

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 6, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, Charles Wyatt. 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 August 16, 2011, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Bid Award Correction: Drives, Lot & Trail.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that a correction was necessary regarding the bid awarded during the August 16 meeting to Wolford Contracting for the amount of \$173,992.06; that when she had prepared the bid results, she had accidentally picked up the wrong bid amount from Robinson Paving's bid, which should have been \$163,075.50 rather than \$180,075.50; that a motion and action was needed to rescind the motion to award the bid to Wolford Contracting; and that another motion and action were needed to award the bid to Robinson Paving for \$163,075.50. The motion to rescind the bid award to Wolford Contracting in the amount of \$173,992.06 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. The motion to award the bid to Robinson Paving for the bid amount of \$163,075.50 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. For the record, the correct bid results are:

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT	ALTERNATE
Robinson Paving, Columbus, GA	\$ 163,075.50	\$ 205,675.50
Wolford Contracting, Fortson, GA	\$ 173,992.06	\$ 181,850.80

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Requests for Tax Refund.** Chairman Lange said that two Requests for Tax Refund had been received as follows:

- (1) **Callaway, Cason J., Jr.:** Refund request of \$36.82 due to purchasing a tag in July for a vehicle that was sold in February, and agreed to by Tax Commissioner. The motion to approve the refund of \$36.82 was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Langston, Lange, Woods) and one opposed (Wyatt).
- (2) **Terrell, Brad:** Refund request of \$300.07 due to not having received tax bill for newly purchased property, and agreed to by both the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors. The motion to approve the refund of \$300.07 was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Woods, Lange, Langston) and one opposed (Wyatt).

- B. **Application of Board of Commissioners to Amend the Text of the Zoning Ordinance, Articles II, IV & V, regarding Agri-Tourism, Farmers Market, and Fairs/Festivals.** Chairman Lange reminded the Board that the Public Hearings had been held and closed on this amendment and that action had been tabled to this meeting in order for the Board to review the amendment. He asked for comments. Commissioner Wyatt said that he would like to see the minimum acreage for Agri-Tourism at five acres with three acres of production; that he does not agree with closing activities one

hour before dusk/sunset or with limiting the size of a Farmers Market; and asked why fishing was a listed activity and then listed as not being permitted.

Commissioner Woods said that he would prefer to have Farmers Market and Fair/Festival back under Agri-Tourism rather than being stand-alone activities and commented that Christmas trees, according to the most recent version of the amendment, are to be “cut your own” rather than “pre-cut”. Chairman Lange said that something was needed in order to allow people to sell their produce and that of their neighbors. Commissioner Langston said that she would prefer to leave the minimum acreage at 10 acres. Commissioner Loudermilk said that he had problems with the whole amendment in that it appeared more problems had been created rather than solved and that the process should start over again. Commissioner Langston said that she agreed with Commissioner Loudermilk; that she had been contacted by several people in her district asking that she not vote for the amendment. Commissioner Woods commented that it has taken two and a half years for this topic to get to this point. Chairman Lange said that with the numerous changes that had been made to the original document, he too, was in agreement with starting over, and suggested that we start with amending the ordinance regarding a farmers market or something similar.

The motion to disapprove the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as presented, was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed by a vote of three in favor (Langston, Loudermilk, Lange) and two opposed (Woods, Wyatt).

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Agreement: School Resource Officer (ratification)**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that this agreement was discussed several meetings ago; that the document has been changed to reflect the current costs associated with the School Resource Officer; and that the Board of Education has agreed to pay 100% of the costs. He said that the agreement has been executed by the Board of Education, the Sheriff, and the Chairman, but same needs to be ratified by the Commissioners. The motion to ratify/approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #11-35.)
- B. **Sheriff’s Office: Grant through Governor’s Office of Highway Safety**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Sheriff’s Office is applying for a grant in the amount of \$15,000; that \$7,500 of that can be spent on law enforcement equipment in Harris County and the other \$7,500 is to be spent in the region to aid and encourage highway safety; that in the past, Muscogee County has been administering the grant, but with a change in staffing, it is no longer willing to do so, and Captain Armbrust of the Harris County Sheriff’s Office is willing to step up and handle the grant; that there is no match involved in the grant, which will continue year to year; and that the Commissioners’ office will have the account set up and handle the accounting for same. The motion to approve the grant application and use of same was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Agreement: Traylor Business Services**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that this agreement is to provide personal property verification services to audit various businesses, as required by the State; that it has performed such work for the County in the past; and that the cost will not exceed \$4,000. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #11-36.)
- D. **DOT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Transportation Enhance (TE) Grant for Rails to Trails (Railroad Recreation Trail)**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County had applied for a one million dollar grant to develop the Railroad Recreation Trail, the first phase of which is from Pine Mountain to Callaway Gardens; that the County has been

awarded \$512,473; that the preliminary engineering was done pro bono and may be counted toward the County's 20% match; that any funds the County may need to provide toward the match would have to come from Contingency. Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve the MOU was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #11-37.)

E. **Server for Tax Commissioner.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County's IT provider has recommended that the Tax Commissioner's server be replaced; and that the server works occasionally, and further delay may cause the Tax Commissioners' office to shut down. The motion to replace the server as proposed, with the funds not to exceed \$10,000, was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. Mr. Bridges explained that funds to pay for the server should be available from the recent personnel change within the Tax Commissioner's office.

F. **Community Center Sign.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that four drawings of the proposed Community Center sign have been provided for review; that the sign will be double-sided; and that a choice needs to be made because it is time to order the metal for the Community Center building and three of the four drawings include metal to match the building. Following discussion, drawing #1 was unanimously chosen as the Community Center sign.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** John Taylor, County Attorney, had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.

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

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk