

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
September 20, 2011  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, Charles Wyatt.  
Absent: Joey M. Loudermilk. 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 and said that Commissioner Loudermilk was out of town.
2. **MINUTES**. The motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
  - A. **John Rodgers: Property Rights and Definition of Zoning Matrix Item #40 (Civic, Social & Fraternal Organizations)**. John Rodgers, citizen, appeared before the Board and said he would like to know the definition of "civic, social & fraternal organizations" (Zoning Matrix Item #40). Discussion included that buildings for such organizations can be built on property zoned A-1, C-1, C-3 and C-4, and that terms not defined shall have the meaning customarily assigned to them. Following discussion, Mr. Rodgers was advised that he should have a meeting with the County Attorney and the County Manager regarding his issues.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Proclamation: American Business Women's Association Day (ABWA)**. Chairman Lange read the document proclaiming September 22 as ABWA Day. The motion to approve the document was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Financial Statement: July 2011**. The motion to approve the Financial Statement for July 2011 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
  - C. **Garbage Fees on Property Leased to Deer Hunters**. Commissioner Wyatt said that many owners of large tracts of timber lease their property to deer hunters who, in turn, bring in campers and old trailers for their deer camps, and those hunters, during hunting season, produce a lot of garbage, which goes into the County's waste facilities. He suggested that the County find a way to require such land owners to pay the annual garbage fee (currently at \$149 per year). Following a brief discussion, John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he would look at this matter and determine whether or not the County could charge such property owners.
  - D. **Railroad Recreation Trail: Proposal to Change Begin/End Points**. Commissioner Wyatt said that with the recent award of a TE Grant for a little over \$500,000, the County will not be able to make improvements to the 10 miles of the Railroad Recreation Trail; that we may be able to complete around 4 miles of the Trail; and he made a motion to make improvements to two two-mile sections, one beginning at First Peoples Bank in Pine Mountain and continuing two miles south, and the other beginning at the Performance Learning Center (the old Carver Resource Center/Middle School) in Hamilton and continuing two miles north. Danny Bridges, County Manager, suggested that the Board not vote on the motion at this time because the grant regulations may not allow such a change. Commissioner Wyatt withdrew his motion until such time as a determination is made regarding whether or not the project can be changed.
  - E. **Steeplechase and Alcohol**. Commissioner Wyatt said that the Steeplechase event is near, said that alcohol is served at the event, and

questioned whether or not the County gets the taxes from those sales and if the event is in violation of the County's Alcohol Ordinance. Following discussion, Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that he will meet with Tim Chason, Executive Vice President of Callaway Gardens, regarding the matter and report back to the Board.

- F. **Transportation SPLOST**. Chairman Lange brought the Board up to date on the status of the proposed Transportation SPLOST and the round-table meetings regarding same.
- G. **ACCG Board of Managers Meeting**. Chairman Lange said that the ACCG Board of Managers, of which he is a member, had their most recent meeting at Callaway Gardens; that Callaway Gardens did a good job in representing the County; and that ACCG was impressed by the facilities and is talking about returning for another meeting.
- H. **ACCG Centennial (100<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary**. Chairman Lange said that ACCG's centennial (100<sup>th</sup>) anniversary is in 2014; that he is on the planning committee to celebrate same; and that he would like suggestions from the Board.
- I. **ACCG Member Benefits**. Chairman Lange said that he is also on ACCG's member benefit committee and said there are several business partnerships that provide discount products and services to County officials and employees, which include Verizon, Dell, Enterprise, Gas South, FivePoint Solutions, and Shaw Flooring; and that there is discussion with a telecommunications service that can audit telecommunications systems for any savings at a cost of 50% of those savings, and may be something worth looking at.
- J. **DOT Connect Central Georgia Study**. Chairman Lange said that he will be attending a DOT meeting tomorrow in Macon regarding a study to assess existing and future transportation needs across the central part of the state.
- H. **Middle Chattahoochee Water Regional Council (MCWRD)**. Chairman Lange said that he and Commissioner Woods had attended the most recent, and hopefully, last meeting of the MCWRD and said that the final report from the Council should soon be forthcoming.

## 5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Courthouse HVAC System**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that he has obtained price estimates regarding the replacement of the control system of the Courthouse HVAC system, which would include software, hardware, and monitor and thermostat replacement, and that such estimates range from \$50,000 to \$80,000. He said that in order to move forward with the project, he needs permission to go out on bid. There were no objections to moving forward with the bid process.
- B. **Agreement w/River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC): Sign Inventory and Retroreflectivity**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Federal Government implemented, and then lifted, a requirement that all road signs be changed to a higher reflectivity by a specific date, and that such signs should be upgraded as necessary to the higher reflectivity. In that regard, he said that the agreement is for the RVRC to provide the software, training, and assistance in connection with sign inventory, which is something the County does not have, and is something that the County will probably eventually be required to do, and that the cost is \$5,000. Following discussion, the motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed with three in favor (Woods, Lange, Langston) and one opposed (Wyatt). (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" files as C&A #11-18.)
- C. **Agreement w/Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA): OneGeorgia Equity Fund Grant Agent**. Danny Bridges, County Manager,

said that the County could not apply for the OneGeorgia grant regarding the completion of the road in the Northwest Harris Business Park near JCI and Daehan; that the application was made through the VPJDA and indicated that the County would act as the implementing/administering agent; that the grant for \$500,000 was awarded to VPJDA; and that this document is for that purpose. Following discussion, the motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #11-39.)

D. **Water Heater at Jail: Use of Jail Funds.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that a water heater at the Jail had to be replaced and asked that approval be given for the use of Jail Funds to pay for same. The motion to use Jail Fund to pay for the new water heater was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

E. **Community Center: Proposed Change to Gym Floor.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that he has received a change order to come from the construction contingency to upgrade the gymnasium floor to a floor with less seams, with a 15 year material guarantee (rather than 10), and a 2-year installation guarantee (rather than a 1-year), for a cost of \$10,764, and that the project is well within its budget so the funds are there for this upgrade. Following discussion, the motion to approve the change as presented was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

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 Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk