

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

April 3, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. 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, Clint Chastain, CFO, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Proclamation: Lifeline - National Donate Life Month.** Chairman Lange read the document proclaiming April as Donate Life Month in Harris County. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **First Reading: Application of Ross Mitchell for Beer, Wine and Liquor Off-Premises at The Package Store, 5030 GA Hwy 319, Fortson.** Chairman Lange read the specifics of the application and said that both the Sheriff's Office and Community Development have recommended approval and no recommendation is necessary from the Health Department. Ross Mitchell, applicant, appeared before the Board and said that he currently operates The Store and wants to expand by opening The Package Store. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being none, and there being no comments from the Board, he said that the second reading and action are scheduled to take place during the April 17 meeting.
 - C. **Comprehensive Plan Update.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County is mandated by the State to update its Comprehensive Plan from time to time; that the deadline for the next update is June 30, 2019; that it is a year-long process; that the River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) can do the basic update at no charge; that the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) update can be done at the same time as the Comp Plan; that action is needed to engage the RVRC to perform the update; that a tentative process schedule has been included for the Board to consider; and that a working committee, to include citizens from the unincorporate area, will be needed to assist with the update. Chairman Lange said that the update needs to be more in-depth than it has been in the past and that the first meeting regarding the update should include as many people as possible in order to make them aware of the need for input. Following discussion, the motion to engage the RVRC for the Comp Plan and SDS updates and approve the tentative schedule was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
 - D. **Mower Operator Job Description & Grade Classification.** Chairman Lange said that with the Board taking action during the March 6 meeting to change four mower operator positions from part time to full time, a job description and grade classification is needed; and he said that the starting salary is \$12.17, which is in a Grade 10. Following discussion, the motion to approve the job description and the grade classification of Grade 10 was made by Commissioner Andrews and seconded by Commissioner Langston. Commissioner Chewning suggested two minor changes and both Commissioner Andrews and Commissioner Langston amended their motions. The motion to approve, as amended, passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, as follows:
 - (1) **Prison CCTV Security System Update.** Project is underway.

- (2) County-wide Radio System. Have not heard back from Diverse Power but hope to by the end of the week.
- (3) Fire Trucks. Have receive nine of the ten trucks with the tenth (for Cataula VFD) expected to be received next fiscal year.
- (4) LMIG Resurfacing. Project has started on resurfacing of Cold Springs Road, Davis Lake Road, Goat Rock Road, and Waterford Drive, with completion expected by June 30, 2018.
- (5) Hamilton Business Park Road Extension. Project is underway.
- (6) Holland Drive. Of the 14 Right of Way deeds mailed, six have been received, and reminder letters will be going out this week.
- (7) Garbage Trucks. The two trucks are expected to be delivered by the end of the week.
- (8) Scrap Tire Event. Two days for turning in scrap tires at the Transfer Station at no charge will be April 7 and April 14.
- (9) Library. Project is finished; final paperwork is underway.
- (10) SPLOST Continuation. All information is on the County's website in preparation for the May 22 referendum.
- (11) Prison Inmate Health Care Services. Recommendation and award scheduled for April 17 meeting.
- (12) Single Family Building Permits. With 18 issued in March, the total for the fiscal year thus far is 172, which is higher than in each of the previous four fiscal years.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING @ 7:30 PM**

- A. **Conflict of Interest Forms**. The Conflict of Interest forms were completed at the request of Chairman Lange.
- B. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures**. Chairman Lange explained the procedures involved for the Public Hearing.
- C. **Application of Edgar Hughston Builder, Inc., to Rezone 42.4 acres on Map 084, Parcel 112A003, Land Lot 127, Land District 18, from A-1 (Agricultural & Forestry) to R-1 (Single Family Residential); present use woodland; proposed use single family residential subdivision; property located 2/10 of a mile south of intersection of Abberly Lane and McKee Road, Waverly Hall**. Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and said that it had been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission and Staff. Jack Hughston and Edgar Hughston, of Edgar Hughston Builder, Inc., appeared before the Board. Mr. Jack Hughston said that the rezoning is to allow the development of a single family residential subdivision and that the surrounding property is already zoned R-1. In response to questions, Mr. Hughston said that the street and water lines already exist, and that the homes will look much like the other houses in the area.

There being no further comments or questions, Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the application. There being none, he asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition.

Raymond King, citizen who lives off Georgia Hwy 315 on Deer Run, appeared before the Board and said that he used to hunt on the property; that there used to be a grave, from about 1887, on the property, but the last time he was there, the gravestone had been moved; that too much development is taking place on Highway 315, which is beginning to look like I-75 with all the traffic; and that he moved to Harris County 30 years ago to be in a rural setting. There was a brief discussion about what must be done if graves are found, to include that while the graves could be moved, it is a lengthy State process, or they can remain where found with access provided to same to allow family members to visit the graves.

There being no further comments in opposition, Chairman Lange asked Mr. Jack Hughston and Mr. Edgar Hughston for rebuttal. Mr. Edgar Hughston said that in his 40-plus years of developing property, he has not found any graves; that should he find graves, he will notify the proper authorities; that he tries to be a good steward of the County and build nice homes. In response to questions, Mr. Jack Hughston said that they expect to start building homes within the next six months, and Mr. Edgar Hughston said that consideration would be given to stagger the homes so that they could be a little further back than the setback requirement, but that the topography has a lot to do with the home site.

There being no further comments or questions, Chairman Lange closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion.

The motion to approve this rezoning application was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Request for Executive Session.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said there is a need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter was made at 7:45 PM by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

9. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

10. **PERSONNEL ISSUE: SHERIFF'S OFFICE.** The motion to make an exception to the County's retirement/sick leave policy to allow Sgt. Jimmy Davis to transfer up to 100 hours of sick leave without consideration to Lt. Rodney Collier for retirement purposes upon conditions that the two vacancies resulting from the retirement of Sgt. Davis and Lt. Collier may be filled by promotions but have no increase in pay for 90 days, that the two vacancies created by the promotions may be filled but have no increase in pay for 90 days, and that the two resulting road deputy vacancies may not be filled for 90 days, was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk