

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

June 3, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, Charles Wyatt. Staff Present: Greg Wood, County Manager; John 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 May 20, 2014, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Budget FY 14/15 Public Hearing I.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and said that the Board has had three Work Sessions regarding the budgets, that this was the first of two hearings, and that Julia Slater, District Attorney, was present to further discuss her request for an additional Assistant District Attorney (ADA). Mrs. Slater thanked Chairman Lange for the opportunity to discuss her request. She explained that due to the caseloads, another ADA, solely for Harris County, is needed; that last year, she had asked for two ADAs and was given one, starting in January 2014; that a second ADA is necessary due to not only the caseload, but the back log of criminal cases; that it would also benefit the Magistrate and Probate courts; and that if approved, she is willing to pay the salary of the position for the first six months if the County will pick up the second six months. Consensus was to budget \$27,000 for salary with another \$3,000 for other costs for the second six months. Action regarding same will be taken during the next Budget Hearing.

Discussion also included that the software for the Sheriff's office will come from SPLOST; and that there will be a meeting with the County Manager, the Sheriff or his designee, and the EMS Director, regarding their vehicles' costs coming from SPLOST rather than the budget. In response to questions from Commissioner Langston, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the narcotics costs had been removed from the Animal Shelter budget; that costs for any work to be performed by an engineer would come from the appropriate department, but that at some point, the County will probably have to hire an engineer; that the (bank) checking fees for the Community Center had been researched and there is no reduced fee with the system that is in place; that while he has not discussed the issue with Debbie Marino, Head Librarian, he does not believe the County is required to increase salaries, but will talk with Mrs. Marino to make certain; that the issue of cutting the hours of Mike Rucker or Joe Negrete (Community Development) is no longer being pursued. Brian Williams, Community Development Director, said that the requested part-time person is needed to help Julie Oliver, at the front desk, with permits, licenses, and other duties; that his office issues approximately 1,100 to 1,200 business licenses a year and issued 142 new building permits last year. In response to Commissioner Langston's question about the Volunteer Fire Departments and SPLOST, Mr. Wood said that there is about \$620,000 left in the 2009 SPLOST, for which about \$350,000 is earmarked for the VFDs, and the 2013 SPLOST includes eight fire trucks and two brush trucks.

At this point, Chairman Lange suspended the Budget discussion in order to hold the scheduled Public Hearing.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING @ 7:30 PM**
 - A. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures.** Chairman Lange explained the procedures for the Public Hearing.
 - B. **Conflict of Interest Forms.** The Conflict of Interest forms were completed at the request of Chairman Lange.

- C. **Application of McKee, LLC, to rezone 26.052 acres of Land Lot 127, Land District 18, Map 084, portion of Parcel 112A, from A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry) to R-1 (Single Family Residential); present use farm/forestry; proposed use single family homes; property located at McKee Road, Upatoi.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and said that both the Planning Commission and the County Planner had recommended approval. Brian Barte, representing McKee, LLC, appeared before the Board, and said that the plan is to have 10 two-acre lots, 7 of which will be lake-front lots; and that the utilities are in place on McKee Road. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this rezoning application. There being none, he asked for questions or comments from the Board.

Discussion included that Mr. Barte is employed by another company owned by Mike Moon; and that while this property is part of a larger piece of property, for which a final plat had been approved but not recorded pending an issue with the road, one has no bearing on the other at this time.

There being no further comments or questions, Chairman Lange closed the Public Hearing. The motion to approve this rezoning application was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

5. **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

- A. **Budget FY 14/15 Public Hearing I (continued).** Chairman Lange asked if there were any other comments from the Board regarding the proposed budget. There being none, he asked if anyone in attendance wished to comment on the proposed budget. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing and said that the second Public Hearing will be on June 17, after which the Board will vote on the budget.

- B. **ACCG Civic Affairs Foundation, Inc.: Agreement for Internship Program Grant.** Chairman Lange said that an application had been made and the County had received a grant to hire an intern, beginning August 1, to help with putting the Zoning Maps on the GIS system. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement and said that the term of the agreement is from August 1 through December 31; that the rate of pay is \$10.00 per hour, although the County could add to that if it so desired; and he recommended same to the Board. Discussion included that the agreement is for 200 hours at \$10.00 per hour; that the County will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 in addition to a set amount for Workers' Compensation and FICA costs; that the preference is to hire someone who lives in the County; and that because putting the Zoning Maps on the GIS system will be a long-term project, it is hoped that the County can continue receiving internship grants for this purpose. Following discussion, the motion to approve this agreement, with the preference to hire someone who lives in the County, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #14-10.)

- C. **Financial Statement: April 2014.** Commissioner Langston asked that action be tabled pending receipt of the small funds and SPLOST information that is usually a part of the financial statements.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Hamilton Business Park Sign.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he had obtained a price quote and a sign design for the Hamilton Business Park from Sunshine Banners, who had been recommended by the Harris County Chamber of Commerce; that the quote is for a double-sided sign at a cost of \$6,554; that it will allow for up to eight signs for businesses that locate in the business park; and that it will have the County logo as well as "Hamilton Business Park" at the top. Discussion included that other proposals had not been obtained, and consensus was that other proposals should be obtained particularly from sign companies located in Harris County.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Option Agreement to Purchase 19 Acres from Fears Estate.** John Taylor, County Attorney, explained that the agreement, which has been executed, is for the option to purchase an additional 19 acres from the Fears Estate; that the property will be included in the Northwest Harris Business Park; and that in addition to approving the document, the County Manager should be authorized to move forward with the Phase I Environmental Study, which will be required by a prospective business for that location, and to have the property surveyed. The motion to approve the agreement and to authorize the County Manager to have the Phase I Environmental Study performed and the property surveyed, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Agreement can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #14-11.) (Phase I Environmental Study agreement can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #14-12.)

8. **OTHER**

- A. **Kings Gap CDBG Project.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt as to the progress on the Kings Gap project, Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that it is still in the materials advertising process.
- B. **Walking Trail (Railroad Recreation Trail).** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that we are waiting on a response from GDOT, and Chairman Lange said that GDOT has engaged Moreland Altobelli to work on this project, but they are not returning phone calls, and that he will be contacting someone at GDOT about same because, he, too, is becoming frustrated with the delay in this project.
- C. **Koch/JCG Foods.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he was still trying to find out who the contact is at Koch since the previous plant manager is no longer there.
- D. **AWOS.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that there was discussion about the AWOS this afternoon regarding the location of same; and that while the preference is to install it on the tower, there is indication that such may not be approved.
- E. **Airport Jumbo T-Hangar Status.** In response to a question from Chairman Lange, Bill Champion, Airport Manager, reported that the new Jumbo T-Hangar has been completed and inspected; that final approved by the Airport consultant it expected tomorrow; and that the hangars have been rented.
- F. **Georgia Highway 85 @ Highway 315 Project.** In response to a question from Commissioner Loudermilk, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the scheduled completion date is July 31.
9. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk