

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – March 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Board of Education Boardroom in Black Creek. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, Commissioner Dallas Daniel, Commissioner Noah Covington, Commissioner Gene Wallace and Commissioner Wade Price. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Lori Tyson, and County Attorney Lea Holliday.

Chairman Infinger called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Invocation was given by Brad Brookshire. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the agenda. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Gene Wallace to approve the agenda, with the exception of moving County Administrator Item 7 until after an executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to approve the minutes of the February 2021 meetings as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Wade Price to close the regular meeting to hold planning & zoning public hearings. Motion carried unanimously.

\*CUP#171-21, Inman Solar, Inc., Conditional Use

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to go back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

\* CUP#171-21, Inman Solar, Inc., Conditional Use – Inman Solar, Inc. requesting a Conditional Use for a Solar Energy System (SES) on property located at the corner of Bacontown and Harvey Road, PIN# 008-016 and 008-017, in unincorporated Bryan County, Georgia. The applicant is also requesting a reduction to the required street buffer requirements along the northern property line. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Noah Covington to approve CUP#171-21 approval of the Conditional Use permit for the Solar Energy System subject to the following conditions: 1. A final Site Development and Landscape/Buffer Plan conforming to the specific supplemental use regulations governing Solar Energy Systems as set forth in Section 114-742 of the UDO shall be submitted for review and approval prior to the commencement of any land disturbing /construction activities on site. The location of all improvements shown on the site development plans shall conform with the general footprint and layout as shown on the revised concept plan submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 16, 2021. 2. A final Decommissioning Plan shall be submitted in accordance with Section 114-742(f), prior to the issuance of a site development permit; however, the approval of the rear buffer-yard reduction along the northern property line was denied and buffer-yard will remain at 100 feet. Motion carried unanimously.

Ben Taylor, County Administrator, met with the board on several issues.

\*Appointments to the LVAP Advisory Board – The LVAP Advisory board was formed in April 2019 to make a recommendation to the board on the disbursement of LVAP funds. The terms of Bob Whitmarsh, City of Richmond Hill will expire on March 31, 2021. Mr. Whitmarsh has retired as finance

director of the City and Mr. Derrick Cowart the new finance director has been picked by the City of Richmond Hill as his replacement on the LVAP Board. Also, the appointment of the Sheriff's department is expiring on March 31, 2021. Sheriff Mark Crowe has confirmed that he is willing to be on this board. The appointment of Wendy Sims is also expiring on March 31, 2021. She serves as the appointee from a community organization in the community. John Rauback's term as an appointee from county staff is also expiring on March 31, 2021. Each term is two years of service. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Wade Price to authorize staff to appoint Bob Whitmarsh, Sheriff Mark Crowe, John Rauback and Wendy Sims to the LVAP Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously.

\*Planning and Zoning Board Appointments – Mr. Joseph Pecenka, II and Mr. Alex Floyd have completed their initial terms as members of the Planning and Zoning Commission. These initial terms began on February 14, 2017 and expired on February 28, 2021. Both have expressed an interest in continuing to serve in their positions. Their re-appointments will be for a four (4) year term beginning immediately and ending on February 28, 2025. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to appoint Joseph Pecenka, I and Alex Floyd to the Planning and Zoning Board. Motion carried unanimously.

\*Board of Health Appointments – Dr. Wallace Holland term is set to expire March 31, 2021 on the Bryan County Board of Public Health. Dr. Holland is a long serving member of this board. This is a six year appointment. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Brad Brookshire to appoint Dr. Wallace Holland to the Board of Health. Motion carried unanimously.

\*Bryan County State Court Budget Amendment – Bryan County State Court is currently creating a Family Violence Court to serve the people of Bryan County. This is being created in response to the increase in numbers of victims and families that have been affected by family related violence in recent years. Judge Tomlinson has requested a budget amendment to support the creation of a Victim and Witness Advocate position which would be a crucial component to the newly created Family Violence Court. This position is necessary in carrying out the mandates put in place by the Victim Rights Constitutional Amendment, Marsy's Law, to inform, and include victims of crimes in the criminal justice process. The advocate position will guide the victims and families to services through the program as well as strengthen the ability of the Solicitor's office to prosecute and punish offenders. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Wade Price to approve the 2021 Budget Amendment on the Attached Page labeled "Exhibit A". Motion carried unanimously.

\*PFA Revenue Bond- A brief over was given to the Commissioners by Tom Woodward, First Tryon, of the results of the bond search. No action was required by the Board of Commissioners on this item.

\*Canoochee River Boat Ramp Lease Agreement- The Wildlife Resources Division of Ga. DNR operates a public boat ramp and parking area on the Canoochee River just off U.S. 280 located in Bryan County on County owned land. DNR has operated this facility via a 25 year Property Lease and Bryan County has assisted us with routine maintenance through an Operations & Maintenance Agreement. These agreements are set to expire this month. In order to renew, the County will need to take action on the attached Integrated Lease with O&M Agreement and sign the Resolution statement. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to execute the Canoochee Boat Ramp Lease Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

\*US Hwy 280/Wilma Edwards Road Engineering Project- The intersection of US 280 and Wilma Edwards Road was identified in the May 2018 Thomas & Hutton (T&H) North Bryan County Transportation Study as in need of improvements. Subsequently staff contacted the Georgia DOT in order to discuss potential options for improvements to the intersection. In 2019 T&H was authorized to prepare and submit an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Study to GDOT which was approved for a roundabout concept in 2020. The attached Scope of Services and Task Order from T&H dated March 4, 2021 provides for design phase services in order to prepare bid documents for the construction of the roundabout. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Dallas Daniel to approve the attached Thomas & Hutton Scope of Services and authorize the Chairman to execute the corresponding Task Order #41 in the amount of \$193,000 for engineering design services in conjunction with the US 280/Wilma Edwards Road Roundabout. Motion carried unanimously.

\*Water/Sewer Main Engineering Project- In conjunction with the Sewer Service Agreement with the City of Savannah which approved at the December 8, 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting, Thomas & Hutton (T&H) has submitted a Task Order (TO) and Scope of Services for engineering design services for the regional force main that is to be constructed in accordance with the terms of the Sewer Service Agreement. In addition, the T&H scope includes design services for the parallel water main that is to be constructed at a later date as yet to be determined. The attached proposal from T&H dated February 26, 2021 provides for the design phase services as indicated above in order to prepare bid documents for the construction of the mains. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Wade Price to approve the attached Thomas & Hutton Scope of Services and authorize the Chairman to execute the corresponding Task Order #42 in the amount of \$1,815,040 for engineering design services in conjunction with the North Bryan Regional Water and Sewer main projects. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Wade Price to go into executive session to discuss personnel, real estate and litigation. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 6:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Wade Price to go back into the regular meeting at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

\*Development Agreement Amendment- Bryan County and the Development Authority of Bryan County has entered an agreement with CRG Acquisition, LLC (CRG) dated November 19, 2019 to provide for road and certain utility improvements in Interstate Centre. A portion of that work has been completed. CRG has requested an amendment to provide that further work which serves other portions of Lot 1 be done under a mutually approved schedule, but not be required until further development occurs. Both The Development Authority and CREG have approved and executed this amendment. Be it resolved, the Chairman or other officers are authorized to execute the Third Amendment to the Agreement as presented at this meeting, and are further authorized to execute such other and further documents as they determine are necessary or desirable to amend or supplement the Agreement, approve schedules or to perform the County's obligations thereunder. A motion was made by Gene Wallace and seconded by Wade Price to approve the Third Amendment to Development Agreement, pursuant to the Resolution presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.