

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

December 5, 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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Lange, Commissioner Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2017 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Third Reading: Application of Mindy McGuire for Beer & Wine On-Premises at Tricky's located at 6052 GA Hwy 85, Ellerslie (formerly Ossahatchee Oyster Bar).** Chairman Lange said that this was the third reading of this application due to the fact that two motions were made during the November 21 meeting, one to approve and one to disapprove, and both failed due to a tie vote; and that another motion is needed. He also said that the application has been recommended for approval by the Sheriff's Office, by the Community Development Department pending meeting building code requirements, and by the Health Department pending issuance of a food service permit. Discussion included that if the application meets all requirements of the ordinance, then it should be approved even though it may be the opposite of one's personal opinion, and that if approved, the license will not be issued until evidence is produced showing the building renovations meet building code and the food service permit has been issued. Dick McGuire, spouse of the applicant, said that the owner of the building is currently making renovations and will soon be finished. Mindy McGuire, applicant, was in attendance but had no comments. Following discussion, the motion to approve this application for beer and wine on-premises, pending compliance with building code and issuance of a food service permit, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Colin Martin: Broadband Survey Presentation.** Chairman Lange said that Colin Martin, President and CEO of the Harris County Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance to present the results of the Chamber's broadband survey. Mr. Martin said that it is well known that citizens, for the most part, have unreliable and expensive internet service; that in an effort to assist the County in its vision regarding broadband access, the Chamber formed the Broadband Task Force made up of representatives from AT&T, Charter, Diverse Power, Harris County Government, Harris County Schools, Georgia Cable Association, Congressman Drew Ferguson's office, a citizen, a Commissioner, and a senior at Harris County High School; and that in addition to the survey results previously provided, the Task Force compiled six recommendations for the Board. Mr. Martin then reviewed the results of the survey, which was completed by 717 residents, and showed 52% have difficulty in connecting to the internet, 11% have no connection at home, and 52% pay between \$50 and \$99 while about 23% pay between \$100 and \$149. He then reviewed the recommendations, which included (1) develop a contingency plan if the Georgia General Assembly fails to pass a rural broadband program; (2) work with residential developers to include broadband access in site plans for new developments; (3) develop and maintain a county-wide map of broadband service availability; (4) develop an incentive program for broadband providers to expand access in the County; and (5) work with fiber-optic cable providers to designate the business parks as "fiber ready" for industrial prospects. Mr. Martin responded to several questions from the Board, who then thanked him for the information.

- B. **Tennis Court Usage & Community Center Usage by Instructors for Private Classes.** Chairman Lange said that Ann Bacher, citizen, had signed up to speak on this topic. Mrs. Bacher appeared before the Board and said that she participates in the aqua aerobic classes at the Community Center; that the instructor does a good job; that the number of participants vary from class to class; and that requiring the instructors of classes at the Community Center to provide liability insurance and have a business license will result in fewer instructors. The Board thanked Mrs. Bacher for her comments.

Commissioner Langston asked that action on this be tabled until the Board can further discuss same during its upcoming Retreat on December 12. There were no objections by the Board.

- C. **First Reading: Application of Tommy Moss for Beer & Wine On-Premises at Tommy's Smokehouse & Barbecue located at 3565 GA Highway 85, Ellerslie.** Chairman Lange said that this was the first reading and that the recommendation of the Sheriff's Office and the Health Department was for approval, but that the Community Development Department had recommended disapproval because the business does not meet the distance requirements from a public recreation area. Tommy Moss, applicant, appeared before the Board, distributed photos, and said that the property across from his business is owned by the County, but it is not yet a public recreation area/park even though development of same has been underway for four years; that he runs a family business and wants to be able to serve beer and wine; and that his restaurant closes at 8:00 PM.

Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of this application. Cathy Watley, property owner who lives in Columbus, appeared before the Board and said her property is close to the subject business; that she enjoys having barbecue at the restaurant; that she enjoys beer with her barbecue; and that she has no objections to the alcohol license.

Ronnie Watley, spouse of Cathy Watley, appeared before the Board and said he has commercial property nearby; that the business is a good family restaurant, and that he has no objections to the alcohol license.

Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. There being none, he said that the second reading will take place during the December 19 meeting.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, as follows:
- (1) **Recreation Director Position.** Several interviews have taken place with three more scheduled this week.
 - (2) **Prison CCTV Security System Update.** Three companies have pre-qualified to bid on this project; bids are due December 22, and project completion is expected during April 2018
 - (3) **Radio System.** Agreements are being drafted, legal aspects are being reviewed, and a conference call is scheduled for this Thursday regarding same.
 - (4) **911 Telephone & CAD System.** Project is underway, CAD went live on November 27, and the phone system cut over date is scheduled for December 12.
 - (5) **Holland Drive and Kingsboro Road.** Right-of-way surveys have been prepared and provided to the attorney for preparation of necessary right-of-way deeds, after which engineering will be necessary before the paving of both roads can be bid out.
 - (6) **Airport Wildlife & Security Fencing.** Phase I of the project is currently being advertised with bids to be received December 21.
 - (7) **Airport Terminal Renovation.** Project is 50% complete.
 - (8) **Airport Security System.** Project is in progress with completion expected during late January 2018.

- (9) Library. Project continues to go well, interior and exterior to be painted soon, and carpeting should be in place by mid to late December; and project is slightly ahead of schedule with opening ceremony scheduled for March 2018.
- (10) SPLOST Continuation. Intergovernmental agreements are currently being drafted for execution by the municipalities.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Resolution and Adoption Agreement: ACCG Defined Contribution Plan for Senior Management**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said these documents were in reference to the Board's decision for Randy Dowling, County Manager, to take part in the defined contribution plan for senior management, and that approval is necessary to implement the plan. The motion to approve the resolution and the adoption agreement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Agreement can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-44.)
 - B. **Resolution and Agreement: GEFA Drinking Water Revolving Fund Third Modification of Promissory Note and Loan**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said the documents were needed in order to provide for an extension to the loan in connection with the Water Treatment Plant improvements project. Following discussion, the motion to approve the resolution and agreement was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously. (Agreement can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-45.)
 - C. **Agreements: Georgia Probation Services for Magistrate Court, Probate Court and Superior Court**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said these agreements were necessary for Georgia Probation Services, Inc., to continue to provide probation supervision services for defendants convicted in Magistrate Court, Probate Court, and Superior Court. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Agreements can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as #17-46.)
8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk