

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

November 17, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey Loudermilk, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Greg Wood, 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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Lange, Lynn Sanders lead those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Cathy & Rickey Flournoy: Washington Road Progress.** Cathy & Rickey Flournoy, citizens, appeared before the Board regarding the progress on the Washington Road project. Mrs. Flournoy said that work has begun on the project; that the company was working on Saturday; that the project did not get finished by October 31 as had been previously indicated nor will it be finished by November 30. She asked when the project will be completed, and Greg Wood, County Manager, responded that because the bidding companies indicated they needed 180 days for the project, there are about 165 days left, and that ultimately depends on the weather. He then briefly discussed the Super El Nino weather pattern currently being experienced and indicated harsh weather could be ahead. Mrs. Flournoy continued by saying that she had prepared a chronology of the events leading up to getting the road work done; that it took eight months to get right-of-way deeds completed; that it appears that the right-of-way deeds, as well as other work, could have been done faster; and that the County should consider moving forward with the necessary right-of-way deeds for other roads (on the paving list) and getting them signed and recorded so that the actual road work could begin sooner. Chairman Lange thanked Mrs. Flournoy for her comments.
 - B. **Bobby Haralson: Washington Road Progress.** Bobby Haralson, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that letting a bid for road work in the fall does not make sense due to upcoming winter weather which could further delay the project. Chairman Lange thanked Mr. Haralson for his comments.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Alcohol Ordinance Amendments (as Proposed by Steve Kennedy for Lake Harding Marina Restaurant).** Commissioner Loudermilk said that the Board should decide whether or not to move forward with considering amendments to the Alcohol Ordinance, specifically for distance to residences and for parking spaces. Discussion included that amending the ordinance for a specific business would not be a good idea; that regarding the distance to a residence, allowing the homeowner to agree to waive the distance requirement takes the decision away from the Board; that parking spaces need to be addressed, whether by eliminating same from the Alcohol Ordinance and going by what the Zoning Ordinance stipulates for restaurants (1 space per 200 SF of floor space) or better defining it. Commissioner Loudermilk said that it was his idea about allowing a homeowner to waive the distance requirements, but that he has now changed his mind in that a waiver should not be involved. Other comments included replacing "residence" with "residential lot" regardless of whether or not a house is located on same for distance purposes; and that state law stipulates 200 yards from schools and 100 yards from churches, it makes no mention of residences. Following discussion, John Taylor, County Attorney, was directed to draft the appropriate amendments for First Reading during the December 1 meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Belva Dorsey: Enrichment Services Program Update.** Chairman Lange said that Ms. Dorsey was unable to be present due to a death in her family.
- B. **Requests for Tax Refund.** Chairman Lange read the three (3) requests for tax refund, as follows:
- (1) **Blasingame, Robert M., Sr.:** Refund of \$102.37 (interest and penalty) due to not having received a return or statement, which were sent to the wrong address due to improper notification by the Post Office. Both the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agreed with the request.
 - (2) **O'Boyle, Rhoda:** Refund of \$180.42 due to having paid the ad valorem tax and then selling the car before her birthday. The Tax Commissioner agrees, but the Board of Tax Assessors disagreed.
 - (3) **Woodcraft by MacDonald:** Refund of \$56.54 due to having paid the ad valorem tax in error as the vehicle had previously been sold. Both the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agreed with the request.

The motion to approve all three (3) requests was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Proposals, Quotes & Bids: Proposed Changes.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the County's limits regarding proposals, quotes and bids is somewhat outdated and should be updated to not only reduce the amount of time it takes to make a purchase but to save money by not having to advertise. Following discussion, which included Commissioner Langston requesting that the \$25,000 limit for written quotes and for sealed bids be reduced to \$15,000, consensus was that the range for written quotes should be from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and that sealed bids would be required for purchases over \$15,000, and to have the First Reading during the December 1 meeting.
- B. **Sway Bracing for Oak Mountain Bridge.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that guidelines have changed for school buses and with that, the Board of Education has had to reroute the bus that normally travels Oak Mountain Road to detour through Shiloh; that GDOT has indicated that sway bracing will satisfy the requirements for the bridge; and that based on conversations he has had with bridge contractors, such work could be accomplished for less than \$10,000. He said that because time is of the essence in this matter and the estimated costs exceed the County's current requirement for quotes, that he be authorized to solicit written quotes for the sway bracing work on Oak Mountain bridge. Following discussion, the motion to approve the solicitation of written quotes for the sway bracing work on Oak Mountain bridges, with a cost not to exceed \$10,000, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Ag Building Rates & Rules: Proposed.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that rates and rules are needed for the recently completed Ag Building and that suggestions had been drafted as a starting point. Discussion included that the rental rate should be higher than \$50; that the damage, setup and clean up fees should be combined to about \$100 to \$125, and a separate deposit fee; that "ceilings" should be included as something not to be defaced (in item 2c); that perhaps there should be a cancellation fee; and that the returned check fee should be better explained, perhaps using wording from the state criminal statute. Following discussion, consensus was to make the suggested changes and bring back for further discussion during the December 1 meeting.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **MOU with GDOT: Rails to Trails Project (PI#0010615)**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the MOU before the Board is to extend the time frame for the Rails to Trails project, which is the railroad recreation trail to June 30, 2019; and that part of the reason the work hasn't already been accomplished under the current MOU is due to lack of funding by GDOT. Following discussion, the motion to approve this MOU was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" as C&A #15-38.)

B. **Request for Executive Session**. John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition or disposition, litigation, and personnel matters.

13. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition or disposition, litigation, and personnel matters was made at 8:08 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

14. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

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

Attest:

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk