

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

June 8, 2023

9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Bobby Jackson, James Hitchcock, Frank Simmons

Prayer

Pledge

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to begin the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bills

- Chairman Daniel read the bills to be ratified in the following categories and amounts:
 - Administrative & Other \$321,955.35
 - Road Department \$32,800.55
 - Sheriff's Office & Jail \$104,597.10
 - Courthouse \$41,733.82
 - EMA \$17,565.16
 - E-911 \$1,869.91
 - Landfill \$68,959.14
- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the expenditures. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

Road Department Update

- Mr. Holmes stated that work is currently being done on Lamars Creek Road and Channel Lane. Both require restructuring and pipes to be replaced following rains, logging traffic, and compromising of the roadbed. He stated that this work will take some time due to the scope of the projects.

Appointments

- Katie Moncus – Chamber of Commerce Update
 - Ms. Moncus gave an update on the various activities of the Chamber of Commerce, including youth leadership, Shop Waco First, tourism, and the Kaolin Festival. For the festival she noted that it will be on October 14th this year and will be relocated back to the downtown area from the old Sandersville elementary school. In regards to tourism, she stated that the Chamber received approximately \$12,000 that will be used to update the gateway signage into Washington County, as long as the Road Department will help install the signage.
- Makesia Tucker – Stonehenge Road
 - Ms. Tucker did not attend the meeting to discuss this item.

- Leonard Jordan – Gun Range Issues
 - Mr. Jordan did not arrive on time to discuss this item.
- Lyle Landsdale and Kelly Etheridge – Gun Range Issues
 - Both Ms. Etheridge and Ms. Landsdale inquired as to whether any action or policy will be put in place to address problems with gun ranges, in regards to ordinances, the implementation of business licenses, or the implementation of land use. The County Administrator stated that the County Attorney is working on an ordinance to address future gun range problems, but that nothing implemented by the Board of Commissioners can retroactively apply to the current gun range in which issues have arisen.

Old Business – None

Business

- FY 2024 Budget
 - The County Administrator presented the budget summary to the Commissioners and public. He explained that all procedures were followed properly in developing the budget and allowing ample time for the public to inspect it. He inquired as to whether there were any questions about the budget or any changes to be requested; there were none.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the FY 2024 Budget as proposed. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- FY 2023 Budget Amendment
 - The County Administrator presented the proposed budget amendment to the Commissioners and public, citing a net negative in the amendment due to unexpected expenses and steep inflation that were not and could not have been budgeted for. There were no questions or changes requested for the budget amendment.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- 2023 LMIG
 - The County Administrator explained that bids were solicited to perform the road work put forth for this year. He stated that only one bid was received, and that it was over the estimated amount due to inflationary factors on materials for road work. Mr. Jerry Brinson stated that the estimated cost was near \$1.8 million, but that the bid from Reeves Construction came in at \$2.4 million, due to the increased cost of rock and liquids required for asphalt paving. He stated that the County could solicit bids again, but that prices were steadily increasing. Commissioner Hitchcock asked if there were any other companies that would submit a bid on the project. Mr. Brinson stated the only company close enough to compete would be All Star, but the company is limited to only a \$2 million bond that would preclude them from doing the work. The County Administrator stated that the County could afford \$2 million worth of road work for this year but could not chance going up to \$2.4 million. Mr. Brinson stated that the only option to get the price down to \$2 million was to reduce the scope, of which the

contractor would agree to do. After some discussion, Commissioner Watkins agreed to remove Tucker Road from the scope to get the overall price down to \$2 million.

- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the work to Reeves Construction. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to award, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Flock Camera System
 - The County Administrator asked Sheriff Cochran to explain the system and the benefits of it. Sheriff Cochran asked two of his deputies to go over the system. They stated that the system is surveillance technology for the purpose of locating stolen and be on lookout vehicles. They explained that the system is interconnected with those of other counties that report and communicate with every system on the network when a vehicle is spotted. This system does not produce tickets, nor does it report speeds. They went on to detail how helpful this system is to investigations and searches. The cost is \$39,000 for initial purchase and installation, after that the annual cost will be \$32,500 for software maintenance. There is also interest from cities in the County to enhance the network and buy in. The County Administrator stated that the initial cost would come from ARP funds, while the annual software costs would have to come from the budget.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to purchase the camera system. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to purchase, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.

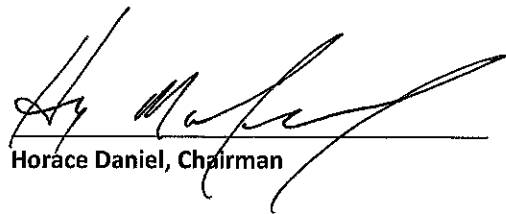
- Interim Administrator
 - The County Administrator explained that a vote was needed to formally approve Chris Hutchings as the interim administrator upon his leaving at the end of July. Mr. Hutchings asked for a 2 ½ week with a salary of \$1,700 per week from August 1st, 2023 until February 1st, 2024. He also asked to be employed as a part-time employee as opposed to doing a contract.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Hutchings as interim administrator. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to appoint, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Executive Session
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss property and personnel. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to enter into executive session, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - The County Administrator explained to the public that the executive session was in regard to property of the Recreation Department and a personnel issue. No votes were required for either of those items.

Meeting Adjourned

Comments from Chairman

Public Comment Session



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk