

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 15, 2009
7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Charles Wyatt, Joey M. Loudermilk, Joe F. Manning, Patrick Whearley. Staff Present: Daniel B. Bridges, County Manager; John M. Taylor, County Attorney, Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2009, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Public Improvements Authority: Appointments and Resolution.** Chairman Lange said that this had been discussed during the September 1 Regular Session and the preceding Work Session, and that the following individuals are being appointed to the Authority: Danny Bridges, County Manager, for an initial three-year term; Harry Lange, Chairman of Board of Commissioners, for an initial three-year term; Joey Loudermilk, Commission, for an initial two-year term; Charles Blair, Development Authority member, for an initial one-year term; and Lynda Dawson, Harris County Chamber of Commerce President, for an initial two-year term. The motion to approve the appointments and the Resolution was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Resolution of Achievement: Chandler Jones, Eagle Scout.** Chairman Lange read the Resolution of Achievement honoring Chandler Jones for attaining his Eagle Scout rank and congratulated Mr. Jones on same. The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Proclamation: Constitution Week.** Chairman Lange read the document proclaiming September 17 - 23 as Constitution Week. The motion to approve this Proclamation was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. Commissioner Loudermilk said that the Constitution is only 4,400 words long, encouraged those in attendance to read the Constitution, and said that he hopes the President and Congress also read the document.
 - C. **Proclamation: American Business Women's Association Day.** Chairman Lange read the document proclaiming September 22 as American Business Women's Day in Harris County. The motion to approve this Proclamation was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
 - D. **Economic Development Committee Appointments.** Chairman Lange said that he would like to appoint the following individuals to the Economic Development Committee: Charles Blair, member of Harris County Development Authority; Robert Young, member of West Point Development Authority; Lynda Dawson, Harris County Chamber of Commerce President; Charles Wyatt, Commissioner; Harry Lange, Commissioner; and Danny Bridges, County Manager. The motion to approve the Committee appointments was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - E. **Error & Release Requests.** Chairman Lange read the Error & Release requests as follows:
 - (1) Strupe, Patrick T.: Digest total of \$39,139 corrected to \$32,726 (due to 2008 appeal)
 - (2) Young, Marilyn Suzanne: Digest total of \$49,981 corrected to \$49,981 (remove S1 exemption)The motion to approve these two Error & Release requests was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
 - F. **Not on Digest (NOD).** Chairman Lange said that an NOD had been received regarding RP Management Inc & Montgomery, George: Digest total of zero corrected to \$4,800

(deleted in error). The motion to approve this NOD was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **911 Recorder: Ratification.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the 911 recorder quit and that while repairs to same could be made, they would not be guaranteed for any length of time; that because a new recorder was needed quickly, prices were obtained from several companies; that it was decided to go with DSS Corporation for \$3,750 a year for five years which includes new equipment as well as maintenance; that he signed the document accepting the offer; and that ratification by the Board is necessary. The motion to approve/ratify was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #09-48.)
- B. **Benefits Amendments.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said he had two items regarding amendments to employee benefits, as follows:
- (1) **Health/Medical Insurance.** Mr. Bridges said there had been discussion regarding allowing part-time employees who work at least 32 hours a week to participate in the County's health/medical insurance on the condition that the employee pays all premiums associated with the plan they choose. The motion for Mr. Bridges to move forward with this amendment was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously. Mr. Bridges is to discuss the amendment with Blue Cross/Blue Shield and bring the necessary paperwork back to the Board for approval.
- (2) **Defined Benefits Plan.** Mr. Bridges said that the current plan allows full-time employees to retire, start collecting retirement benefits, and continue to work full-time, and that it has been recommended that this practice be discontinued. The motion for Mr. Bridges to move forward with this amendment, to be effective immediately, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously. Mr. Bridges is to discuss this amendment with GebCorp and bring the necessary paperwork back to the Board for approval.
- C. **Jail Visitation Area Glass.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the glass in the visitation area of the Jail has been replaced (due to breakage); that the cost, \$4,598.88, can be taken from the Jail Fund; and that a motion is needed regarding same. The motion to use funds from the Jail Fund to pay for the visitation area glass was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **DOT Contract: Moon Road [PR000-S006-00(895)].** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the contract concerning the base and plant mix surfacing of Moon Road and recommended it for approval. The motion to approve the contract was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A # 09-49.)
7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition, potential/pending litigation, and a personnel issue was made at 7:30 PM by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
9. **OTHER**
- A. **Georgia Power Contract: Power Pole Relocations on Moon Road.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County had received a contract from Georgia Power for the relocation of power poles on Moon Road; that the estimated cost is \$35,175 with the County paying the lesser of 100% of the actual cost or the estimate cost; and that he is requesting approval of same pending review by John Taylor, County Attorney, with the cost to come from SPLOST. The motion to approve the contract, pending review by the County Attorney, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #09-50.)
- B. **Water Issues.** Commissioner Loudermilk said that he has received phone calls from citizens in Ellerslie Place Subdivision regarding high water bills and that he would like someone from Water Works to be at the next meeting to discuss this matter.

Chairman Lange said that he has also received some calls. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that he has not received any calls from Ellerslie Place, but understands there are concerns, received via e-mails, with water bills in Laurel Ridge Subdivision; that upon pulling records, it has been determined that water bills were high the same period last year; and that Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director, will be asked to be at the next meeting to address the issues.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk