve awarding the contracts for construction and lighting of the pickleball courts: Ellen Paulish, Pecola Huff, Sherrill Jones, Julie Parmaley, Susan Pennington, Wes Cummings, Judy Sanders, Simone Brown and Jeff Moore.

Commissioner Henry Craig stated he has long been an advocate for construction of new pickleball courts and encouraged the Board to move as quickly as possible to bring this project to fruition.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the award of contracts to Dyer Construction and Georgia Power. Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Manager Tobar stated the contracts are being finalized and reviewed by the County Attorney. He stated they will be presented for official approval at the November 5, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated he voted in favor of the motion; however, he was not in favor of holding a Called Meeting to discuss County matters unless it is absolutely necessary. He stated regular County business should not be considered in a Called Meeting; but, all matters should be acted upon at a regularly scheduled Commission Meeting to be held at the regular time of 6:00 p.m.

Harrisburg Streetscape Project

County Manager Tobar reported two bids were received for the Harrisburg Streetscape Project. He stated the low bidder was Sam Hall and Sons in the amount of \$1,184,378. Mr. Tobar stated this figure represents the bid amount; however, one deduction has already been authorized in an attempt to fund all goals of the grant award of \$1,762,416. Mr. Tobar recommended that all landscaping for the project be deleted. He stated County staff will remove playground equipment which will deduct \$54,540 from the bid. After that deduction, there will be \$499,578 remaining in the grant. He reported playground equipment, the community center building and the basketball coverage will have to be done. Mr. Tobar stated the existing community center will be rehabbed and remodeled and converted into a public library. The current center will be moved into a new smaller more compact building. Mr. Tobar reported the major expense of this project covered by the grant will be grading. He stated there have been stormwater runoff issues identified which pose a great concern. He explained many things that need to be corrected will be corrected through this grant, i.e. safety, ADA accessibility and stormwater runoff. Other improvements include 50 parking spaces on newly asphalted area as well as sidewalks adjacent to a long stretch of Laverne Circle and from Harrisburg Road to the current community center building. Greenspace will be included and new playground equipment will be installed.

Vice Chairman Kendrick Butts made a motion to award the bid to Sam Hall and Sons as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

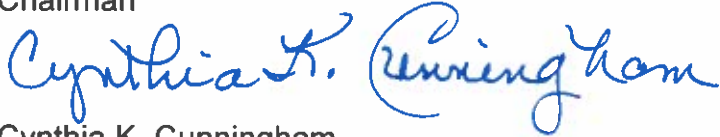
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Called Meeting at 1:46 p.m.
Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Westmoreland
Chairman



Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk