

Pierce County Board of Commissioners  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:45 PM

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

Staff in Attendance: Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk  
Lindsay Thomas, Zoning Administrator  
Ansee Swetman, AP/Purchasing Clerk

1. Call to Order—Chairman Bennett called the public hearing to order at 5:46 PM.
2. Chairman Bennett called on Lindsay Thomas, Zoning Administrator, who explained that a request was made from Mr. Bobby Crews to rezone Parcel #067-012B, 2.5 acres on Hwy 32 from Agriculture/Forestry to Multi-Family for the purpose of building one (1) or two (2) duplexes. She further stated that the Planning Commission had gone through the proper advertising and held their own public hearing as required with not opposition to this request.
3. Chairman Bennett opened the floor for public comments in favor for or opposed against the request. No comments were offered by those in attendance.
4. Chairman Bennett adjourned the public hearing at 5:47 PM.

Pierce County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:00 PM

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

Staff in Attendance: Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk  
Lindsay Thomas, Zoning Administrator  
Ansee Swetman, AP/Purchasing Clerk

1. Call to Order—Chairman Bennett called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance—Commissioner David Lowman to give an Invocation and Commissioner Mike Streat led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. There was not discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2022

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approved the minutes of the May 3, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. County Manager Report and April 2022 Financials—County Manager, Jason Rubenbauer, presented the following April 2022 Financials and County Manager’s Report

### **Financial Report & County Manager Report**

June 7, 2022

- **Financial Report as of 4/30/2022**
  - a. Current revenues are lagging last year by approximately \$250,000
    - i. Charges for Services down \$124,421
      1. Commissions on Tax Collected (\$97,965)
      2. MIDS Fuel Reimbursement (\$10,768)
        - a. No longer receiving reimbursements since the Southern Georgia Regional Commission is managing the Transit Program for this region.
    - ii. Tax Revenues down \$72,625
      1. Looking at the areas affected, this should gain in the coming months in comparison to previous years.
    - iii. Recreation Revenues down \$9,400
      1. Sponsorships have not been renewed yet. I am working with the recreation department personnel on the
  - b. Expenses continue to be slightly higher in areas where fuel prices are impacting operations. Additionally, the increased cost of culvert pipe and the increased replacement of pipes has shown a significant impact on that which was planned for. Total dollar value of the overage is \$723,835 or 10.55% more than expected. The majority of the departments and offices are operating within or below the projected budget.

- i. Road Department Diesel/Gas difference (\$32,384)
- ii. Culvert pipe difference (\$111,741)
- iii. Additional compensation for employees due to pay study will have a transfer from ARPA fund into each respective department later in the year to help account for some of the deficiencies as well. The regular expenses are being closely monitored.

- **County Manager's Report**

- a. *Departmental updates:*

- i. EMA

Hurricane season has started  
Please be sure to make preparations early and citizens are encouraged to check their property for any potential dangers such as dead trees that may need to be removed before they become an issue for their own property or by falling and blocking the county rights-of-way

- ii. Fire

- 1. 320 calls for the year through May.
- 2. Conducting recruitment due to significant shortages of available firefighters during the summer months

- iii. Parks & Recreation

- 1. District softball/baseball is this Thursday in Alma, Baxley, and Nahunta.
- 2. Summer athletic training started today and will continue through July 28<sup>th</sup> Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 10:55 am. Breakfast and lunch are being served to all registered participants. At the last count there were 30 registrations for this training.
- 3. Summer soccer kicks off this week. Games were to have started last evening, but thunderstorms prevented those games from being played.

- iv. Planning & Zoning

- 1. 32 new homes are being constructed so far this year which is up by 7 over last year during this same time

- 6. Discussion and Request to Approve the request from Mr. Bobby Crews to rezone Parcel #067-012B, 2.5 acres on Hwy 32 from Agriculture/Forestry to Multi-Family for the purpose of building one (1) or two (2) duplexes.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to accept the request to rezone Parcel #067-012B from Agriculture Forestry to Multi-Family for the purpose of building 1-2 duplexes. Commissioner Randy Dixon Seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

7. Discussion and Request to Approve Resolution 2022.06.07.01 for the Adoption of the Pierce County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve Resolution 2022.06.070.01 for the Adoption of the Pierce County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. Discussion and Request to authorize the purchase of an upgraded sound system in that amount of \$22,620 to renovate the NFC upstairs due to the previous authorization for the room to be used as a courtroom annex. Funding will come from \$6,000 (Technology Fund) and \$16,620 from ARPA funding.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the purchase of an upgraded sound system in the amount of \$22,620. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Discussion and Request to seek bids for the replacement of a failed box culvert on Mill Branch Road (4' x 4' x 30') and to reset the pipes on Cathleen Drive and installing a proper headwall.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to seek bids for the replacement of a failed box culvert on Mill Branch Road and to reset the pipes on Cathleen Drive and construct a headwall. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Discussion and Request to select and approve a 2023 Motor Grader with Rome Sloper with specific lease terms which shall include a Comprehensive Warranty and Full Maintenance plan.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to table the decision pending additional information to be received from John Deere regarding fuel consumption averages and clarification on equipment comparisons. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously tabled.

11. Discussion and Request to approve the services of Excellence Exceeded for the upcoming LOST negotiations.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approved the service agreement with Excellence Exceeded for the LOST negotiations. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

12. Discussion and Request to approve \$6,500 from ARPA Funds for penetration testing of all county offices to determine the need for additional training for the protection of the entire network from Ransomware attacks.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve ARPA fund in the amount of \$6,500 for penetration testing of all county offices. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

13. Discussion and Request to approve Ordinance 2022.06.07.01 Broadband Ready Community for Pierce County, Georgia.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022.06.07.01 to designate Pierce County as a Broadband Ready Community. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. The motion was unanimously approved.

14. Discussion and Request to approved the change order recommendation by Roberts Civil Engineering in the amount of \$35,000 to be paid from the TIA Discretionary Fund for Mulligan Circle project.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the change order for the Mulligan Circle project in the amount of \$35,000 from the Discretionary TIA funds. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All Commissioners votes aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

15. Adjourn—Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neal Bennett

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold Rozier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Streat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Dixon

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Lowman