

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., Suite 220, Baldwin County Government Building, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Henry Craig presiding.

Members Present: Henry Craig
Tommy French
Emily C. Davis
Sammy Hall

Members Absent: John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Jill Adams
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Henry Craig called the November 17, 2020 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Broadband Presentation

Chair Henry Craig discussed the need for broadband availability so that citizens in unserved areas of the County would have a way to connect to the internet for school work, employment opportunities, etc. He suggested using parking lots of East Baldwin, West Baldwin and Coopers Fire Stations as hot spots which would be available twenty-four (24) hours a day. He stated Assistant County Manager Hudson has gathered information regarding the cost which will be approximately \$350.00 per station for equipment and \$100.00 per month per station for service.

Chair Craig reported the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has provided a map outlining unserved areas of the State. He discussed the Broadband Ready program which provides greater access to potential resources for improvement of broadband. He reported on the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative which will establish broadband programs and expand broadband infrastructure and services throughout the State to unserved areas. Chair Craig discussed the USDA Community Connect Grant program which offers financial assistance to eligible applicants to construct broadband networks in areas where service does not exist.

Vice Chair Tommy French stated the Collins P. Lee center is utilized by a large number of citizens for internet service. Commissioner Sammy Hall stated he felt the County should work with the school system on this endeavor. Commissioner Emily Davis suggested also working with other agencies such as the City, Development Authority, and GMC. Chair Craig asked that this matter be discussed further under the New Business portion of the Agenda.

Chair Craig requested that the County Clerk draft a letter to the School Board asking for their participation in the broadband project.

Update on Georgia Military College

General Caldwell, Colonel Grant and Colonel Kraft made a presentation providing updates on aspects of Georgia Military College including college and prep school enrollment, legislative initiatives, capital projects, Corp of Cadets, community service, athletics, number of employees and the economic impact of GMC on the community.

Regional Airport Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented the Airport CIP for 2022 – 2026. He discussed ongoing projects such as the runway rehabilitation project, as well as, projects for the upcoming years including AWOS installation, parallel taxiway relocation, and hangar sites. Mr. Tobar stated federal funding is 90%, state funding is 5% and local funding is 5%. He reported the projected cost for the Five Year CIP is \$3,710,000.00 with a 5% local match of \$185,500.00.

Vice Chair Tommy French made a motion to approve the Regional Airport Five Year Capital Improvement Plan as presented for submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation FAA. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Grant Awards

Finance Director Jill Adams presented the following grant awards for Board consideration:

*CJCC – Family Drug Treatment Award for family treatment drug court enhancement program in the amount of \$32,530.00 for the period October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021; and

*WIOA – Dislocated Worker Award for disaster relief employment activities in the amount of \$304,142.00 for the period October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2022; and

*WIOA – Dislocated Worker Award for general dislocated worker workforce training activities in the amount of \$643,492.00 for the period October 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022; and

*WIOA – Adult Program Award for general adult workforce training activities in the amount of \$526,355.00 for the period October 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022; and

*DOJ – Ocmulgee Substance Abuse Accountability Court Expansion in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the period October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2023; and

*DOJ – Baldwin County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary Service Upgrades in the amount of \$19,394.00 for the period October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2021.

Commissioner Emily Davis made a motion to accept all CJCC, WIOA and DOJ Grant Awards as presented. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

Chair Craig asked for direction from Commissioners to proceed with the Broadband project as discussed earlier in the meeting. He requested that County Manager Tobar or his appointee pursue Broadband Ready designation for Baldwin County.

Commissioner Sammy Hall recommended that the parking lot of the Recreation Department be used as a hot spot.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Carlos Tobar reported on the following items: early voting; courtroom teleconferencing equipment working well; selection of an alternate court site for jury selection due to COVID and social distancing requirements; Accountability Court occupation of front of their building; GDOT FAA staff coordination to obtain approval for path around east end of runway; November 30, 2020 start date for Nelson Road culvert construction; December 16, 2020 bid opening for CDBG sewer line project; and January, 2021 Health Department move-in date.

Other Business

Chair Craig expressed his appreciation to Mayor Parham-Copelan for attending the meeting and giving the Invocation. He encouraged everyone to continue to practice social distancing, wear masks and practice good hygiene to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments to come before the Board.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry R. Craig
Chair



Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk