



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

October 19, 2021

1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220

6:00 PM

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 21, 2021 Regular Meeting
September 21, 2021 Executive Session
October 5, 2021 Work Session

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

2. Report on Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) - County Manager
3. State Rescue Plan Funding Application - County Manager
4. Broadband Grant Application - County Manager
5. Section 5311 Transit Application for 2023 - County Manager
6. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award - Finance Director
7. Bulletproof Vest Partnership (PVP) - FY 2021 Award - Assistant County Manager

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

REMINDERS

November 2, 2021, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Public Hearing on FY 2022 Budget and Regular Meeting, Suite 220, Government Building

November 11, 2021, Thursday, All Non-Emergency Departments Will Be Closed in Observance of Veterans Day.

November 16, 2021, Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., FY 2022 Budget Adoption and Regular Commission Meeting, Suite 220, Government Building

November 25 - 26, 2021, Thursday and Friday; All Non-Emergency Departments Will Be Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving.



BALDWIN COUNTY REGULAR MEETING

**September 21, 2021
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

**Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall**

OTHERS PRESENT

**Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
David McRee
Jill Adams
Cindy Cunningham**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Henry Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the following minutes as submitted: August 17, 2021 - Called Meeting, Public Hearing, Regular Meeting and Executive Session; August 23, 2021 - Public Hearings, Called Meeting and Executive Session; September 1, 2021 - Public Hearings, Called Meeting and Executive Session; September 8, 2021 - Public Hearing, Called Meeting and Executive Session. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Life Saving Awards

Chairman Henry Craig stated that in early September, Baldwin County Fire Rescue Station 5 and Baldwin County Sheriff 's Office Deputies were dispatched to the area of Rocky Creek Park in reference to a possible drowning. Thanks to the heroic efforts of SGT Jerome Roberts, Deputy Artrail Braziel, Firefighter Chris Thomas, Firefighter Wes Folendore, Major Linc Boyer, SGT Brandon Towe and citizen Matt Hall, a woman's life was saved. The quick response and recognition of the severity of this emergency, as well as the immediate life saving measures provided, resulted directly in saving of the life of a Baldwin County citizen. As a result of their efforts, these individuals were presented Certificates of Commendation from the county.

COVID Update by Atrium Health Navicent Baldwin

Mr. Todd Dixon, CEO Atrium Health Navicent Baldwin, presented an update on COVID. He discussed how COVID is affecting area hospitals as well as all hospitals throughout the Country. He discussed statistics of vaccinated and non-vaccinated people. Mr. Dixon discussed locations for vaccinations, testing and monoclonal antibody infusions. He encouraged citizens to get vaccinated to protect themselves and our community.

On behalf of the Board, Commissioner Hall expressed his appreciation for all the efforts made by health care providers and how important it is having hospital in our community.

COVID Update by North Central Health District (NCHD)

Mr. Michael Hokanson, Public Information Officer / Risk Communicator, for the North Central Health District presented statistics on the State vaccination rates and how Baldwin County compares to overall statewide percentages. He stated the State numbers show that 47% are fully vaccinated while Baldwin County is 40% fully vaccinated. There is a 3% in breakthrough cases in the North Central Health District.

He discussed the three (3) different vaccinations and the potential for booster shots in the future. He reported the FDA Advisory Council Committee will make the decision regarding additional vaccination.

Mr. Hokanson concluded by stating that all 13 health departments throughout the NCHD administer vaccines on specific days. A list of the schedules can be found on the NCHD website or by calling the respective health departments. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated even if they have had COVID.

Georgia Military College

Lt. General William Caldwell expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing him to present the Executive Update for Georgia Military College (GMC). He introduced Col Nelson Kraft, Main Campus Executive Director and Dr. Steve Greer, Prep School Principal. Lt. General Caldwell discussed the global online college, main campus, twelve (12) community campuses and the prep school. He stated the total enrollment currently is 14,240. He presented information on the sports programs, corps of cadets, number of employees in Milledgeville, facilities and the economic impact of GMC.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Selection of Grant Writer / Administrator and Engineering Firm(s)

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported Baldwin County has undergone the Federal Procurement Process for professional Administrative Services for its FY2022 Community Development Block Grant project as required by Local, State and Federal Guidelines. He stated the County advertised for requests for qualifications from grant writers / administrators and engineering firms.

Mr. Tobar stated County staff reviewed and rated qualifications received from grant writing / administration and engineering firms. The recommendation is that Allen-Smith Consulting be selected for grant writing / administration and Carter & Sloope Engineers be selected to provide engineering services.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to select Allen-Smith Consulting for grant writing / administration for the 2022 CDBG application. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman John Westmoreland made a motion to select Carter & Sloope Engineers as the engineering firm for the 2022 CDBG application. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Manager Tobar recommended Gilbert and Associates be selected as the grant writing / administration firm for the Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP) application for housing rehabilitation.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to select Gilbert and Associates as the grant writing / administration firm for the CHIP application.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Application

County Manager Tobar presented an update on the Aquatic Center. He stated he met with the engineer from the Freeman Engineering Group who submitted qualifications and a proposal for the preliminary engineering report, design services and construction administration for the center. He stated the firm has extensive experience on many aquatic facility projects and is being recommended for selection. Mr. Tobar recommended the County apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) application for the facility. He stated that in order for the facility to be sustainable the entire facility should be completed. The project is anticipated to

cost \$5 million dollars; with the county seeking \$4 million dollars in grant funds and a County commitment of \$1 million dollars. He requested authorization for the Chair to sign letter of commitment to apply for the grant --- fund \$1 million. Mr. Tobar stated a motion is needed to approve Freidman Engineering Group and to approve the Chairman to sign a letter of support for \$1 million commitment from the County.

Commissioner Hall reported the original commitment in SPLOST was \$1 million dollars. Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson concurred and stated the original plan was to construct the facility in phases. However, if the County receives grant funding the project can be done all at one time rather than in phases. Commissioner Hall reiterated the fact that it will have to pay for itself. Chairman Craig stated the County has a unique opportunity to seek funding.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to select Friedman Engineering Group as engineer for the project. Commissioner Kendrick Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute a letter of commitment for \$1 million dollars for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) application. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ogden Road Inert Landfill

County Manager Tobar stated many years ago a permit was issued for an inert landfill on Ogden Road. The landfill was not closed properly by the owner, and the Department of Natural Resources took the owner to court, a court order was issued to clean up the site which was not done. The Department of Natural Resources contacted the County to assist with the situation, and various options were discussed. The property owner agreed to sell all twenty-one (21) acres to Baldwin County for \$1.00 if the County will clean up the site and pay the owner \$1,179.63 for scrap metal of a tractor located on the site. Mr. Tobar reported DNR has issued a letter approving the cleanup plan. The cost to the County will be approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 for equipment rental.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the sales agreement. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair - landfill in middle of neighborhood & desperately needs to be cleaned up; opportunity for developer to build houses.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant Awards

Finance Director Jill Adams presented a WIOA Adult Program grant award in the amount of \$98,596 and a Dislocated Worker Program award in the amount of \$128,020 She reported both are continuation grants with no required match, and the County will serve as grant administrator of both awards.

Vice Chairman Westmoreland made a motion to accept both grant awards as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amendment to Personnel Policies and Procedures

Finance Director Adams reported that in order to comply with federal regulations applicable to federal grant awards the County must amend the Personnel Policies and Procedures to include specific language regarding Equal Employment Opportunity. She discussed specific verbiage for inclusion in Section 301 - the "Code of Ethics for Government Service". For reporting and data compilation requirements, the language will be listed in one section of the Personnel Policies and Procedures.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts made a motion to approve the amendment to the Personnel Policies and Procedures as presented. Commissioner Emily Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Board

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Westmoreland stated the convenience center on Meriwether Road needs a cleanup and repairs. He recommended talking to Advanced Disposal about replacing rusty skids. Commissioner Hall stated all the centers need to be cleaned up. Commissioner Davis stated she has received calls that trash is not being picked up on schedule.

Vice Chair Westmoreland asked that the bushes be cut back at the 441 & Meriwether Road intersection because they impede the line of sight.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Tobar presented an update on the following projects: wing wall was repaired at Kings Road between Highway 24 and Stembridge Road; onsite visit for GICH application was held and answer should be received next week; all 6,600 linear feet of defective water pipe has been done in the Erin Shores area; paving has started on various roads throughout the County; the driveway construction and entrance to Government building will begin soon; 212 structures demolished; and the Department of Agriculture stop order has been lifted.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Clarence Hall addressed the Board to again request that the Government Building be named after Oscar Davis, Sr.

Cynthia Edwards stated she brought her son who is a political science major to witness the decision makers of the County. She asked that Commissioners reach out to all segments of the community. Things can be done if everyone works together.

Susie Marshall who lives on Frazier Drive stated she had talked to Mr. Tobar about her yard washing out. She reported she hasn't heard from the County about this. The grass was cut in the area; but, now it has grown up again on Youngblood Road to Vinson Highway.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss litigation. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETINGADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hall made a motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Vice Chair Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:03 p.m. Vice Chair Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk



BALDWIN COUNTY WORK SESSION

October 05, 2021
1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220
4:00 PM

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Henry Craig
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Emily Davis
Sammy Hall

OTHERS PRESENT

Carlos Tobar
David McRee
Cindy Cunningham
Jill Adams

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Craig called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Elected Officials Budget Presentations for FY 2022

The following elected officials and department heads addressed the Board regarding their 2022 Budget requests.

Solicitor General Skye Gess – Ms. Gess discussed the effect the pandemic has had on her office. She stated State Court is still experiencing a backlog of jury trials that will continue into the 2022. Ms. Gess reported that last year an Assistant Solicitor General (ASG) was hired, and he has been instrumental in helping lessen a large portion of the backlog of jury trials. She stated that currently the ASG salary is offset using money from the victim assistance account since he handles matters related to victim services. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) funding also pays for the salaries of victim advocates, training and other needs. She reported this funding has been cut by 20%, and she anticipates loss of funding for this program entirely beginning in October 2022. Ms. Gess requested that the County fully fund the salary for the Assistant Solicitor General for the 2022 calendar year. By taking this step now, funds in the victim assistance account can begin to be replenished to help prepare for the loss of CJCC

funding. The Solicitor General also requested an increase in the ASG salary to bring it in line with comparable salaries for other prosecutors with similar experience. Ms. Gess commended her staff for going above and beyond during the pandemic in order to resume in-person operations well before many other courts resumed. She discussed community and outreach programs through her office.

Commissioner Craig expressed the Board's appreciation for the benefit provided to the community through the Solicitor's Office.

Judge Todd Blackwell, Probate Court - Judge Blackwell provided detailed explanations for his budget line items explaining any increase or decrease in each item. He stated the Probate Court brings money to the County through fees customers pay for documents.

Judge Blackwell, Elections – Judge Blackwell who also serves as Elections Superintendent, reported there were necessary expenses last year that will not have to be paid this year. However, there are still increases in his budget due to the increased cost of supplies, additional poll workers salaries, additional training on new voting machines and other general expenses. He reported in order to come up with more realistic expenditures he reviewed the 2018 budget since that was the last election year prior to the new voting regulations. Supplies for the new machines and additional salaries for elections workers, travel for voting machine techs so they can be kept up on training and extended warranty on voting equipment mandate increases this year.

Judge Blackwell discussed elections that will be held next year, i.e. general election with possible runoff; possible special election; and the three regular elections; primary, general and special elections. He presented timelines if the decision is made for a TSPLOST to be on the ballot in the next primary or general election. The Resolution by Board of Commissioners notifying him of the Call for Election must be done in February in order to meet legal requirements.

Commissioners commended Judge Blackwell for his work.

Sheriff Bill Masee, Law Enforcement, Jail and E911 – Sheriff Masee commended the finance staff for working very closely with him to monitor his budget throughout the year. He stated his budget reflects requests for increases for personnel upgrades. He reported it is extremely hard to hire and retain employees because state law enforcement is actively recruiting local mandated deputies which creates a monumental problem of retention for local governments. He stated he was requesting upgrades in all deputy positions, detention, administrative and dispatch positions which will total \$410,000 and will affect 131 individuals employed by the Sheriff's Office. He stated his employees have provided excellent service to the citizens of Baldwin County throughout the pandemic.

Chairman Craig expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Masee and his employees for their service.

Chief Appraiser Wade Williams – Mr. Williams thanked Commissioners for their support to the Board of Assessors office. He outlined budget items constituting the request for a \$78,100 increase to this year's budget. He discussed personnel / position changes and requested consideration for a part-time data entry position which would not be necessary if a full-time IT position is approved to manage the Tyler software system. He stated the IT position would be

shared with the Tax Commissioner's office. Mr. Williams stated the Department of Revenue mandates specific training and continued education; therefore, an increase is reflected in the travel line item. A request was submitted for an increase in the meeting compensation from \$100 \$125 per meeting for members of the Board of Assessors.

Fire Chief Victor Young – Chief Young presented a list of projects that need to be addressed for Fire / Rescue. He discussed staffing needs; replacement of vehicles; repair or relocation of Station 2 (CSH); replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus and firefighter protective clothing; replacement of fire hoses; provide a uniform allowance for firefighters; replacement of automatic defibrillator and thermal imaging camera; purchase computer with hotspot for fire engines; purchase a drone to assist not only the Fire / Rescue Department, but all County Departments; purchase boat to service the east side of the County to ensure better response time; and replacement of aging / broken furniture and appliances at the fire stations. Chief Young presented his capital improvements program. Chief also discussed station coverage throughout the County and ISO ratings.

Chairman Craig expressed his appreciation to Fire Chief Young and his staff for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. Vice Chairman John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk