

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

April 3, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Becky Langston, Joey M. Loudermilk, 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 March 20, 2012, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed with four in favor (Woods, Langston, Lange, Wyatt), no opposition, and one abstention (Loudermilk, who was absent on March 20).
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Amend Alcohol License Fee Schedule for Temporary Special Event License.**

Chairman Lange said that setting the alcohol license fee for Temporary Special Events was tabled to this meeting. Commissioner Langston made the motion to set the fee at \$300 and Chairman Lange seconded same. Commissioner Woods said that he would prefer a \$200 fee, Commissioner Wyatt said he would prefer a \$5,000 fee, and Chairman Lange said he would also prefer something closer to \$200. Commissioner Langston amended her motion to set the fee at \$200 per application, and Chairman Lange seconded the amended motion. The motion to set the fee at \$200 passed with four in favor (Langston, Lange, Loudermilk, Woods) and one opposed (Wyatt).
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Requests for Tax Refunds.** Chairman Lange read the Requests for Tax Refunds as follows:
 - (1) Allmond, George E.(2011). Refund amount of \$24.18 due to not having received a tax notice. Both the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agreed with the request because if new owner does not receive bill the first year's interest and penalty can be waived.
 - (2) Maisano, Peter (2012). Refund amount of \$186.02 due to having paid registration early then selling vehicle. The Tax Commissioner agreed because vehicle was sold 8 days after buying decal, but that the tag fee, which goes to the State, is not refundable. (Amount refundable is \$166.02.)
 - (3) Thornton, Nancy (2012). Refund amount of \$129.01 due to having traded vehicle on January 28 with tag never placed on vehicle. The Tax Commission disagreed because when vehicle is sold, it must be unregistered, which Ms. Thornton failed to do. (Amount refundable is \$109.01 since tax fee, which goes to State, is not refundable.)

The motion to approve the refund of \$24.18 for Mr. Allmond, a refund of \$166.02 for Mr. Maisano, and a refund of \$109.01 from Ms. Thornton was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Langston, Lange, Woods) and one opposed (Wyatt).
 - B. **First Reading: Amendment to Alcohol Ordinance for Sunday Sales by the Package and by the Drink on Premises.** Chairman Lange said that with the approval of the referendums on the March 6 ballot to allow Sunday sales of alcohol by the package and by the drink on premises, the Board must take action regarding same by amending the Alcohol Ordinance. He read the proposed changes to the Ordinance. Following a brief discussion, Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed amendment. There being none, he said that the Second Reading, with possible action, is scheduled for the April 17 meeting.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Renegotiation of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County must start renegotiation of the LOST, and that it should be prior to July 1. Following discussion, Mr. Bridges was directed to arrange for the Cities' Mayors and/or Council to attend the Commission Work Session on June 5.
- B. **Job Description, Pay Grade and Salary: Community Center Attendance, Community Center Technician, FDR Pool Operator, FDR Pool Technician, and Lifeguard**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that these five Recreation positions are necessary to run the Community Center and the FDR Pool. The motion to approve the job descriptions, and pay grade, and salaries was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. The following were approved:

POSITION	GRADE	SALARY
Community Center Attendant (PT)	20	\$ 9.50
Community Center Technician (FT)	23	\$ 12.85
FDR Pool Operator (Temp FT)	23	\$ 12.85
FDR Pool Technician (TEMP FT)	15	\$ 10.97
Lifeguard (PT)	5	\$ 8.00

(Note: See minutes of April 17 meeting during which the Job Grade for Community Center Attendant was corrected to 10.)

- C. **Vehicle for Sheriff's Office**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Sheriff would like to purchase a vehicle and its necessary equipment at an approximate total of \$30,000 and would like to have the vehicle paid from the Drug Fund. Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve the use of Drug Fund monies to purchase a vehicle and equipment for approximately \$30,000 was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- D. **FDR Pool: Requirement for Pool Deck Lights**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that he had been informed that there is a requirement for all public pools to install pool deck lights at 10 foot-candles and that he understands the cost will be roughly \$100,000; that he intends to have DNR add that to the improvements it will make to the pool before the County starts operating same; and if DNR will not make the improvements, the County may not open the pool.
- E. **Wellness Grant Application**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County can apply for a Wellness Grant for which the County could receive up to \$20 per employee in order to improve existing workplace health promotions and wellness programs; that the County applied for and received the grant last year and has used part of the fund to provide employees with various health related information and items. Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve applying for the Wellness Grant was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
- F. **Railroad Recreation Trail Status Update**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that DOT requires the County to request proposals from engineering firms in connection with funding for Transportation Enhancement project; that the County has received TE funding; that proposal requests will soon be mailed; and that following receipt of the proposals, the Board will be provided with the results in order to take action regarding same.
- G. **Northwest Harris Business Park Road Update**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the improvements to connect South Progress Parkway from JCI to Daehan are underway.
- H. **Daehan Update**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that Daehan is back up and running after its recent fire; that it is providing Kia will the necessary parts; and that it is also working to repair the damages to the building.
- I. **Request for Executive Session**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion personnel matters.
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS @ 7:30 PM**

- A. **Explanation of Public Hearings.** Chairman Lange explained the procedures involved with the Public Hearings.
- B. **Application of Harris County Commissioners to Amend the Zoning Ordinance, Article II (Definitions) and Article IV (Zoning District Objectives, Uses and Regulations), Section 2 (Permitted Uses in Zoning Districts) to clarify the definition of Farmers Market and to modify the parking requirements for Corn Maze and Educational Farm Tour.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and asked Danny Bridges, County Manager, to explain. Mr. Bridges said that the Board took action in January to amend the Zoning Ordinance to add Farmers Market, Corn Maze, Educational Farm Tours, and Farm Dinners; that following the amendment approval, questions were raised about the definition of Farmers Market and the parking requirements for Corn Maze and Educational Farm Tours; that the Board directed that amendment be made to those items; and that the proposed amendments are to clarify the definition of Farmers Market so that it can be no larger than 2,000 square feet, and to modify the parking requirements of Corn Maze and Educational Farm Tours so that only two parking spots per acre are required. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor. There being none, he asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. There were none. However, Lon Marlowe, citizen, said while his Corn Maze will be about 5 acres, his Educational Farm Tours could encompass 126 acres, which would require 63 parking spaces, to which Mr. Bridges indicated the County would not be counting the exact number of parking spaces.

There being no further comments, Chairman Lange closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion. The motion to approve the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues was made at 7:35 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
9. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange and passed unanimously.
10. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

Attest:

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk