

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

July 20, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Bobby Irions, Becky Langston. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Zuerner called the Regular Session to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Zuerner led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 Regular Session, and the June 29, 2021 Joint UDC Meeting was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously. (There was no meeting on July 6, 2021.)
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Bo Barber: Old West Point Road.** Bo Barber, who lives on Old West Point Road, appeared before the Board to discuss the concerns he and his neighbors have regarding the use of Old West Point Road by dump trucks, the need for speed controlling devices due to the road being used as a “cut-through”, and the overgrowth on the right of way at the bridge.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Second Reading: Application of Ashwani Kumar for Beer & Wine Off Premises license at A&A C Store, 1560 US Highway 27, Cataula.** Chairman Zuerner read the specifics of the application, said this was the second reading, that the applicant meets the qualifications, and that the application has been recommended for approval from the Sheriff and Community Development. The applicant was not present, and Chairman Zuerner asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being none, he asked for a motion. The motion to approve this license was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Resolution: CRRSA Act Funding for Airport.** Chairman Zuerner said that in order for the County to receive \$13,000 for the Airport from the Coronavirus Response and Recovery Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA), the resolution authorizing acceptance of the GDOT contract for same is required. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
7. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Courthouse: Renovation & Repairs, Phase I.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that during the March 2, 2021, meeting, the Board authorized 2WR Architects to conduct an assessment of the Courthouse at a cost of \$25,000 (from SPLOST 2019 funds); that the results of the assessment were received in early May, suggested that repairs costing approximately \$8,000,000 are needed and included a priority list of the repairs; that the approved FY 2021-22 SPLOST 2019 budget included \$1,388,250 to begin Phase I of the Courthouse repairs/renovation; that Phase I consists of replacing the roof of the entire building, clean and paint exterior surfaces, replace storm windows on the historic portion, repair the front balcony and canopies on the historic portion, and investigate/repair the interior courtroom balcony in the historic portion; that the cost to investigate, design, bid and provide construction administration of Phase I is \$88,250 and will take about four months to complete; that once designed, the project will be bid out and awarded in November/December; that actual construction costs for Phase I are estimated to be \$1,100,000; that a contingency of \$200,000 is included to cover reimbursable and unforeseen repair expenses; that County building permit fees will be waived; and the actual construction will take about five months to complete by June 2022. Following discussion, the motion to approve 2WR’s proposal in the amount of \$88,250 was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed

unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” as C&A #21-10.)

- B. **Surplus Property: Vehicles.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that with the acquisitions of new vehicles, the County has five surplus vehicles for disposition due to age, mileage, and/or condition; that the list has been provided to the Board for approval to sell the vehicles on GovDeals or other legal means. Following discussion, the motion to declare the vehicles as surplus and to sell same on GovDeals or other legal means was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
- (1) Replacement Chairs in Commission Chambers. Three samples have been provided for the Board to sit in in order to get a consensus on which model to order.
 - (2) UDC/Land Use Codes. On going; should be completed soon.
 - (3) Telephone System for Prison, Public Works, NRCS, Facilities Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance & Water Works. Project is in progress for these departments to be connected via extension numbers to the other County offices in Hamilton.
 - (4) Prison Roof Replacement. Bid specs are being prepared.
 - (5) Ellerslie Park. Project is on going with gates, signs, and aerator for lake being ordered and beginning construction of the storage building for County equipment to be located in the park.
 - (6) Man O’War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase IV (aka Rails to Trails). Project is ongoing and should be finished in early December (from behind Mountain Creek Inn to the Callaway Country Store). Comments included that the bridge is being water blasted to remove the lead based paint, and Commissioner Grant said that plans are underway to brand the trail since it will become a destination point from city to city (Pine Mountain to Hamilton).
 - (7) Man O’War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase V (aka Rails to Trails). Project will begin later this month and should be completed in about 18 months, going from the Callaway Country Store to across from the current Harris County Carver Middle School (on US 27), a distance of about 5.4 miles.
 - (8) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. Project was approved for design, bidding and construction administration this evening.
 - (9) Capital Projects Using Federal ARP Funds. Projects to be discussed during upcoming retreat.
 - (10) Renovation of Old Library - Roof & HVAC System. Project is underway.
 - (11) Impact Fee Study. Project is ongoing.
 - (12) County Records Storage in Carver Resource Center. As part of the Mercer Medical Clinic project, an IGA between the County and the Board of Education is being prepared for the storage of County records in the Carver Resource Center; that metal shelving will be used to organize the records of the Commissioners’ office, Community Development, Clerk of Superior Court, Elections, Probate Court, and Magistrate Court in a climate controlled, secure facility.
 - (13) T-SPLOST Continuation Referendum. The County submitted five projects for consideration by the RVRC Round Table in connection with the upcoming referendum to continue the T-SPLOST in this region.
 - (14) SPLOST. Collections remain steady and well over the amount budgeted.
 - (16) LOST. Collections remain steady and well over the amount budgeted.
 - (17) T-SPLOST. Collections remain steady and well over the amount budgeted.

- (18) Single Family Home Permits. Issuance of 239 for the last fiscal year, which is slightly higher than the previous year and the year before that.
- (19) Solid Waste Tonnage. Collected over 18,000 tons for the last fiscal, which is well above the previous years.
- (20) Development of Northwest Harris Business Park. Commissioner Langston reported that the Development Authority had approved the agreement for the grant writer/administration regarding the park's development.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

A. **Request for Executive Session.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the discussion of litigation, personnel, and real estate disposition.

8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, personnel, and real estate disposition was made at 7:14 PM by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

9. **RECONVENE & ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to reconvene and adjourn was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk