

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

November 18, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods.
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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Lange asked Martha Chewning to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, which she did.
3. **NEW COMMISSIONER.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the Board has the authority under local legislation to appoint someone to fill a vacancy on the Board if there is less than six months remaining in the term; that with the arrest and conviction of Charles Wyatt, there exists a vacancy for Commission District 1; that he has prepared a Resolution to appoint Martha Chewning to fill the vacancy through December 31, 2014; that should the Board approve the Resolution, Allen Levi, Probate Judge, will administer the appropriate oaths to Mrs. Chewning to complete the existing term; and that at the first of the year, Mrs. Chewning, having won the election as Commissioner of District 1, will take the appropriate oaths for her four-year term. The motion to approve the Resolution to appoint Martha Chewning to fill the vacancy on the Board as Commissioner for District 1 was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. Probate Judge Allen Levi then administered the oaths of office.
4. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2014, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Commissioner Langston asked that a correction be made to the 7th paragraph of 7C, so that it reads that she “is not opposed to the Special Use Permit classification, but is opposed in this instance”. With that correction, the motion passed unanimously.
5. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Scott Moye: JCG/Koch Foods Issues.** Scott Moye, citizen, appeared before the Board concerning the issues he has with JCG/Koch Foods. Discussion between Mr. Moye and the Board included that the County needs to purchase the necessary supplies, at an approximate cost of \$350, in order to perform tests on the stream on Mr. Moye’s property and behind the JCG/Koch plant, since the RVRC does have the supplies to perform the tests. The motion to purchase the necessary supplies at an approximate cost of \$350 was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. Discussion continued and included that Chairman Lange will contact the Plant Manager to set up a meeting in order to introduce Martha Chewning, Commissioner of District 1, to him; that future meetings should probably include not only Chairman Lange and Commissioner Chewning, but also Greg Wood, County Manager, and Mr. Moye.
 - B. **Bobby Haralson: JCG/Koch Foods Issues.** Bobby Haralson, citizen, appeared before the Board and congratulated Martha Chewning on being appointed to the Commission and on winning the election, even though he did not vote for her since he votes straight Republican ticket; that he still does not have gas for which he signed up (the gas line installed for JCG/Koch and offered to others); and that traffic was tied up on GA Highway 354 at Kings Gap Road for three hours recently due to a truck (from JCG/Koch traveling north on Hwy 354) that could not make the turn, and it’s not if but when someone will be killed there. Commissioner Chewning said that she had talked to DOT; that Sam Wellborn is very aware of the situation; that DOT believes legislation is necessary to stop specific vehicles from using public State roads; and that DOT is working on specific signage to show how the turn should be made in order to avoid such situations. Mr. Haralson suggested that the County petition DOT for the road to become a County-maintained road, as it was back in the mid 70s. Greg Wood, County Manager, is to contact Mr. Haralson about suggestions for the road.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Resolutions & Agreements w/GEBCorp: 401(a) Defined Contribution, 457 (b) Deferred Compensation, and Administrative Services.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that, as directed, meetings were held for employees so that they would be aware of the proposed changes. Chairman Lange explained that the County has its retirement plans with three

companies; that the proposal is to combine the plans under one company, GEBCorp, an ACCG company, who would administer the plans and be better able to provide assistance to employees regarding their retirement; that the change will ultimately save employees slightly less than \$27,000 in fees; that a few employees will see a slight increase in their fees until their retirement savings reach the breakeven point, which is estimated to be \$10,000. Paul Bates, GEBCorp Client Manager for Harris County, was present to respond to any questions from the Board. Discussion included that implementation of the proposal is scheduled for the first part of February 2015; that Mr. Bates will be visiting the County on a monthly basis not only to meet with new employees, but with employees who have retirement issues they need to discuss; and that employees will be made aware of the various types of investments that are available to them. Following discussion, the motion to approve the two Resolutions and the three Agreements was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. [Agreements can be found in Contracts & Agreements file as C&A #14-35 [401(a)]; #14-36 [457(b)]; and #14-37 (Administrative Services).]

- B. **Resolution: Trails Grant.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he is requesting to apply for a \$100,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Trail Grant Program; that the funds would be used to build a bridge, estimated at \$134,000, in Ellerslie Park; that the bridge will provide better access to various parts of the park and reduce the amount of time it takes to get from one side of the lake to the other; and that in order to apply for the grant, a resolution is needed. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Requests for Tax Refund: Taft's Construction.** Chairman Lange said that two requests had been received from Taft's Construction for refunds of \$171.96 for a 1991 Peterbilt Truck and \$29.07 for a 1993 International 4000 Series truck; that the reason for the requests is that the tags were paid for in Harris County, but that when they went to Atlanta to renew the IRP tags, they had to pay them again; and that the Tax Commissioner agrees with the requests. Commissioner Chewning said that she had talked to the Tax Commissioner and understands that the State is to send the taxes to the County. The motion to approve the two requests was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Financial Statement: September 2014.** The motion to approve the September 2014 financial statement was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed with four in favor (Langston, Woods, Lange, Loudermilk), no opposition, and one abstention (Chewning).
- E. **T-SPLOST Update.** Chairman Lange said that he had recently received a report from the River Valley Regional Commission regarding the T-SPLOST; that the three regions that have the tax are experiencing less revenue than projected; that Harris County is experiencing about 14% less than expected; and that the County currently receives about \$100,000 per month.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Request for Vehicle Use: Cataula VFD.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that request had been received from the Cataula VFD about having the use of the Chevrolet Blazer that had recently been turned in, but that after determining there were several issues with that vehicle, they are requesting that they be given the use of a future vehicle better suited to their needs; that the vehicle will be used to transport personnel to training or to emergency scenes, rather than using personal vehicles. Following discussion, the motion to approve lending a vehicle to Cataula VFD, when a vehicle that suits their needs becomes available, was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Personnel: Reclassification of Position in Tax Assessor's Office.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the Tax Assessor has requested that the "Appraiser/GIS" position in his office be reclassified to that of "Appraiser" only; that it is difficult to find someone with both appraiser and GIS training for the position; and that the savings in the salary can be used toward the creation of a future GIS position that could be utilized by several departments or, until that occurs, used to have an outside source do the property splits. Discussion included that several departments can utilize GIS, and that same will be discussed in the future. Following discussion, the motion to approve reclassifying the Appraiser/GIS slot to Appraiser was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

- C. **AWOS: Purchase, Installation & First Year's Maintenance**. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the license for the AWOS has been applied for, but that due to the time it takes to issue a license it was suggested that the County move forward in ordering the necessary equipment so that it will be here when the license is issued; that the cost for the equipment is \$86,429. The motion to approve ordering the AWOS equipment was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Chairman Lange. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he had concerns with some of the wording in the General Conditions of Sale, General Conditions of Service, and General License Conditions documents that in particular, the location for arbitration for the Sale and the Service documents is in Colorado, and for the License document it is in Helsinki, Finland; and that liability is limited to the purchase price of the equipment. Commissioner Chewning suggested that the disclaimer regarding the software be further reviewed. Following discussion, Commissioner Langston tabled action until the issues are resolved.
- D. **Carlisle Services: Change Order #1 for Cattleman's Building**. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that a change order, in the amount of \$11,417.79, regarding the Cattleman's Building is to add vinyl faced laminated insulation to the building; that it needs to be put in before the metal is put on; that it had not been included with the bid because the County was going to use spray-in insulation, but that turned out to be too expensive. Discussion included that additional change orders are not anticipated because the County will be finishing the interior of the building. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Change Order #1 was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in Contracts & Agreements file as C&A #14-40.)
- E. **Retreat Planning & Facilitator**. Greg Wood, County Manager, asked if there was interest in having a planning retreat for the Board and to have a facilitator for same. Following discussion, which included there would be no cost to the County, there were no objections to moving forward with setting up a planning retreat.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Agreement: Gordy Construction for Sanitary Sewer Project for the Grove**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that this document is for the construction of the sanitary sewer to serve The Grove, a development of Mulberry Grove Development; and that it is in the amount of \$3,412,423.12. He also explained that the Notice to Proceed (NTP) would not be issued until after the Revenue Bonds have been issued; that it is to be completed within 240 consecutive days after the issuance of the NTP; that the County will have to adopt an ordinance that is consistent with that of Columbus Water Works and which would apply not only to this project but to any other project where water will be purchased from Columbus; that he has drafted the Ordinance to present to the Board within the next 30 days; that the County will also have to create a Special Tax District, and he has drafted the appropriate document for that for consideration by the Board. Discussion included that there is no cost to the County for the project; that the developer is paying for same; and that the County will ultimately be the owner of the sewer lines. Following discussion, the motion to approve the execution of the agreement with Gordy Construction was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #14-38.)
- B. **Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Revenue Bonds by the Public Improvements Authority and the Execution of Related Documents**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the documents are in connection with the Sanitary Sewer Project for The Grove, a development of Mulberry Grove Development; that the bond amount is \$5.4 million; and that the required advertisement should take place December 4 and 11, with validation expected by the 15th. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that included in the Bonds is the cost for the ductile iron pipe. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Resolution was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition and/or disposition and personnel was made at 8:27 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to resume the Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

11. **OTHER**

A. **Animal Control Officer Salary Change**. The motion to approve offering the rate of \$12.00 per hour for a full-time Animal Control Officer was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

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

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk