

Pierce County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, July 5, 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: Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk  
Lana Blankenship, HR Generalist

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 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 David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes, June 7, 2022

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Public Comments
  - a. Citizens from Aspinwall Lane asking to have the road paved:
    - i. James Foster, 3853 Aspinwall Lane, (Resident)—Did not attend the meeting
    - ii. Kyle & Breanna Royster, 3866 Aspinwall Lane (Owner)—Did not attend the meeting
    - iii. Deborah Clark, 3876 Aspinwall Lane (Owner)
    - iv. Shelvie Velie, 3839 Aspinwall Lane (Resident)
    - v. Rita Crews, 3863 Aspinwall Lane (Owner)—Did not attend the meeting

6. Pierce County Public Library Update
  - a. Martha Powers-Jones
  - b. LaVonnia Moore
  
7. County Manager Report and May 2022 Financials—County Manager, Jason Rubenbauer, presented the following May 2022 Financials and County Manager’s Report

**Financial Report & County Manager Report**

July 5, 2022

- **Financial Report as of 5/31/2022**
  - a. Current revenues are in a good position through May 2022
    - i. Timber tax collections up 19.17%
    - ii. Mobile home tax collections up 11.34%
    - iii. Licenses/Permit collections up 7.58%
    - iv. LOST Revenues up 6.69%
    - v. As of this morning July 5, 2022 we have received our 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of the American Rescue Plan Act in the amount of \$1,890,000.
  
  - b. Budget information has been collected from all offices and departments
    - i. Ready to start setting dates for budget workshops
  
- **County Manager’s Report**
  - a. *Departmental updates:*
    - i. EMS
      1. 251 calls in June
        - a. 168 Blackshear (Station 1)
        - b. 83 Patterson (Station 2)
      2. Incoming revenues have started increasing
  
    - ii. Property Assessors
      1. Today was the last day for appeals
      2. As of 6/27 only 12 appeals had been filed which is the least amount, we have had in quite some time
  
    - iii. Roads
      1. WPA Road only has one more driveway pipe installed
      2. Big House Road in the fork of the hurricane area has one pipe left to install

8. Discussion and Request to Approve the purchase of (2) Ambulances from the bids provided from the ARPA Fund. — Chairman Bennett invited EMS Director Blake James to provide details about the ambulance bids and to made a recommendation to the Commission.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the lowest bids received for the purchase of two (2) Type I ambulance from Custom Truck & Body Works of Woodbury, GA in an amount not to exceed \$492,088.00 using the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

9. Discussion and Request to Approve the request from EMS Director Blake James for the purchase of LIFEPAK 15 Defibrillators, Power load systems for new ambulances, stretchers for new ambulances, and AED's not to exceed \$260,237.27 from the ARPA Fund.

Commissioner Mike Streat made a motion to approved the purchase of Defibrillators, power load systems, stretchers, and AEDs from Stryker in an amount not to exceed \$260,237.27 using American Rescue Plan Acts funds. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. Commissioner Harold Rozier asked EMS Director James about the number of times the AED's will likely be used, to which Mr. James responded rarely, but that it was a good idea to have them handy for when an emergency may arise to help save the life of someone in need in any of our county owned facilities. Aft no additional discussion, Chairman Bennett called for a vote and all Commissioners voted aye. Motion was approved unanimously.

10. Discussion and Request to Approve a Construction Manager for the Pierce County Parks & Recreation Renovation and Expansion of Ware Street from a list of qualified candidates who successfully responded to the formal request and attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the sole bidder, R. H. Tyson Construction, as the Construction Manager for the Pierce County Parks & Recreation Renovation and Expansion of the Ware Street facility. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

11. Discussion and Request to Approve a qualified contractor from the formal bids submitted for the Mill Branch and Cathleen Drive drainage projects to be paid from the Discretionary TIA Fund.

Commission David Lowman made a motion to reject all bids received due to the excessive cost and to rebid the project with a project budget not to exceed \$250,000. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

12. Discussion and Request to Approve the purchase of a Fire Apparatus not to exceed \$50,000 which has been approved in the current Fire Department General Fund Budget. This request also seeks approval for foregoing the formal bid process due to the specialty nature of the equipment and limited availability of use equipment.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the purchase of a used Fire apparatus in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the General Fund budget. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

13. Discussion and Request to Approve the recommendation from Matt Carter, PCIDBA Executive Director, to reappoint Chairman Neal Bennett to the SGRDA board for a four-year term September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve the reappointment of Chairman Neal Bennett to the Southern Georgia Regional Development Authority board for a four-year term beginning September 1, 2022 and extending through December 31, 2026. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

14. Tabled Item—

- a. Discussion and Request to approve the lease of a Motor Grader w/ Rome Sloper from previous bids presented June 7, 2022

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to remove the able item previously discussed and the June 7, 2022 regular meeting pertaining to the lease of a motor grader with a Rome Sloper from the table. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to accept the previous lease bid from John Deere for a 48-month lease in the amount of \$3,793.90 with a trade in of an existing piece of equipment and to award a second, 60-month lease to John Deere both to be paid from the 2020 SPLOST fund. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners vote aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

15. Closed Session—Personnel

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion. All Commissioner voted aye. The Commission entered into executive session at 6:52 PM.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to end the executive session and enter back into the regular meeting at 7:37 PM. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. The Commission is now in regular session.

No action was taken from the executive session.

16. Adjourn—Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

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Neal Bennett

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Harold Rozier

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Mike Streat

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Randy Dixon

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David Lowman