

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
October 20, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present (in person): Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Andrew Zuerner.
Commissioner Present (via telephone due to COVID-19): J. Harry Lange. Staff Present: Randy Dowling,
County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Langston called the Regular Session to order.
2. **MEETING CLARIFICATION.** At the request of Chairman Langston, Randy Dowling, County Manager, clarified that the Planning Retreat scheduled for October 22 will include discussion at 6:00 PM among the Board and the Planning Commission with Wood, consultant for the Land Development Codes update, that Wood will conduct a question and answer session with citizens following the discussion, and that there will many more opportunities for the citizens to take part in the update.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Rebel Aviation Airport Corporate Hangar Lease Renegotiation.** Chairman Langston said that Jarrard Breeding, owner of Rebel Aviation, has requested that Section 7 of the agreement approved by the Board during the September 1, 2020, meeting be amended to reduce the percentage of the sublease rental from 10% to zero percent. Following discussion, the motion to amend Section 7 to shows zero percent and to change the effective date to November 1, 2020 was made by Commissioner Zuerner, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-24.)
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Statements: June 2020 (for FY 19/20), July 2020 & August 2020 (for FY 20/21).** The motion to approve all three financial statements was made by Commissioner Lange and seconded by Commissioner Andrews. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
6. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Authorization to Apply for Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for Continued Development of Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County has been working on and continues to work on the development of the Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail, but more funds are necessary; that the County can apply for an LWCF grant, in the amount of \$500,000 from the State, which would require a County match of \$1,000,000, which is already budgeted in the FY 2020-21 Rails to Trails Project Fund budget; that if the application is successful, funds from the State would be available mid to late fall 2021; that if approved, funds can be properly budgeted in next year's budget; that if approved, the project will continue an additional 3.25 miles from where it currently ends (behind Mountain Creek Inn) to 1.7 miles south of the Callaway Country Store or about 2.75 miles from downtown Hamilton; that if the grant is not approved, the project, as crafted in the FY 2020-21 Rails to Trails Project Fund budget, can continue but stop at the Callaway Country Store; and that a motion and vote are needed to authorize the submission of the application and for the Chairman, County Manager and County Clerk to sign the necessary documents, which include a resolution. The motion to approve the submission of the grant, the authorization resolution, and for the Chairman, County Manager and County Clerk to execute any necessary documents was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
 - (1) **Replacement Telephone System for Courthouse, Administration Building and Community Development Building.** Project is ongoing and should be completed by late November.

- (2) Live Stream Equipment for Commission Chambers. Equipment slowly getting here; project should be completed late this month or early next month.
- (3) Replacement Prison Kitchen Equipment. Project should be completed by late November.
- (4) Consoles and Server for 911 Center. Project underway with delivery in early January.
- (5) Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal. Project completed; awaiting response from EPD.
- (6) Restriping County Roads. Public Works Director in process of preparing list, which will be provided to the Board for review.
- (7) Repair/Renovation of Five (5) County Bridges. Project is underway and is to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (8) Melody Lakes Dam. Project is on bid; bids are due October 22; and Board consideration is scheduled for November 3.
- (9) Rails to Trails Project. Application for LWCF grant will be made for funding.
- (10) Soccer Field Poles and Lights. Bid specifications are being prepared; should go out next week.
- (11) Airport Sign. Has been installed, as has similar signs for Solid Waste and Animal Control.
- (12) Hadley Road Water Lines. Project is progressing.
- (13) Renovation of Old Library. MOU was approved by all parties; fund raising in underway.
- (14) Land Use and Development Codes Update. The “big idea” meeting of the Board, the Planning Commission, Wood LLC, and the steering committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 22, during the Planning Retreat.
- (15) CARES Act Grant. All funds have been collected in Phase I; the Governor will not be releasing funds from Phase II to counties and/or cities.
- (16) SPLOST Collection. No change.
- (17) LOST Collection. No change.
- (18) T-SPLOST Collection. No change.
- (19) Single Family Building Permits. 15 permits were issued in September and 22 permits were issued by West Point for that portion of West Point that is in Harris County; while the County won’t get the permit revenue, it will get its share of the property taxes.
- (20) Replacement Garbage Trucks. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Dowling said that there are still two openings for truck drivers in the Solid Waste department; and that Ronnie Duke and his crew do a phenomenal job in keeping trash pickup on schedule.

7. COUNTY ATTORNEY

- A. **Second Modification to GEFA Loan 2016030 (Water Meter Project)**. Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that the County obtained a GEFA loan for its Water Meter Replacement project with an original completion date of September 2020; that due to COVID-19 quarantine and limited staffing, the project is running behind schedule; that GEFA is willing to extend the project completion date but a modification to the loan is needed; and that a motion and vote are needed to extend the completion date to December 1, 2021. The motion to approve the Second Modification, which includes an authorization resolution, to extend the completion date to December 1, 2021, was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously. (Contract document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #20-25.)

8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously.

Attest:

Becky Langston, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk