

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday November 01, 2022 6:00 PM

Commissioners in Attendance Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Chuck Scragg, Interim County Manager
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager
Charles Yeargin, County Clerk
Lana Blankenship, Finance/Purchasing

1. Call to Order-Chairman Bennett called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner David Lowman gave the invocation, and Commissioner Harold Rozier led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Agenda
Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Hearing Minutes, October 4, 2022 8:00 AM
 - b. Public Hearing Minutes, October 4, 2022 5:00 PM
 - c. Regular Meeting Minutes, October 4, 2022 6:00 PM

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the approve October 4, 2022 8:00 AM Public Hearing minutes, the October 4, 2022

5:00 PM Public Hearing Minutes, and the October 4, 2022 6:00 PM Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Public Comments:

- a. Ala Mae Myles wishes to address the Commission regarding the repair of her driveway and installation of crush and run and trimming of overhanging limbs.

Ms. Myles presented request to the Commission that the road leading to her residence be designated a county road, and have the county install crush and run and trim overhanging limbs. Ms. Myles asserts that in years past the county has maintained this road, and she is unable to do so herself due to age and health issues.

Chairman Bennett advised Ms. Myles that this subject has been discussed at previous meetings, and as before that the county's position is this a private road, and no work such as what is being requested is allowed, furthermore the county has no interest in incorporating this as a county road. Request declined by Chairman Bennett.

- b. Bill Rozier, Chief Appraiser wishes to have a member of Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions (GMASS) to address the Commission regarding the revaluation process for Pierce County.

Bill Rozier introduced Silas Hrober, Project Manager for GMASS, who gave a presentation regarding the ongoing property appraisal and revaluation process for Pierce County. Mr. Hrober advised that currently GMASS has 10 Field Appraisers working in Pierce County, with 375 parcels left to be inspected. Beginning January 1 of 2023 appraisers will begin reevaluating properties under construction, and in April sales will be evaluated. The next step in the process will be data analysis and setting schedules; 6 appraisers are currently working on this. Mr. Hrober reminded that the reason GMASS is being tasked with this evaluation is that it is statutorily and constitutionally required to assess properties at fair market

value. Mr. Hrober estimates a 15 percent net increase in values after completion of this survey.

- c. Chief Santo Nino, Fire Chief/EMA Director wishes to address the Commission regarding the reclassification of Deputy Fire Chief/EMA to Fire Operations Captain.

Chief Nino presented the need to fill the recently vacated Deputy Fire Chief/Deputy EMA Director position, and also stated the desire to reclassify the position to be a Fire Administration Operations Captain. Chief Nino stated that it is critical this position be filled due to him currently being the only full-time member on staff in the face of increasing call volumes, and someone is needed to augment operational response after hours and on weekends. Commissioner David Lowman pointed out that a decision would need to be made as to whether the reclassified position would be an exempt or non-exempt position. Chairman Bennett proposed that the matter be further researched in regards to pay and other criteria.

Commissioner Lowman suggested that action be taken to advertise the position and gather a pool of applicants, which Chairman Bennett consented to.

6. County Manager Report and September 2022 Financial Report

Chairman Bennett presented the Letter of Resignation from Jason Rubenbauer terminating his employment as County Manager. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept Mr. Rubenbauer's Letter of Resignation. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. Discussion and request for action to appoint Chuck Scragg as the Interim County Manager.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the contract appointing Chuck Scragg as Interim County Manager for the period beginning October 24, 2022, and ending March 30, 2023, or ending two weeks subsequent to the hiring of a new permanent County Manager. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and request for action to appoint Charles Yeargin, Human Resource Generalist and the County Clerk of Pierce County.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to appoint Charles Yeargin the Human Resource Generalist and County Clerk of Pierce County. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and request for action to reappoint Franklin Rozier as the County Attorney for Pierce County.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to reappoint Franklin Rozier as the County Attorney for Pierce County. Chairman Neil Bennett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and request for action pertaining to a Beer, Wine, and Liquor Retail Pouring License application for Miss Janice's, 4042 E. Hwy 84, Blackshear, GA, 31516.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the Beer, Wine, and Liquor Retail Pouring License application for Miss Janice's, 4042 E. Hwy 84, Blackshear, GA, 31516; Commission Mike Streat seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and Request for action pertaining to Resolution 2022.11.01.01 Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pierce County and the cities of Blackshear, Offerman, and Patterson related to the distribution of proceeds from the Local Option Sales Tax.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Pierce County and the cities of Blackshear, Offerman, and Patterson related to the distribution of proceeds from the Local Option Sales Tax. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and request for action on an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pierce County and the Pierce County Board of Education for joint use of facilities to satisfy the athletic facility needs of both governing bodies.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Pierce County and the Pierce County Board of Education for joint use of facilities to satisfy the athletic facility needs of both governing bodies. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and request for action to nominate and appoint five citizens of Pierce County to serve on the Pierce County Parks & Recreation Board of Directors.

Commissioner Harold Rozier nominated Timothy Griffis to represent District 1 on the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Board for a term of one year, Commissioner Mike Streat nominated Barrett Boatright to represent District 2 on the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Board for a term of two years, Commissioner Randy Dixon nominated Brad Arrington to represent District 3 on the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Board for a term of three years, Commissioner David Lowman nominated Johnny Thigpen to represent District 4 on the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Board for a term of four years, and Chairman Neil Bennett nominated Anna Saucedo to serve as Chair at Large of the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Board for a term of five years. Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept all nominations as presented. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and request for action regarding the Group Adoption Agreement between ACCG and Pierce County.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the Group Adoption Agreement between ACCG and Pierce County. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and request for action regarding a request from Road Superintendent, Bruce Carter, to purchase culvert pipes in an amount not to exceed \$127,064.50 from Cherokee Culvert using 2020 SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve a request from Road Superintendent, Bruce Carter, to purchase culvert pipes in an

amount not to exceed \$127,064.50 from Cherokee Culvert using 2020 SPLOST funds. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

16. Discussion and request for action regarding a request from Fire Chief Santo Nino, to purchase five (5) sets of protective turn-out gear for the volunteer firefighters in an amount not to exceed \$13,000 from the General Fund.

Fire Chief Santo Nino discussed the need to order five (5) sets of protective turn-out gear for the fire department, and presented bids from four vendors for this request: Morning Pride for \$15,040.00, Veridan for \$15,250.00, Fire Dex for \$16,450.00, and Lion for \$12,865.00.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to accept the bid of \$12,865.00 from Lion to purchase five (5) sets of protective turn-out gear for the fire department, funding to come from the General Fund. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

17. Discussion and request for action regarding the recommendation from Statewide Engineering for Drainage and Resurfacing Improvements to Ramah Church Road in coordination with the West Horseshoe Road TIA project to be paid from local discretionary TIA funds not to exceed \$298,420.00.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the recommendation from Statewide Engineering for Drainage and Resurfacing Improvements to Ramah Church Road in coordination with the West Horseshoe Road TIA project to be paid from local discretionary TIA funds not to exceed \$298,420.00. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

18. Discussion and request for action regarding the recommendations from Statewide Engineering for Striping Improvements throughout Pierce County to be paid from local discretionary TIA funds not to exceed \$422,588.45.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the recommendations from Statewide Engineering for Striping

Improvements throughout Pierce County to be paid from local discretionary TIA funds not to exceed \$422,588.45. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

19. Discussion and request for action to reappoint Lana Blankenship to the Pierce County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to reappoint Lana Blankenship to the Pierce County Library Board for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2026. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

20. Adjourn – Commissioner Mike Street made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion was seconded by Commissioner David Lowman. All commissioners voted aye. Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM

Neal Bennett
Commission Chairman

Harold Rozier
Commissioner, District 1

Mike Streat
Commissioner, District 2

Randy Dixon
Commissioner, District 3

David Lowman
Commissioner, District 4

Charles Yeargin
County Clerk