

HARRIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REGULAR SESSION

July 9, 2019
6:00 PM

Members Present: Craig Greenhaw, Alan Feagin, Harry Lange, Harry Boyd, Charles Sweat, Mark Smith, Mike Stewart. Member Absent: Gene Weldon. Staff Present: Nancy McMichael, Recording Secretary. Also in attendance: Becky Langston, Commission Chairman; Randy Dowling, County Manager.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Greenhaw called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 Regular Session was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Lange, and passed unanimously.
3. **ORGANIZATION OF AUTHORITY.** The motion to reappoint Craig Greenhaw as Chairman, Mark Smith as Vice Chairman, Nancy McMichael as Secretary, and Christy Searcy as Treasurer, was made by Mr. Lange, seconded by Mr. Feagin, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Drone Proposal: Gene Weldon.** Chairman Greenhaw said that due to the absence of Mr. Weldon, the Authority members should review the proposal and be ready to discuss same during the next meeting, which will be on September 10.
 - B. **Future Planning & Goal Setting: Mike Stewart.** Chairman Greenhaw explained for the benefit of Mr. Stewart that the Authority worked with the Chamber of Commerce to come up with an economic development plan and that the Chamber is currently trying to arrange an economic development seminar for the Authority members and Commissioners.
 - C. **Broadband Legislation Update: Mike Stewart.** Mr. Stewart said that he had been in touch with a representative of Diverse Power about coming to an Authority meeting, but that it will have to be later as the power companies are busy trying to work out details of the recently passed State Legislation allowing EMC's the ability to provide broadband services. Mr. Lange advised the Authority that the Commissioners had received a proposal from Dean Ginn for partnership for two towers that could serve not only the County's public safety radio system but also co-locations for broadband.
 - D. **GDOT US 27 Widening Project.** The Authority was provided an update on the widening of US 27, a GDOT project, for which an informational meeting was held on Monday, July 8, and that the project is still on the board to bid out with completion by the end of June 2022.
 - E. **GDOT SR 219 Project.** The Authority was advised that the SR 219 project should be completed by the end of 2020.
 - F. **GDOT US 27 Northbound Passing Lane.** The Authority was advised that GDOT will be constructing a northbound passing lane on US 27 beginning near the Mulberry Creek bridge and continuing north to about Hudson Mill Road.
 - G. **GDOT Fortson Road Bridge Project.** The Authority was advised that the GDOT Fortson Road project is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2020.
 - H. **Basic Training for Authority Members.** The Authority members were provided with information on upcoming basic training and asked to notify Mrs. McMichael if they want to take the class, which one they want to take, and if they need overnight accommodations the night before.
 - I. **Mulching Project in Northwest Harris Business Park.** The Authority was advised that five bids had been received for the mulching of 35 acres in Northwest Harris Business Park, ranging from \$30,000 to \$128,000.
 - J. **Daesol Stream Relocation Project in Northwest Harris Business Park.** The Authority was advised that the stream relocation project is currently in litigation, but that the project is about 85% complete.

- K. **Tour of Northwest Harris Business Park.** It was suggested that the Authority, the Commissioners, and Meghan Duke, of the West Point Development Authority, take a tour of the Northwest Harris Business Park and visit the businesses located therein.
 - L. **Ground Maintenance at Northwest Harris Business Park.** The Authority was advised that West Point maintains the public right of way and entrances to the park.
 - M. **Rails to Trails Status.** The Authority was advised that Phase I of the Rails to Trails (aka Recreation Trail, aka abandoned rail line) will start soon with paving of the trail from downtown Pine Mountain to about the Corner Store (US 27 at SR 354); that Phase II, for the paving of the trail from the Corner Store to somewhere behind Mountain Creek Inn, will be bid out soon. Also, it was advised that the trail will only be for walking or the use of bicycles; no motorized vehicles, and will be about 10 feet wide.
 - N. **Economic Growth.** Discussion included that it is important for the Authority, the Chamber and the Commissioners to work together regarding the direction the County is to grow so that there is a cohesiveness and a concept to understand all the options to develop a common voice and marketing plan; that all need to be more organized as to what direction in which to go and the ability to articulate same.
 - O. **T-SPLOST & Rails to Trails Walking Trail.** Mr. Lange said that the County's current T-SPLOST ends in 2020; that the region in which the County is located wants to extend the tax for another 10 years; that if such occurs, there is a distinct possibility that GDOT can use its funds to pave the balance of the Rails to Trails Walking Trail (aka Recreation Trail).
5. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Feagin, seconded by Mr. Smith, and passed unanimously.

Prepared by:

Craig Greenhaw, Chairman

Nancy McMichael, Recording Secretary