

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 21, 2010
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Joe Manning, Charles Wyatt.
Absent: 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 September 7, 2010, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Angie Hardy: Dogs and Leash Law.** Angie Hardy, citizen who lives on Gambel Court in Midland, appeared before the Board and said that she has been attacked by dogs in her neighborhood; that a neighbor was bitten by a pit bull and had to have stitches; that when she walks her dog, she has it on a leash; that she understands not having some type of leash law when you have a lot of acres, but when you are in a neighborhood where houses are relatively close together, there should be some type of law about keeping dogs from running loose and harassing people. She also said that when she was attacked by the dog, it was about 4 in the afternoon and could not get the Animal Control Officer, so she contacted the Sheriff's Office. Chairman Lange thanked Mrs. Hardy for her comments and said that the Board should be taking some type of action in the near future regarding leash laws.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Second Reading: Ordinance to Amend Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance.** Chairman Lange said that this was the second reading and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this ordinance. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing. Upon asking if any of the Commissioners had comments or questions, following discussion about various parts of the document, consensus was to correct a typographical error in definition #15 and delete definition #44 in Section 4-92, delete any other areas referencing definition #44, correct a typographical error in item 15 of Section 4-94 C, and changing "shall" to "may" in item 1 of Section 4-95 D. The motion to approve the Ordinance with the preceding changes was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Chairman Lange, and tabled by Commissioner Manning to the October 5 meeting in order to have a finished document to review before voting.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Proclamation: American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Day.** Chairman Lange read the document proclaiming September 22 as ABWA Day. The motion to approve the document was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.
6. **PUBLIC HEARING @ 7:30 PM**
 - A. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures.** Chairman Lange explained the procedures involved with the Public Hearing.
 - B. **Conflict of Interest Forms.** The Conflict of Interest forms were completed at the request of Chairman Lange.
 - C. **Application of Randy Feaster for Special Use Permit for Live/Work Unit (item #128) on 6.4 acres of Parcel 006, Map 024A, Land District 20, Land Lot 323, on property zoned C-4 and located at 16389 Georgia Highway 219, West Point; present use undeveloped; proposed use Live/Work Unit**

for Mini-Storage Facility (item #101). Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and read the specifications of the application, said that Zoning Staff had recommended approval, and that it had been suggested that if approved there should be a condition that either the mini-storage units are constructed first or that both the house and the mini-storage units are constructed simultaneously. Randy Feaster, applicant, was not present. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this Special Use Permit. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing. Commissioner Wyatt said that he has had several conversations with Mr. Feaster who currently lives with a relative; that Mr. Feaster has also been working with Becky Gray, Zoning Tech, and it was determined that the best way Mr. Feaster could run the mini-storage business was to live on-site. There was discussion, which included that the property had been rezoned to C-4 in 2001 for the purpose of constructing a mini-storage business and a possible RV park, but that nothing had yet been constructed; that the Board would prefer RV storage rather than an RV park; that because nothing had yet been constructed on the property since the 2001 rezoning, that a four-unit mini-storage building should be constructed first or in conjunction with the house being constructed; and that the conditions attached to the 2001 rezoning regarding lighting and buffer are to be followed. The motion to approve the Special Use Permit for Live/Work with the condition that either a four-unit mini-storage building be constructed first or that both a four-unit mini-storage building and the house be constructed simultaneously was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed with three in favor (Wyatt, Loudermilk, Lange) and one opposed (Manning).

7. **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

B. **Error & Release Requests and NODs.** Chairman Lange read the following Error and Release requests and NODs:

(1) **Error & Release Requests**

- (a) **Brown, Ronnie R. & Vicki L.:** Digest total of \$55,645 corrected to \$29,473 (should be land only; home added to wrong parcel)
- (b) **Dickerson, Robert E. & Shirlene L.:** Digest total of \$131,111 corrected to \$128,572 (swimming pool filled in)

(2) **NODs**

- (a) **Brown, Ryan C. & Ronald R.:** Digest total of \$15,810 corrected to \$41,979 (transferred home to this parcel - see (1)(a) above)
- (b) **Culpepper, James:** Digest total of zero corrected to \$7,992 (boat wasn't on digest)

The motion to approve the two Error & Release requests and the two NODs was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.

8. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Surplus Vehicles and Board of Education.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that from time to time, when the County has surplus vehicles that are no longer of any use to the County, the Board of Education (BOE) requests title to some of the vehicles; that the BOE has requested seven vehicles currently located at the County's Vehicle Maintenance Shop; that the BOE has four vehicles, which they previously received from the County, that are out of service and inoperable that they are willing to transfer back to the County; that the vehicles from the BOE could be sold for scrap with the County getting the revenue from same; and that he is requesting authorization to negotiate with the BOE regarding the surplus vehicles. The motion to authorize the County Manager to negotiate with the BOE regarding the County's surplus vehicles and the BOE's inoperable vehicles was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Pool Report.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, distributed information regarding the operation of the pool at FDR State Park this past summer, and he reviewed same, which showed revenues of \$49,857.49 and expenses of \$50,537.96, for a loss of \$680.47. There was discussion regarding the report. Regarding the future operation of the pool, the decision would be made if the County receives a request regarding same.
- C. **Georgia Power Agreement: Utility Relocation on Morgan Copeland Road at Washington Road.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the agreement is similar to the one received in connection with Moon Road and is estimated to be \$15,600; and that before the power poles are moved, the agreement must be returned to Georgia Power. Following a short discussion, the motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #10-31.)
- D. **Solid Waste: Job Description, Job Name Change, and Job Grade.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that a few weeks ago, an employee in Solid Waste retired and another employee transferred to that position, and the because the position was going to be changed, a new job description, job slot name change, and job grade would be prepared and brought to the Board for action. He said that the request is to change the job slot/position title from "Sanitation Route Coordinator" to "Assistant Sanitation Supervisor"; delete "Sanitation Route Coordinator" job description from the Personnel Classification, approve the job description for the "Assistant Sanitation Supervisor", which is a combination of the route coordinator, heavy equipment operator, and truck driver; and add the new job slot/position to Grade 21. The motion to approve the requests as reflected was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Mulberry Drive: Traffic County.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that a five-day traffic count (Monday - Friday) had been performed on Mulberry Drive, due to complaints received during the September 7 meeting, with the results showing a daily average of 634 vehicles; that between 7 AM and 8 AM there is an average of 100 vehicles; and that because of the high traffic count, he and the Public Works Director will look at alternatives to help reduce the number of vehicles and their speed.
- F. **West Point: Use of Animal Shelter.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the City of West Point has requested that it be allowed to bring stray dogs, whose ownership is unknown, to the County's Animal Shelter; that the City is willing to pay a nominal fee, to cover feed and euthanasia, for each animal; and that if there are no objections, an intergovernmental agreement will be drawn up for approval by both the City and the County. Following discussion, there were no objections to moving forward with an agreement.
- G. **City Inmates: Charging Municipalities.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that Sheriff Jolley had appeared before them during the September 7 meeting regarding the possibility of charging municipalities for the housing of their prisoners, and said that he has discussed this with the Sheriff; that two of the municipalities are currently contributing to the Fund; and that this is probably not the appropriate time to charge municipalities for housing of their prisoners. Discussion included that if medical expenses become an issue in connection with prisoners being held for municipalities, it may be necessary to approach the municipalities about same; that as of yet, medical expenses has not been an issue; and that at some point, the other two municipalities should be approached about adding the Jail Fund fee to their court costs. Consensus was not to move forward with charging municipalities for the housing of their prisoners at this time.

9. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Resolution: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the Resolution and explained same. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

10. **OTHER**

A. **Sewer Line for the Grove.** Commissioner Wyatt said that he is concerned about the County's expenses related to the sewer line for the Grove and would like to put a six-month moratorium on same. Following discussion, the motion for a six-month moratorium on County expenses related to the sewer line was made by Commissioner Wyatt, and seconded by Commissioner Manning. John Taylor, County Attorney, cautioned the Board about the possibility of violating the terms of the agreements with the Columbus Water Works and the Grove, and suggested that it might be wise to table action at least until the October 5 meeting in order to allow he and Danny Bridges, County Manager, to review the agreements. Commissioner Wyatt tabled action until October 5.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk