

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 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 December 1, 2009, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Stan Lane: Ridgeway Road Recreation Property/Plans.** Stan Lane, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that he is opposed to the County's plans for a recreation park adjacent his home; that it would devalue his home; that it would affect the wildlife; that there is an environmental concern due to the number of creeks on the property; that adjacent to the subject property are 17 parcels with 14 residences; that rumor includes there may be a convenience center on the property as well; that people moved to the area for the quiet and tranquil atmosphere; and that many of the residents in the area have horses and the traffic resulting from recreation use would interfere with the riding of the horses.
 - B. **Ernest Crank: Ridgeway Road Recreation Property/Plans.** Ernest Crank, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that he is opposed to any kind of recreation park on the subject property.
 - C. **Bob Mallard: Ridgeway Road Recreation Property/Plans.** Bob Mallard, citizen and president of the Waverly Hall Youth Sports Association, appeared before the Board and said that he is in favor of having a County-run recreation park in the eastern part of the County; that while they are grateful that the YSA has the use of the parks in Waverly Hall and around the area, it is time for a County-run park in the area since other areas of the County already have the advantage of same; and that participating in youth sports is increasing and more ballfields are needed not only for practice but for playing.
 - D. **Brad Holloway: Ridgeway Road Recreation Property/Plans.** Brad Holloway, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that he is in favor of having a recreation park on the eastern side of the County; that youth sports help keep kids out of trouble by giving them something to do and has a positive impact on their lives; and that it would benefit the children in the community.
 - E. **John Rodgers: Ridgeway Road Recreation Property/Plans.** John Rodgers, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that he agrees there is a need for more ballfields in the County, he is not sure the subject property is the right place; that he had previously applied for rezoning to allow ballfields on his property and was turned down mainly due to the outcry from the adjacent property owners; that the subject property has more adjacent property owners than his property; and that while he understands the need for the ballfields, he doesn't understand why it's good in one area and not the other.
 - F. **Dan Kosobucki: Ridgeway Road Recreation Property/Plans.** Dan Kosobucki, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that on behalf of the citizens in and around the area adjacent to the subject property, he is requesting a public forum regarding the County's plans for the property, so that everyone would know what is or is not planned. He suggested that the forum could be held after the holidays and at City Hall in Waverly Hall, and asked that Commissioner Loudermilk get in touch with him regarding same.

In response to the comments, Commissioner Loudermilk, in whose district the subject property is located, said that he is willing to meet with the citizens regarding the County's plans for the property; that he understands the concerns of the citizens; that he is committed to seeing a recreation park in southeastern Harris County, whether on the subject property or another parcel; that he is familiar with travel ball since his son played it for three years, and the property is not conducive to travel ball mainly due to the infrastructure and amenities that are needed for such.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Error & Release Request.** Chairman Lange said that an Error & Release request had been received regarding the owners of lots 25-40, block of Parcel 256 of Map 29, digest amount of \$31,290 corrected to \$5,215, due to corrected land classification. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the property in question is actually a lake shared by several property owners (of lots 25-40) and that the lake has inadvertently been classified as land rather than a lake. The motion to approve this Error & Release request was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Reappointments/Appointments.** The following reappointments/appointments were made.
- (1) **Agri-Center Board.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Wyatt, second by Commissioner Manning, and unanimous vote, David Chambers and Sandy Reames were reappointed, and the new term will be from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2012.
 - (2) **Development Authority.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Whearley, second by Commissioner Wyatt, and unanimous vote, Charles Blair (District 3) was reappointed, and upon the motion of Commissioner Loudermilk, second by Commissioner Whearley, and unanimous vote, Will Bruner (District 5) was reappointed. The term for Mr. Blair and Mr. Bruner will be from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2013.
 - (3) **Elections & Registrations Board.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Wyatt, second by Commissioner Whearley, and unanimous vote, Portis "Buddy" Johnson was reappointed, and his new term will be January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2013.
 - (4) **Health Board.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Loudermilk, second by Commissioner Wyatt, and unanimous vote, Wilbur Dozier, Jr., was reappointed, and his new term will be January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2015.
 - (5) **Planning Commission.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Wyatt, second by Commissioner Loudermilk, and unanimous vote, Tom Chambless (District 1) was reappointed, and upon the motion by Chairman Lange, second by Commissioner Loudermilk, and unanimous vote, Ron Gibson (District 4) was reappointed. The new term for Mr. Chambless and Mr. Gibson will be January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2013.
 - (6) **Recreation Board.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Loudermilk, second by Commissioner Wyatt, and unanimous vote, Robert Grant (At-Large) was reappointed, and upon the motion by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and unanimous vote, Derick Moxley (Mountain Hill YSA) was reappointed. The new term for Mr. Grant and Mr. Moxley will be January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2012.
 - (7) **Tax Assessors.** Upon the motion by Commissioner Wyatt, second by Commissioner Whearley, and unanimous vote, Pam Jackson was reappointed to the Board of Tax Assessors for the term January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2013.
 - (8) **Zoning Adjustments.** Upon the motion by Chairman Lange, second by Commissioner Wyatt, and unanimous vote, Chris Butzon was reappointed to the Board of Zoning Adjustments for the term October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2012.
- C. **OneGeorgia Edge Grant Award of \$1,000,000.** Chairman Lange announced that the Development Authority of Harris County had recently received a \$1,000,000 grant and that he, Becca Hardin, of the Valley Partnership, and Ken Napier, of the Development Authority of Harris County, traveled to Thomasville to accept the check, which he showed to those in attendance. He said that the grant is for the JCI/Hoover project in the Northwest Harris Business Park.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Replacement Car for Sheriff's Office.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that there have been two accidents recently involving deputies; that neither of the accidents were the fault of the deputies; that one car has been repaired by the

insurance company of the individual who caused the accident; and that the other car was totaled, for which a check in the amount of \$6,389.50 has been received. He said that a new car is needed and can be purchased for approximately \$21,563 with the difference of \$15,173.50 taken from Contingency. The motion to approve the purchase of a Ford Crown Vic for the Sheriff's office for approximately \$21,563 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Agreement: All Hazard - All Emergency.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that this agreement is basically the same as the one we originally agreed to in 2004; that it provided for mutual aid between counties and other entities in the event of emergencies; and that in order for the County to receive mutual aid assistance, the ratification of the agreement is necessary. Discussion included that we have not had any problems concerning any type of mutual aid from surrounding counties/entities. The motion to approve/ratify this agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" as C&A #09-57.)
- C. **Airport CIP.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the document before the Board is the Capital Improvements Plan for the next five years; that just because something is on the list doesn't mean it can't be changed next year; and that if approved, he will execute the applications for the items listed in 2011 (Taxiway Relocation, Land Acquisition Reimbursement, and ALP Update & 405 Survey). He reviewed the list and explained the various items. The motion to approve the December 09 CIP was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.

6. **OTHER**

- A. **Renaming of Palmetto Creek Walking Trail.** Commissioner Wyatt made the motion to rename the Palmetto Creek Walking Trail in honor of Carol A. Silva, former County Manager, and Faith Birkhead, former Councilperson of Hamilton, both of whom were instrumental in developing the trail, and for the portion behind City Hall to be known as the Faith Birkhead Walking Trail, and the portion on County property to be the Carol Silva Walking Trail. Discussion included that the portion of the trail directly behind City Hall belongs to Hamilton not the County. Commissioner Wyatt amended his motion to name the portion of the trail on County property the Silva-Birkhead Walking Trail. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whearley and tabled by Commissioner Manning to the January 19, 2010, Work Session.
7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he had no business to bring up before the Board this evening.
8. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.

—
Attest:

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk