

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

January 5, 2016

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 those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** Commissioner Chewning asked that the minutes of December 15 be corrected regarding the appointment of Jayson Johnston to the Development Authority [item 6.C.(2)]. After some discussion, she then made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015, Regular Session, to reflect that the appointment of Jayson Johnston to the Development Authority was due to him being president of the Chamber and being able to reflect the Chamber's interests on the Authority. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods and passed unanimously.
4. **ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION**
 - A. **Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman and Appointment of County Attorney & County Clerk.** The motion to re-elect or to re-appoint Harry Lange as Chairman, Joey Loudermilk as Vice-Chairman, John Taylor as County Attorney, and Nancy McMichael as County Clerk was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Appointments: Housing Authority, MHDDAD Board, and Board of Zoning Adjustments.** Chairman Lange said appointments to the Housing Authority, the Mental Health, Development Disabilities & Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD), and Board of Zoning Adjustments had been tabled to this meeting. He asked if there were any motions for appointments. There being none, Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that she would not place the appointments back on the agenda until she is notified of same, and that she was notified by the Housing Authority today that because O.C. Stiggers has not been attending meetings nor has he been in communication with the Housing Authority, someone should also be appointed in his place. Commissioner Loudermilk said that he will be ready to make the appointment to the Board of Zoning Adjustments at the January 19 meeting.
- B. **Bid Award: Cab & Chassis w/20 Cubic Yard Rear Loading Compactor Body.** Chairman Lange said that action was tabled on this bid award in order for Ronnie Duke, Solid Waste Supervisor, to attend this meeting to discuss his recommendation to award to the high bidder. Mr. Duke appeared before the Board and said that he has since changed his mind because he found out that the low bid vehicle is compatible with the software we have. The bids meeting specs were:

Company	Make & Model	Bid Amount
Peterbilt, Albany, GA	Peterbilt 365 w/New Way Cobra compactor	\$ 170,189
Peterbilt, Albany, GA	Peterbilt 365 w/Loadmaster Legacy compactor	\$ 167,409
Transpro, Albany, GA	Kenworth T440 w/Loadmaster Legacy compactor	\$ 152,260

Based on Mr. Duke's recommendation, the motion to award the bid to Transpro of Albany for \$152,260 was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Springsted Compensation & Classification Study Status.** In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, Greg Wood, County Manager, reported that the study is almost complete. There was discussion about scheduling a work session to discuss the study with the consensus being that the document is to be provided to the Board, a Work Session is to be called a week later, and action taken by the Board at the Regular Session next following.

- D. **Fire Master Plan Status.** Chairman Lange and Commissioner Langston reported that prior to tonight’s meeting they had met with the consultants conducting the Fire Master Plan; that the consultants are awaiting info about the 911 CAD system; and that the plan should be ready within the next two months.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Resolution: Corps of Engineers Flow Targets for Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River.** Chairman Lange explained that the Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Commission is requesting that cities and counties adopt resolutions to be sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the need for flow targets for the Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River; and that while Georgia, Florida and Alabama have agreed to specific flow targets the Corps of Engineers has ignored same. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Harris-Gray Proposal: Ground Run Topo and Stream & Wetlands Designation.** Chairman Lange said that Harris-Gray, formerly Farner Barley, has performed surveys and topos in the Northwest Harris Business Park, that such is required on a 25-acre parcel due to interest in the parcel, and that the cost will be \$14,000. Following discussion, which included minor changes to be made to the document and that funds would come from SPLOST Economic Development, the motion to approve the proposal agreement with the changes was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #16-01.)

- C. **Harris-Gray Proposal Agreement: Mass Grade Construction & Erosion Control Plans.** Chairman Lange said that Harris-Gray has proposed to perform the necessary mass grade construction plans and mass grade erosion control plans and permitting regarding the 25-acre parcel in the Northwest Harris Business Park, and that the cost would be \$7,000. Following discussion, which included minor changes to be made to the document and that funds would come from SPLOST Economic Development, the motion to approve the proposal agreement with the changes was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #16-02.)

- D. **Qualifying Fees for Upcoming Election.** Chairman Lange said that the State law requires the Commissioners to set the qualifying fees for elected officials and to publish same no later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan primary or general election is to be held; and that the fees are 3% of the base salary for all positions except the School Board and the Coroner for which the fees are 3% of the gross paid the previous year. The fees are:

Commissioners (districts 4 & 5)	\$ 315
Magistrate, Chief	\$ 1,591
Probate Judge	\$ 1,591
Sheriff	\$ 1,943
Superior Court Clerk	\$ 1,591
Tax Commissioner	\$ 1,591
Coroner	\$ 360
School Board (districts 1, 3, 4 & 6)	\$ 72

The motion to set the qualifying fees as shown above was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

- E. **Resolution to Adopt Policies Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources.** Chairman Lange said that it is being mandated by the State that the County adopt policies to protect natural and cultural resources, more specifically FDR State Park and Blanton Creek Wildlife Management Area. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that 23 policies were provided from which to choose; that it was narrowed down to 9; that one (#7) may or may not be applicable to this resolution; and that all are currently included in the County’s Comprehensive Plan. Following discussion, the motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Chairman Lange. Commissioner Chewning said that she did not think item #7 was applicable, but Commissioners Loudermilk and Langston and Chairman Lange disagreed. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. **Passing Lanes on Georgia Highway 219/River Road.** Commissioner Langston said that she had attended a GDOT meeting regarding the plans to construct passing lanes (two northbound and one southbound) on Georgia Highway 219 using TIA funds; that the lane will be between Luther Land Bridge (in Muscogee County) and Happy Hollow Road (in Harris County); that the plan was initially approved in 2000; that the project will be let in 2019 and is scheduled for completion in 2020.
- G. **GDOT and Bridges.** Chairman Lange said that he had attended a GDOT meeting regarding House Bill 170; that GDOT expects to receive \$1 billion more than expected; that GDOT's attention will be on bridges; and that GDOT is considering increasing LMIG funding to counties.
- H. **November Financial and SPLOST Report.** In response to a question regarding the November financial statement and SPLOST report, Paul Glick, Finance Officer, said that the financial statement is ready but the SPLOST report will take a little longer. The November financial statement will be provided to the Board tomorrow.
- I. **Extreme Weather Conditions & Employee Responsiveness.** Commissioner Langston said that she wanted to thank the employees who worked diligently over the Christmas holidays to repair damages to county property as a result of the extreme rainfall. The other Commissioners also expressed their thanks for same.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **SPLOSTS of 1999 and 2004.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that during the next meeting he plans to request the Board take action to closeout the 1999 and 2004 SPLOSTS.
- B. **Road Repair Status.** As a result of the extreme rainfall experienced during the Christmas holidays, it was reported that Orchard Road has been repaired, Macedonia Church Road has been repaired, Lower Blue Springs Road should be repaired by the end of this week, Emily Drive has been repaired, and the issues in Melody Lakes have been addressed. In addition, Chairman Lange said that GDOT was able to make repairs to US 27, which washed out due to the rainfall, within 24 hours of the damage.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Request for Executive Session.** John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real property and pending or potential litigation.
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real property and potential or pending litigation was made at 7:50 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session at 8:15 PM was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

Attest:

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk