

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 16, 2014
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey 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 led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, which they did.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014, Regular Session and the Dog Classification Appeal of Charles T. Haskell, III, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
4. **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 water tests showed that everything in the water is within the EPD standards; that JCG has converted over to gas and are no longer burning the cardboard; that JCG has indicated they may start burning off the methane gas from the retention ponds, which should help reduce the odor; that the noise is still loud, even with the conversion to gas; that the trucks still blow their horns; that the next time Chairman Lange goes to Buena Vista for a meeting (in January or February), he will arrange to visit the Tyson plant to see what it does differently; that EPD's testing methods are for 48 hours after a rain, but the runoff starts immediately and includes all the build up of possible contaminants from the trucks, which runs directly onto Mr. Moye's property; that EPD won't really get involved until the limits (of contaminants in the water) exceed their standards; and that efforts to get the issues resolved need to continue until everything is resolved.
 - B. **Bobby Haralson: JCG/Koch Foods Issues.** Bobby Haralson, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that there are three areas where water drains from the plant- one from the plant to across the highway to the Moye property, one from the ponds into Fort Creek, and one just beyond the recently purchased 15 acres that eventually runs into Fort Creek; and that the plant uses 1,000 gallons per minute from Pine Mountain Valley and County water systems and eventually ends up on the 18-acre hay field, which can't absorb all the liquid. Regarding the issue of trucks trying to make the sharp turn on Highway 354, discussion included that Mr. Haralson has not heard from anyone about it; that the signs are not up yet, but should be soon; that while the signs won't solve the problem, they will warn drivers about it; and that if truckers miss the other sharp left turn from Highway 354 onto Highway 116, they end up turning right, going to the next intersection and turning around on someone's property. Mr. Haralson concluded by saying the 2015 is the year that Pine Mountain Valley will take control.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Request from Direct Services for Additional Funding.** Chairman Lange said that Scott Bryan, Executive Director of Direct Services, and Paula Walker, the manager of the Harris County Senior Center, were present to respond to explain the \$1,500 request. Mr. Bryan thanked the Board for their consideration and Ms. Walker distributed material regarding Direct Services. Mr. Bryan reviewed the handout material and responded to questions from the Board as to what Direct Services does for the Senior Citizens of the County and included that while they get 90% of their funding from Federal and State funds, the remaining 10% must come from counties, private organizations and individuals. Following discussion, Chairman Lange said that while the request was for an additional \$1,500 in funding, he is very familiar with what services are provided by Direct Services to our Senior Citizens, and then made the motion to approve additional funding in the amount of \$2,500. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Status of Road Paving (of 10 Roads).** In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he is working on the title searches for the 10 roads; that he should have the deeds ready for at least two of the roads by mid-January; and that he is performing the searches based on the priority listing of the roads.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Sewer Ordinance: Reading and Adoption.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reminded the Board that as part of the intergovernmental agreement with Muscogee County Water Works, the County must adopt a sewer ordinance, which mirrors that of Muscogee County, in connection with The Grove development; that the ordinance had been briefly discussed during the December 2 meeting; that some minor changes had been made since the December 2 meeting; and that he recommended approval of same. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Notification of Document Changes.** Commissioner Langston requested that if any revisions are made to documents that have been previously provided to the Board on which the Board is to take action, that those changes be provided to the Commissioners before such action is taken. She said that if the other Commissioners do not want such changes, she does. There were no objections to having such revisions provided to the Board members.
- C. **Workplace Wellness Policy.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that the policy is a requirement of the Wellness Grant the County recently received and sets out what the County plans to offer employees in connection with their health and well being. Following discussion, the motion to approve the policy was made by Commissioners Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found "Miscellaneous Documents" as MD #14-23.)
- D. **Tax Refund Request: Sidney M. Faress.** Chairman Lange said that a refund request had been received from Sidney M. Faress in the amount of \$455.00 due to excess tax payments for the last three years resulting from an incorrect initial survey; and that the Board of Tax Assessors disagreed with the request because the square footage was based on the best available information at the time. Discussion included if "survey" referred to the building permit or to property assessment; and if the square footage discrepancy was due to a County error or to a property owner error. Following discussion, action was tabled until further information can be obtained and provided to the Board.
- E. **Plan Documents for 457(b) Verification.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that in reviewing the recently approved 457(b) document, she noticed two differences from the previous version as to who is eligible to participate - one being "all employees" versus "full time employees" and the other including the State Court Judge, Superior Court Judge, Juvenile Court Judge, Solicitor or Solicitor General, District Attorney, and Extension Agents in the new version. Commissioner Loudermilk recused himself from discussion and any possible action due to being a Juvenile Court Judge. Following discussion, which included that only the participants invest funds and that the County makes no contributions, there were no objections to including "all employees" and the various elected or appointed officials listed above.
- F. **Radar List Update.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that from time to time, the County revises the radar list, which is necessary in order for the Sheriff's deputies to run radar on roads, and that the last time any changes were made was in 2010. Discussion included that there were some discrepancies between the current radar list and the posted speed limit signs; and that there may be more roads to add to the list. Consensus was to table this matter and for the Commissioners to notify Mrs. McMichael of any other roads to add to the list and then once compiled, bring back to the Board for approval to send to DOT.
- G. **Appointments/Reappointments.** Chairman Lange said that several appointments or reappointments are necessary, as follows:
- (1) **Agri-Center Board.** The terms of Alan Feagin, Jim Fuller and Kim Mobley expire December 31, 2014, and the Agri-Center Board has recommended that all three individuals be reappointed for a new term ending December 31, 2017. The motion to reappoint these individuals as recommended was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
 - (2) **Development Authority.** The terms of Mark Smith (at large) and Ben Williams (District 4) expire December 31, 2014, and both have consented to reappointment for a new term ending December 31, 2018. The motion to reappoint these two individuals was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

- (3) Family & Children Services. A reminder that the DFCS Board has requested that Charles Trammel be replaced due to lack of attendance, and that his term ends June 30, 2017. Commissioner Woods commented that the DFCS Board would not approve the person he nominated, and six other people he has asked have not agreed to appointment.
- (4) Health, Board of. The appointment of Greg Wood to replace Wendy Cole, with a term ending with the term of the Commission Chairman. The motion to appoint Mr. Wood to the Board of Health was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- (5) Library Board. The terms of Warren Aldrich, Maurine Avery, Elaine Bell, and Harry Lange expire December 31, 2014, and the Library Board has recommended reappointment for a new term ending December 31, 2017. The motion to reappoint these four individuals as recommended was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

As a side note, Chairman Lange announced that Debbie Marino, Chief Librarian, will be retiring around the first of the year, and that her replacement will be chosen by the Troup/Harris Regional Library Board.

- (6) Planning Commission. The terms of John Britt (District 3) and Willie Rutledge (at large) expire December 31, 2014, and that while Mr. Britt has consented to reappointment, Mr. Rutledge has not. The motion to reappoint Mr. Britt to the Planning Commission with a term ending December 31, 2018, was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. Commissioner Langston said that she had someone in mind as a replacement for Mr. Rutledge, but was not ready to make a motion at this time. Chairman Lange said that he also had a couple of individuals in mind for the position.
- (7) Recreation Board. The terms of Mike Fuson (Waverly Hall YSA), Jairo Gay (Pine Mountain YSA), Chuck Herndon (at large), and Cyndee Redmond (Cataula YSA) expire December 31, 2014, and that Mr. Fuson has not agreed to be reappointed as Waverly Hall's representative, that Mr. Gay has consented, that Mr. Herndon has not consented, and that Ms. Redmond has consented. The motion to appoint Purvis Chapman as the Waverly Hall YSA representative, to reappoint Jairo Gay as the Pine Mountain YSA representative, to appoint Mike Fuson in the at large position, and to reappoint Ms. Redmond as the Cataula YSA representative for terms ending December 31, 2017, was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- (8) Tax Assessors, Board of. The term of Rick Norris expires December 31, 2014, and the Board of Tax Assessors has recommended that Mr. Norris be reappointed for a new term ending December 31, 2018. The motion to reappoint Mr. Norris as recommended was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- (9) Zoning Adjustments, Board of. A reminder that Billy Collins resigned some time ago; that his term expires September 30, 2017; and that an appointment should be made by the Commissioner of District 1. Commissioner Chewning said that she did not have an individual to recommend at this time.

H. **Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedule for 2015.** The motion to approve the Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedule for 2015 was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Note: Due to the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Special Use Permits, the same schedule is now used for both Rezonings and Special Use Permits.)

I. **Request from Sgt. Raines, Georgia State Patrol.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that she had received a call from Sgt. Raines with the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) requesting that they be permitted to purchase tablets from Staples for use by troopers in dealing with traffic stops and accidents and reminded the Board that it had approved \$12,000 in the budget for the GSP to use toward the completion of the new GSP building for anything except landscaping and irrigation. Following discussion, consensus was to get a little more information as to the use of the tablets and if the GSP was finished with their new building.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Airport Security System.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he had obtained proposals from two companies regarding a security system at the Airport; that such a system is needed to help deter unauthorized access to Airport facilities; that the system includes cameras, monitor, DVR for recording; that one part will be designated for the hangars and the other for the terminal and fuel farm; and that the quote from A-COM is \$6,574 and from Integrated Security Systems is \$8,573. Following discussion, the motion to approve the purchase of the security system from A-COM for \$6,574 as well as the additional three year warranty (at \$26.07 per month for 36 months beginning one year after installation), was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

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

9. **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