

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023
ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY ROOM
6:00 P.M.

3/16/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Those present were: Chairman Jesse Crews, along with Commissioners Alpha Benefield, James Everett, Drew Jones, and Luke Gowen; County Administrator Hampton Raulerson; County Clerk Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden; and visitors as recorded hereafter.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Benefield led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After moving item #7 to Item #13 on the agenda, Commissioner Jones made motion to adopt the March 16, 2023 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jones made motion to adopt the March 2, 2023 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve Financial Report. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Resolution of Appreciation, recognizing Charlton County High School Indian Basketball team, for outstanding year 2022-2023, for winning the first ever State A D 2 Region with at 29-3 overall record; bringing outstanding favorable comments. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

7. DISCUSS GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER PENSION PLAN

The Board discussed Firefighter Pension Plan. There are 6 firefighters who will retire before becoming vested in the Georgia Firefighter Pension Plan, which the BOC began participating in on behalf of our firefighters. It requires 15 years to become vested once participation in the pension plan begins. 10 years can be purchased in order to bring this amount down to 5 years. Years can be brought in lump sums in different amounts, in short we can spread the 10 years out over a period of time if the BOC decided to purchase years for the Fire fighters affected. The total for the 6 firefighters is approximately \$365,000.00. The Board asked that Mr. Raulerson bring back more information for the Board's consideration.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT #AAA-2024-21 TO PROVIDE OPERATION OF A SENIOR CENTER WITH CONGREGATE AND HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Connie Bass, Senior Center was present and reported on Senior Center congregate and home delivered meals program. In February 2023 the Charlton Senior Center served an average of 47 congregate clients and 81 HDM clients. The Center served more congregate clients than any other center in our 18 counties with the next highest being Tifton at 35. Only two counties in our 18 county region served more home delivered meals than Charlton (Ware at 96 and Coffee at 86). Connie recently received award for Advocate of the Year for Seniors. Mrs. Bass thanked the Board for making available a van for the St. George Senior Clients.

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Contract #AAA-2024-21 to Provide Operation of a Senior Center with Congregate and Home Delivered Meals. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VARIANCE REQUEST FOR NEDRA Y. PHILMORE

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve variance request for Nedra Philmore, which includes removing old mobile home and replacing with newer mobile home. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; Commissioner Everett excused himself, due to conflict (relative). Motion carried.

10. CONSIDER ADDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Commissioner Jones made motion to ratify adding line item to the budget for the demolition of the John Harris Building. The cost will be covered through an increased revenue from interest and the FLPA monies received this year which should have been received last year. We will amend the revenues next month when we do our quarterly budget amendment. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Mr. Raulerson reported that property will be raked, concrete removed, and sidewalk repaired before final close out of the demolition.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CULVERT PIPE BIDS FOR ROAD DEPARTMENT

Bids for road department culvert pipes were received as follows:

Ferguson Waterworks \$7942.50
Consolidated Pipe \$7,218.00
Deep South Drainage \$7,040.00

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve bid from Deep South Drainage for \$7,040.00 Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR EMS - CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEM

Bids for EMS Chest Compression Systems were as follows:

Zoll Medical \$42,393.40
Stryker \$57,728.88

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Stryker bid for \$57,728.88. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. System will be paid with ARPA and LATCF funds. Stryker is compatible and can be used in ambulances.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BIDS - AC UNIT

Bids for Health Department AC were received as follows:

Dixie Air \$9,350.00
Sam Pickren AC \$9,420.28

Gantt AC \$9,500.00

Commissioner Gowen made motion to award bid to Gantt AC for \$9,500.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

14. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF FEBRUARY, 2023 WELLNESS REPORT

The Board acknowledged receipt of February, 2023 Wellness Report.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

16. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Benefield congratulated Connie Bass for work being done at Senior Center.

Commissioner Everett thanked Connie Bass for being an advocate for Charlton County Seniors and feel that we need to provide retirement for our volunteer firefighters.

Commissioner Crews reported that he, Mr. Raulerson and Mayor Lee Gowen attended TIA round table meeting for 18 counties and our county and city have good representation.

Ronnie Pollock, Road Superintendent reported that all is good at road department.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

Commissioner Benefield made motion to enter executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Crews opened meeting at 6:45 p.m. and stated pending litigation was discussed in executive session and no action was taken.

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Resolution of Charlton County, Georgia ("County") Agreeing to Participate in the National TEVA, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart Settlements and Agreeing to be Bound By and Anticipated Memorandum of Understanding Between the State of Georgia and Georgia Subdivisions Regarding the National TEVA, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart Settlements. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

18. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 - BOC CONFERENCE ROOM, 6:00 P.M.

19. ADJOURN

Commissioner Jones made motion that meeting be adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Everett, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Jesse A. Crews, Chairman

Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk

