

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 6:00 PM

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk
Anslee Swetman, Accounts Payable/Purchasing Agent

1. **Call to Order**—Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.
2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**—Commissioner David Lowman gave the Invocation and Commissioner Mike Streat led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes, April 5, 2022

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 Regular meeting. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Presentation of a Proclamation in celebration of the 100th birthday of Robert Lee Westberry

**A Proclamation
In Celebration of the 100th Birthday of Robert Lee Westberry**

On behalf of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate Robert Lee Westberry.

WHEREAS, he was born to Malachi C. and Kizzie Lee Davis on March 8, 1922 as the 4th of 5 children. He still resides just two houses away from his family home on

Strickland Avenue. Although the area has changed during this time, the branch continues to flow freely;

WHEREAS, Mr. Westberry attended public school and enjoyed working with his uncles travelling to Glennville and Claxton. He graduated in 1939 from the former Presbyterian College, now the Southeast Area Regional Agriculture Center;

WHEREAS, he drove a bus each day to work in the Brunswick Shipyard and was introduced to Ms. Agnes Walker by her brother Earl. He and Agnes married on April 7, 1945 and together have a daughter, Linda Gail Westberry Dennison, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. After the war ended, the shipyards closed so Mr. Westberry returned home and began working for Mr. J. B. Truett at Truett Hardwar where he retired after forty years.

FURTHERMORE, he received the Lord and was baptized at the age of 21 and is the sole surviving charter member of Emmanuel Baptist Church where he has been fortunate to have witnessed the burning of two notes and is pleased with the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon Emmanuel Church over the years.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that March 8, 2022 is a time celebrate Robert Lee Westberry on his 100th Birthday and wish him much happiness and continued health.

Humbly and respectfully submitted on this 3rd day of May 2022.

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Pierce County Board of Commissioners

6. County Manager Report and March 2022 Financials—County Manager Jason Rubenbauer presented the following County Manager Report and March 2022 Financials

Financial Report & County Manager Report

May 3, 2022

- **Financial Report as of 2/28/2022**
 - a. Overall revenues are slightly lower compared to last year, but are still performing well.
 - b. Total expenses for the quarter are continuing to run slightly higher than anticipated due to the return to full operations compared to the first quarter of last year when the pandemic was nearing its peak for our area. We are still in a good

fiscal position at this point, but I am monitoring the current economic environment as additional inflation and other factors could begin to impact our proposed budgets.

- c. I have begun the preliminary compilation of the budget to allow for conversations with all constitutional offices and county departments. Met with my leadership team yesterday preparing them for these conversations and the impacts that recent changes will have on next year's budget. Asking all departments and constitutional offices to take an in-depth look at way we can implement savings since we are expecting additional increases from unfunded mandates and the quickly deteriorating economy in general.
- **County Manager's Report**
 - a. *Departmental updates:*
 - i. Elections
 1. Early voting for our local and statewide elections is in full swing. Monday, we had 95 total ballots cast (92 in person and 3 absentee)
 - ii. EMS
 1. 281 Medical responses in April
 2. We are fully staffed with the exception of one part time
 3. Payments have started being received and we are now able to receive the Medicare payments as the Federal Government has finally approved our application as of last week.
 - iii. Roads
 1. Currently working on WPA Road which should be complete near the end of this month.
 2. Big House Road is the next major project
 3. We have received our mini-excavator with the mulching head and our 2nd Massey Ferguson tractor which sidearm mower (this was on display at the ACCG Conference last week).
 - iv. EMA
 1. Working to start planning citizen CPR training for the community. Classes will be free to the public, but those participating will be responsible for purchasing the certification card.
 - v. Fire
 1. 265 calls for the year through April.
 2. ISO rating results are in
 - a. Improved to a 5/5X rating
 - b. Will be effective August 1, 2022

- c. Insurance companies are required to notify their customers of the additional savings
- 3. Fire departments are preparing for our upcoming Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Audit

vi. Parks & Recreation

- 1. Baseball/softball season regular season ends next Thursday.
- 2. Getting things geared up for soccer.
- 3. I am speaking with engineering firms regarding the building out of the four baseball fields across Yeomans Street

vii. Planning & Zoning

- 1. We will be having a rezoning public hearing prior to next month's meeting.

7. Discussion and Request to approve a Collections Service Agreement between Pierce County EMS and Creditors Bureau Associates of Georgia.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve a Collections Service Agreement between Pierce County EMS and Creditors Bureau Associates of Georgia. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. Discussion and Request to approve a Resolution to Submit an application to obtain 2022 Community Block Grant Funding.

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF PIERCE

RESOLUTION 2022.05.03.01

RESOLUTION OF PIERCE COUNTY, GEORGIA TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO OBTAIN 2022
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, Pierce County has identified a dire need for public infrastructure, which specifically includes street and drainage improvements; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County lacks sufficient funds to address the identified need, and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has funds to assist Pierce County in addressing this need;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Pierce County will submit a Community Development Block Grant application for the 2022 round of competition to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to address the identified need and authorizes the Chairman as the official representative to act in connection with the application.

SO RESOLVED, this 3rd day of May, 2022.


Neal Berné J., Chairman


Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk



Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve a Resolution to Submit an application to obtain 2022 Community Block Grant Funding. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

9. Discussion and Request to approve a Consultant for the Grant Writing and Administrative Services from the qualified submissions for the FY 2022 CDBG Application.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve Governmental Consulting Unlimited, Inc. of Waycross, GA as the Consultant for the Grant Writing and Administrative Services from the qualified submissions for the FY 2022 CDBG application. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. Commissioner Mike Streat offered discussion stating that Roberson & Associates was permanently closed, but County Manager Jason Rubenbauer stated that Roberson & Associates did in fact submit a proposal of qualifications. Commissioner Streat also mentioned that he was concerned about the ability of the Consultant to fulfill the obligations due to a past issue. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Request to approve an Engineering Services firm from the qualified submissions for the FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant Application.

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approve Statewide Engineering, Inc. of Douglas, GA, from the qualified submissions, for the FY 2022 Community Development Block Grant application. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Request to appoint Dr. Glenn Deibert to the Joint Zoning, Planning, and Code Enforcement Advisory Board of Pierce County to fulfill the unexpired term of Tony Walsh as one of the county representatives due to his resignation. This term will expire December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to appoint Dr. Glenn Deibert to the Joint Zoning, Planning, and Code Enforcement Advisory Board of Pierce County to fulfill the unexpired term of Tony Walsh through December 31, 2023. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn—Chairman Neal Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:32 P.M.

Neal Bennett

Harold Rozier

Mike Streat

Randy Dixon

David Lowman