

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

August 1, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Jim Woods, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.
2. **RECESS TO CONTINUE PUBLIC HEARING II - TAXPAYERS BILL OF RIGHTS.** Chairman Lange recessed the Regular Session to continue Public Hearing II - Taxpayers Bills of Rights regarding setting the millage rate.
3. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION FOR PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 PM.** Chairman Lange reconvened the Regular Session at 7:30 PM in order to hold the scheduled Public Hearing for a Zoning Text Amendment.
 - A. **Public Hearing Procedures.** Chairman Lange explained the Public Hearing procedures.
 - B. **Application of Blanchie Mae Hudson to amend the Text of the Zoning Ordinance, Article II (Definitions) and Article IV, Section 2 (Permitted Uses in Zoning District), item 112 (Nursing Home) to add "Personal Care Home, Assisted Living".** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and said that it had been recommended for approval by both the Planning Commission and Staff. Blanchie Mae Hudson, applicant, was not in attendance. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that she understood the reason for the text amendment is because Ms. Hudson wants to open a "personal care" or "assisted living" home, but she can't get approval from the State to do so because the County's ordinance does not include "personal care" or "assisted living" homes; that if the amendment is approved, a Special Use Permit will be required for such; and that such businesses are regulated by the State and must abide by State requirements. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the amendment. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion. The motion to approve the Zoning Text Amendment was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
4. **RECESS TO CONTINUE PUBLIC HEARING II - TAXPAYERS BILL OF RIGHTS.** Following the Public Hearing for a Zoning Amendment, Chairman Lange recessed the Regular Session in order to continue Public Hearing II - Taxpayers Bill of Rights regarding setting the millage rate.
5. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION.** Following the conclusion of Public Hearing II - Taxpayers Bill of Rights, Chairman Lange reconvened the Regular Session at 8:10 PM.
6. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Lange, Commissioner Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
7. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2017 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Airport: Purchase of Fuel Truck.** Chairman Lange said that \$45,000 was budgeted for the purchase of a fuel truck at the Airport; that Bill Champion, Airport Manager, has located a used fuel truck for a cost of \$42,000, which includes delivery; that the truck is a 1990 Ford F550, currently located in North Carolina and is owned by Eastern Aviation Fuels, from whom the County purchases aviation fuel; and the request is to forego the bidding requirements for the used truck. In response to questions, Mr. Champion said that a new truck would cost around \$125,000, and that to change out some fittings on the truck will cost about \$1,000. Following discussion, the motion to forego the bidding requirements and to approve the purchase of the used fuel truck at a cost of \$42,000 including delivery plus an additional \$1,000 for minor alternations was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Request for Tax Refund: Frederick Gates.** Chairman Lange said that a request for tax refund in the amount of \$102.01 had been received from Frederick Gates due to having paid the tax before his birthday and selling the motorcycle before the due date of the tag; and that both the Tax Commissioner and Board of Tax Assessors have

recommended approval based on state code 560-10-25-.01 whereby he did not own or use the motorcycle during the tag year. The motion to approve this request was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewing, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Airport Committee Positions and Terms.** Chairman Lange said that several years ago the County's Airport Committee was informally formed when the Airport Committees of the County and the Harris County Chamber combined; that while appointments were made, no positions or terms were assigned; that it has been suggested that positions and terms be set for the Airport Committee; and that perhaps this could be discussed during the upcoming Planning Retreat. There were no objections.

9. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, as follows:

- (1) **IT Manager.** Eight applications were received and are being reviewed, with interviews expected within the next two weeks.
- (2) **Accounting Software Upgrade.** Request for proposals being advertised with due date of September 1.
- (3) **Prison CCTV Security System Update.** Request for proposals being advertised with due date of August 24.
- (4) **Radio System.** Evaluation underway by TUSA with report to the Board expected September 5.
- (5) **911 Telephone & CAD System.** Telephone proposal award was made July 18 with negotiations underway. CAD System request for proposals being advertised with due date of August 11.
- (6) **LMIG 2016 & 2017.** Project is underway with completion expected by late September or October.
- (7) **Hardage Road.** Project is underway with completion expected by year's end.
- (8) **Airport Security/Wildlife Fence.** Design phase currently underway with completion expected by mid November.
- (9) **Garbage Trucks.** Bid currently being advertised with due date of August 24.
- (10) **Solid Waste Transportation and Disposal.** Request for proposals being advertised with a due date of August 22.
- (11) **Library.** Project is underway, on time and on budget.
- (12) **Kings Gap CDBG.** Bank account has been closed and public hearing for closeout of the project is scheduled for August 8.
- (13) **Planning Retreat.** The Board's planning retreat is scheduled for August 11.
- (14) **Fee Schedules Update.** Draft updates currently underway.
- (15) **SPLOST.** June had an increase over May and the same time last year.
- (16) **LOST.** June had an increase over May and the same time last year.
- (17) **Single Family Home Building Permits.** Twenty-eight permits were issued during July.

10. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Resolution: Acceptance of Hart Preserve Drive and Hart Ridge Court in Section One of Hart Preserve Subdivision.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that in addition to the right-of-way deed, all documents necessary for the County to accept these two roads have been received and appear to be in order. In response to

a question as to whether the streets had been repaired, Mr. Hughston replied that the streets had been repaired. The motion to approve this Resolution was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Resolution: Adopt and Ratify Reasons for Denial of Verizon Wireless Special Use Permit.** John Taylor, County Attorney, explained the Resolution, which ratifies the letter previously mailed to the attorney for Verizon Wireless of the East setting out the reasons for denial of Verizon's Special Use Permit for a cell tower near the Harris County Airport. Commissioner Woods recused himself from discussion and voting on this matter. Following discussion, the motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed with four in favor (Andrews, Langston, Chewning, Lange), no opposition, and one abstention (Woods, who recused himself from discussion and vote).
- C. **Request for Executive Session.** John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation matters. Chairman Lange said that personnel matters also need to be discussed.
11. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel matters was made at 8:45 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
12. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 9:45 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
13. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

J> Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk