

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
February 15, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Bobby Irions, Becky Langston.
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; 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 February 1, 2022, Regular Session and the February 2, 2022, Called Session was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Presentation of Library Fund Donation.** Harry Lange, former Commissioner, appeared before the Board to present a donation in the amount of \$35,726 to go toward the Library fund, which will leave a balance of approximately \$35,726, and that the balance should be forthcoming this same time next year, after which Library balance will be zero. The Board thanked Mr. Lange for the donation and for his continued work and dedication on this project.
 - B. **Fire Training Building and Rejection of Bid.** Jack McClung, Chief of (Fire) Chiefs, appeared before the Board to discuss the recently bid Fire Training Building. He said that when quotes were obtained a couple of years ago for the building, the cost was much less than the bid received, which totaled \$465,227; that the building is really needed and the cost is only going to go up; and that several companies have now expressed interest in bidding. Discussion included the building is 60' x 40' with a 10' overhang; that the VFDs want a building that is going to last for a long time; that there's nothing fancy - concrete floor, training area, male & female restrooms and showers, and an office area. Following discussion, Commissioner Andrews made the motion to reject the bid received, to rebid the project so that the work can begin next fiscal year, and to put money in the budget to cover the cost. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Appointment to Planning Commission.** Chairman Zuerner said that a vacancy exists on the Planning Commission in the District 4 position due to the expiration of the term of Wayne Harbert, who did not want to be reappointed. Commissioner Irions made the motion to appoint Thomas "Tommy" Hutcherson to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed unanimously. The term expires December 31, 2025
 - D. **Fee Schedule: Ellerslie Park Lodge & Pavilion.** Chairman Zuerner said that Ellerslie Park is now open from dawn to dusk and a fee schedule is necessary regarding the rental of the Lodge and Pavilion; that the proposed fees for the Lodge are \$150/day for County residents, \$250/day for out-of-county, and \$50/day for non-profit organizations; and that the proposed fees for the Pavilion are \$15/hour with a 2-hour minimum for County residents, \$25/hour with a 2-hour minimum for out-of-county, and \$10/hour with a 2-hour minimum for non-profit organizations. The motion to approve the fee schedule as presented was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
 - E. **Financial Statements: November & December 2021.** Clint Chastain, CFO, appeared before the Board and said there are no issues with the budget; that all departments look fine. The motion to approve the November & December 2021 financial statements was made by Chairman Zuerner, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Agreement with GDOT: Lighting for US 27 & SR 315 Intersection Roundabout.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that GDOT is preparing to improve the US 27/SR 315 intersection by constructing a roundabout that is part of the project to widen US 27, which is to be under construction the Spring of 2023 and be completed during late 2026; that GDOT is requesting the County to enter into a 50-year agreement whereby GDOT would install the lighting system at the roundabout (12 light poles, 30' high with cobra head street lights) and the County to be responsible for the maintenance, repair and energy usage, which is estimated to be about \$450/month. Following discussion regarding the lighting, Chairman Zuerner made the motion to table action on this document to the March 1 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
 - (1) **UDC/Land Use Codes.** Application filed this week, first reading before the Planning Commission is set for March 16 and second reading before the Board on April 5; if approved, it would be effective on the date so chosen by the Board.

- (2) Prison Roof Replacement. Project should start this month and be completed in 60 days.
 - (3) LMIG Resurfacing 2022. Project should start soon and is to be completed by June 30, 2022.
 - (4) Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase V (aka Rails to Trails). Project should be bid out in late March and be completed by late 2022.
 - (5) Water Lines on Green Drive. Project should start this week or next, be completed by June 30, 2022, and is funded by ARP funds
 - (6) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. Engaging a Construction Manager to manage project and establish a guaranteed maximum price (GMP), to bring to the Board in March for approval, and project should be completed late this year or early next year.
 - (7) Impact Fee Study. Draft Ordinance and fee scheduled to be discussed during the February 24 Planning Retreat.
 - (8) Assist RVRC with T-SPLOST Referendum. T-SPLOST referendum is May 24, information is on the County's website, and publicity should be provided by the Chamber of Commerce.
 - (9) Redistricting of Commission Districts. State has approved the new redistricting map; now waiting on the formal approval letter from the state.
6. **THANKS TO COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**. Commissioner Grant extended his appreciation for the work done by the County's Water Works and Public Works departments in assisting Hamilton and the Board of Education with recent water and road repairs.
 7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Chairman Zuerner made the motion at 7:05 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate and personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grant and passed unanimously.
 8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:39 PM by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 9. **OTHER**
 - A. **Personnel**. Commissioner Grant made the motion to (1) approve adding a full-time HR Generalist position to the Personnel Plan, classify the position in Grade 19 with a starting salary of \$51,189, and approve job description for same; (2) approve the revised job description for the Payroll & Benefits Specialist (fka HR & Payroll Tech) and moving the position from Grade 14 to Grade 17; and (3) approved the revised job description for County Clerk, which will remain in Grade 19. The motion was seconded by Chairman Zuerner and passed unanimously.
 10. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk