

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, December 06, 2022 6:00 PM

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

Commissioner Not in Attendance Mike Streat, District 2

Staff in Attendance Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Chuck Scragg, Interim County Manager
Charles Yeargin, County Clerk

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 Agenda.
Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Hearing Minutes, November 1, 2022
 - b. Regular Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2022
 - c. Called Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2022
 - d. Called Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2022

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the November 1, 2022 Public Hearing Minutes, the November 1, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, the November 8, 2022 Called Meeting Minutes, and the November 10, 2022 Called Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Swearing in of the new Pierce County Recreation Board by Judge Moye Howard.

District 1: Timothy Griffis
District 2: Barrett Boatright
District 3: Brad Arrington
District 4: Johnny Thigpen
At-large: Anna Saucedo

Oath of the Appointment

to the

Pierce County Recreation Board

Taken this Sixth Day of December, 2022.

I Hereby Swear that I will faithfully serve as a member of the Pierce County Recreation Board, and

I Hereby Further Swear that I will uphold all enabling Resolutions as established by the Pierce County Board of Commissioners, and

I Hereby Further Swear that I will uphold all By-Laws and rules and regulations as established by the Pierce County Recreation Board, in an ethical and impartial manner, and

I Hereby Further Swear that I will unselfishly put the needs of our *Pierce County Youth* as the first priority in the planning, programming and operation of the Pierce County Recreation Board and its programs, and

I Finally Swear that I take this Oath freely, and will execute my duties as a member of this Recreation Board to the best of my abilities, So Help Me God.

Signed _____, December 6, 2022

Member's Signature

Oath Administered by Probate Judge Moye Howard,

Witness: Chuck Yeargin, Pierce County Clerk,

6. Appointment of Board of Commissioner's Liaison to the new Recreation Board.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to nominate Commissioner Randy Dixon as the Board of Commissioner's Liaison to the new Recreation Board. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. Commissioner Randy Dixon accepted the nomination. There were four aye votes, and one vote of present. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Carl Boyette to serve another six-year (6) term to the Pierce County Board of Assessors (current term expires 12/31/2022). New term starts January 1, 2023 and ends December 31, 2028.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to appoint Carl Boyette to serve another six-year (6) term on the Pierce County Board of Assessors. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all commissioners voted aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Reappointment to the Pierce County Industrial and Building Development Authority, for five (5) year terms:
 - Andy Brannen reappointed to serve from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027.
 - Bobby Tippins reappointed to serve from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to reappoint Andy Brannen and Bobby Tippins to new five (5) year terms with the Pierce County Industrial and Building Development Authority. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Report on the acquisition of the used ambulance. Blake James, EMS Director.

EMS Director Blake James gave a report on the used ambulance acquired by Pierce County EMS from Heartland Wheels, Inc. Director James states the ambulance was picked up in Gainesville, GA and was driven to Waycross, GA where it was turned over to Robbie Roberson Ford for a

bumper-to-bumper inspection. After inspection the following minor items were corrected: rear tires were replaced due to the original tires being snow stud tires; a leaking radiator hose was replaced; and a defective windshield washer pump was replaced. Director James also relates that the ambulance came equipped with blue emergency lights which will have to be replaced, as these will not pass the upcoming state inspection. Director James expects the ambulance to be placed in service within the next 2 weeks, and states that the 2 new ambulances on order are still due for delivery in April of 2023.

10. Approval of Pierce Government Observed Holidays 2023.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the Pierce County Observed Holidays for 2023 as presented. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all commissioners voted aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

11. Approval of Pierce County Board Meeting Schedule for 2023.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the Pierce County Board Meeting Schedule for 2023 as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Approval of 2023 Indigent Service Agreement with the Waycross Judicial Circuit's Public Defender's Office.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the 2023 Indigent Service Agreement with the Waycross Judicial Circuit's Public Defender's Office. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the all commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion of Grant Administrator for 2022-2023 LMIG grant.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve Roberts Civil Engineering of St. Simons Island, GA as the Grant Administrator for the 2022-2023 LMIG grant. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the

motion. There was no discussion, and all commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Clarification of Human Resources Manual language on new hire benefits.

Interim County Manager Chuck Scragg presented a proposal to clarify the Human Resources Manual language regarding benefits for new hires, specifically to describe the term of probation as 90 days versus 3 months, and to clarify that leave accrual does not begin until completion of the 90-day probation period. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the clarification as presented. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion on purchase of two Ford F-150 pickup trucks for the Sheriff's Department \$39,000 each. Available funds: 2020 SPLOST, Public Safety.

Chairman Bennett reported on two Ford F-150 pickup trucks proposed for purchase for the Sheriff's Department for an actual cost of \$38,700.00 each, for a grand total of \$77,400.00, utilizing 2020 SPLOST funds. Chairman Bennett also brought up the intention to transfer a 2021 white in color Ford pickup truck from the Sheriff's Department to the Road Department. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to proceed with the purchases and transfer as presented. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Declare Sheriff's Department Ford F-150 pickup truck surplus. VIN # 1FTEW1C58KFD46556

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to declare Ford F-50 pickup truck, VIN #1FTEW1C58KFD46556, as surplus. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. The only discussion was to confirm that the vehicle would be advertised for sale. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed unanimously.

17. Policy for burial of large farm and non-farm animals.

Chairman Neal Bennett offered discussion for the need to establish a policy for the burial of deceased large farm and non-farm animals using county resources. Commissioner David Lowman commented that such a policy is a great service to the community. Interim County Manager Chuck Scragg pointed out that the State Gratuity Policy does not allow using taxpayer funded resources to provide such a service for free, which County Attorney Franklin Rozier confirmed, that some fee would have to be levied. Interim Manager Chuck Scragg related that during his tenure as interim county manager for Brantley County, a cost analysis was conducted for the same issue, and the use of two (2) personnel, truck, and a back-hoe came to a cost of \$400.00 per animal, which is the fee set by Brantley County. Chairman Neal Bennett asked Road Superintendent Bruce Carter what his suggestion for a fee would be, and Superintendent Carter stated \$200.00 per animal. Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to establish the policy for burial of large farm and non-farm animals, with a fee of \$200.00 per animal. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

18. County Manager's Report of Activities and Financials.

Interim County Manager Chuck Scragg presented the following Report of Activities and Financials:

County Manager's Report for November 2022

I. Financial Report:

- a. With the anticipated transfers in from ARPA, SPLOST, and TIA funds, the General Fund budget through the month of October seems to be right on track.
- b. We have unencumbered funds of \$1.43 million in ARPA funds to be utilized in 2023 to shore up the EMS service and pay for necessary vehicles and equipment.
- c. Revenues are running slightly ahead of budget.
- d. While fuel prices have moderated, we still anticipate to be 80% over budget on fuel for the year.

II. County Manager's Report:

- a. Working on transition from Republic Services to Ryland Environmental, trash collection.

- b. Working on application for the Local Maintenance and Improvement (LMIG) grant for 2023.
- c. Transmitted the Local Optional Sales Tax (LOST) agreement between the County and the Cities of Blackshear, Patterson and Offerman to the Georgia Department of Revenue for certification.
- d. Met with Statewide Engineering and Roberts Civil Engineering to ascertain progress and updates on LMIG and Transportation SPLOSTs.
- e. Work has started on cutting the shoulders of 103 miles of road in Pierce County and to “re-stripe” most all paved roads and make them safer.
- f. Work will begin on Golf Course Road as soon as the contractor can procure materials. We still have supply chain issues, particularly with gravel. Anticipated Mid-January start date.
- g. Paving is continuing on West Horseshoe Road.
- h. Worked with new Board of Recreation for organizational meeting, with Board of Commissioners.

III. Department Updates:

- a. EMS
 - 1. 277 EMS responses
 - 2. 148 Transports
 - 3. 116 non-Transports
 - 4. Mutual Aid was requested three times and cancelled before arrival all three times.
 - 5. Mutual Aid was provided to surrounding counties seven times.
 - 6. EMS Zone 1 accounted for 226 calls for service
 - 7. EMS Zone 2 accounted for 44 calls for service
 - 8. Put a new truck in service. Used ambulance bought last month
 - 9. Anticipated collections of \$37,000 this month.
- b. Fire Department
 - 1. 47 Emergency Incidents.
Current total of Emergency Incidents is 605.
 - 2. Fire Recruits conducting LIVE-FIRE and Final Suppression Exam this month.

3. (RFD) Rural Fire Department meeting in Macon, Georgia.
 4. Annual Fire Banquet this month.
 5. Engine 26 in service at the Hacklebarney District.
 6. USDA Grant for 35% addition to the purchase of a Fire Apparatus line item in 2023.
- c. EMA
1. 2021 and 2022 EMPG Grant Application submitted to GEMA/HS.
 2. (HMP) Hazard Mitigation Plan reimbursement upcoming project.
 3. GEMA/HS mandatory (2) Exercises submitted for 2022.
 4. EMA Area 5 Closeout meeting this month.
- d. Elections
1. Early voting accounted for 31%
 2. Set up for Elections
- e. Assessor
1. GMASS Has finished the review of buildings.
 2. GMASS will begin Land portion of re-assessment in January 2023.
- f. Planning, Zoning and Code Enforcement
1. Five new houses permitted in November
 2. Fifty-nine houses permitted YTD in 2022.
- g. Finance and Procurement
1. Working on streamlining P-Card and WEX card systems.
 2. Ensuring accountability.
- h. Human Resources
1. Open enrollment for new hires ended 12/2/2022
 2. Open Enrollment for 2023-24 will be in June 2023
- i. Parks and Recreation
1. Staff continues to prepare for first quarter basketball season
- j. Road Department
1. Continuing to refine the “cycles” for grading
 2. Installed 164 culverts in 2022 YTD
 3. Have refurbished the water truck and will begin flushing out clogged culverts

19. Proclamation and Presentation to Commissioner Mike Streat.

Proclamation was read by Chairman Neal Bennett; Commissioner Mike Streat was not in attendance.

**A Proclamation
In Recognition of Service to Pierce County**

On behalf of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners, I would like to
acknowledge our appreciation for his Service to

District 2, Pierce County Commissioner,

Mike Streat

WHEREAS, Mr. Streat was elected to serve as Commissioner for District 2 of
the Pierce County Board of Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Streat was sworn in to the Pierce County
Commission on January 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Streat has served both his District 2 constituents as
well as serving all the citizens of Pierce County, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Streat has been a dedicated Public Servant for
progress in Pierce County during this period, and

FURTHERMORE, Commissioner Streat has been instrumental in leading Pierce
County, both fiscally and operationally, to new horizons, whose term will end
December 31st, 2022;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Pierce County Board of
Commissioners, in Recognition and with our Greatest Appreciation wish to:

**Thank Commissioner Mike Streat for his Contributions and Dedicated
Service to the Citizens of Pierce County.**

Humbly and respectfully submitted on this 6th Day of December, 2022.

NEAL BENNETT, CHAIRMAN
Pierce County Board of Commissioners

20. Executive Session for Personnel

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. The Board of Commissioners entered into Executive Session.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to enter back into Regular Session. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. The Board of Commissioners entered back into Regular Session.

No action was taken by the Board of Commissioners following the Executive Session for personnel matters.

21. Adjourn.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye. Chairman Neal Bennett adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:03 PM.

Neal Bennett
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Harold Rozier
Commissioner, District 1

Mike Streat
Commissioner, District 2

Randy Dixon
Commissioner, District 3

David Lowman
Commissioner, District 4

Charles Yeargin
Pierce County Clerk