

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

June 19, 2018

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Mark DeGennaro, Acting County Attorney in the absence of 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, Lynda Dawson, citizen & Airport Committee member, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **THANKS.** Chairman Lange thanked Lynda Dawson, Bill Champion and others who made the Airport Open House, on June 16, a success and said that it was a great event with attendance higher than expected.
4. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Melody Lake Dam: Update on Construction Option.** Mark DeGennaro, acting Attorney, said that the engineers suggested six options - two with the lake level and pool remaining as is, two with the lake level and pool being reduced, and two with the lake removed; and that to help determine the result of lowering the lake level and what the lakeshore would look like, a bathymetric study could be performed at a cost of \$10,000 for a full study or \$3,500 for a partial study. Discussion included that the lakes are in the name of the Melody Lake Ranch Club homeowners association, which is defunct; that property owners may have some type of easement rights, which needs to be determined before a meeting is held with the property owners; and that a letter needs to be, or should have already been, sent to EPD to let them know what is going on. Consensus was to discuss again during the July 3 meeting.
  - B. **Community Center & Recreation Facilities Fee Schedule Revisions.** Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, appeared before the Board to respond to questions regarding the proposed fee schedule revisions for the Community Center and Recreation facilities. In response to questions, Mr. Waskey said that regarding being open on Wednesdays, his current staffing is sufficient to cover the additional hours since they will also close two hours earlier on Fridays; that Friday appears to have the least usage; that chemicals are added automatically to the pool on a daily basis; that cleaning could be accomplished before the pool is open or on Friday afternoons; that he did not do a comparison of usage on Sunday afternoons, when the Center is open for four hours, but he will do so; that having a Non-Profit fee is the norm and he has recommended such a fee of \$15/hour; that he will provide a list of the Non-Profit organizations with whom there is a partnership; that there is a Non-Profit fee for the Pool, usually at \$10 plus \$2/child/participant, which can also be reflected on the fee schedule; and that he recommends the Center collect all fees in connection with private classes, then have a check cut for the Instructor's fees for which a 1099 would be mailed at the end of the year. Following discussion, the motion to approve the change in the Community Center hours (to be open on Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM and to close on Friday at 4:00 PM) was made by Commissioner Andrews. Mr. Waskey requested that the collection of the class fees be included in the motion. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Andrews amended her motion to include that the Center collect the class fees, pay the instructor their fee, and send a 1099 at the end of the year, and Commissioner Chewning amended her second. The motion regarding changing the hours and collecting the fees, effective July 1, passed with a vote of four in favor (Andrews, Chewning, Lange, Woods) and one opposed (Langston). Action regarding all other fees was tabled to the July 3 meeting.
  - C. **GRPA Playground Grant Application.** Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, reported that the County had received the \$60,000 grant for a playground at Ellerslie Park, that requires a \$60,000 match, which has been provided by a private donor, and \$20,000 for installation, which will also be potentially provided by a private donor, and that the deadline for installation is November 1.

- D. **Memorandum of Understanding w/Troup County for Inmate Work Detail**. Chairman Lange said that this MOU was tabled from the June 5 meeting and asked Cynthia Nelson, Prison Warden, about same. Ms. Nelson said that Troup County is no longer interested in pursuing the agreement. No action needed by the Board regarding this MOU.
- E. **Update on John Taylor, County Attorney**. Chairman Lange said that John Taylor, County Attorney, is recovering from his surgery and undergoing rehabilitation.
- F. **Callaway Woods: Acceptance of Roads**. In response to a question from Commissioner Langston as to the acceptance of roads in Callaway Woods subdivision, Mark DeGennaro, Acting Attorney, said he has requested John Taylor's records to review to see if he can get the issue resolved.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Financial Statement: April 2018**. Clint Chastain, CFO, said that all departments are within their budgets, other than IT for which an amendment will be made. The motion to approve the April 2018 financial statement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Comprehensive Plan Committee Appointment**. Chairman Lange said that Commissioner Chewning had requested this topic to be on the agenda. Commissioner Chewning said that Gary Jones, who owns property in the County but does not reside in the County, has expressed an interest in serving on the Comprehensive Plan Committee; that there were no guidelines regarding appointments to the Committee to require appointees to live in the County; and that due to his experience with Fort Benning and the Columbus area, his expertise would be helpful in the County's endeavor to update the Comprehensive Plan. She then made the motion to appoint Gary Jones to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Budget FY 18/19 Public Hearing II**. Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and said that there have been four Budget Work Sessions and the revisions discussed during those meetings have been included in the final budget. There being no comments regarding the budget from Randy Dowling, County Manager, or Clint Chastain, CFO, Chairman Lange asked if there were any comments from those in attendance.

Kathryn Genova, Director of the Harris County Humane Society, appeared before the Board and said that in working closely with Animal Control over the years, there are several things that are desperately needed at the Animal Shelter, to include (1) Administrative staffing to handle required paperwork and to be on site when individuals visit the Shelter when the Animal Control officers are away from the Shelter; (2) Storage for food, which is currently being stored in various locations within the Shelter and using space that should be utilized by animals, and that this facility needs to be climate controlled; and (3) Housing for Cats, which are currently being housed in stacked kennels in the euthanasia room, and that this facility needs to be climate controlled.

Jennifer Webb, Magistrate Judge, appeared before the Board to request that the hours of her part-time deputy clerk be increased from 20 hours per week to 29 hours per week due to increased workload. Discussion included that the additional 9 hours would result in an increase in salary, FICA, Medicare & Workers Compensation in the amount of \$7,217 per year.

There being no further comments, Chairman Lange closed the Public Hearing. Discussion among the Board included that Animal Shelter storage is needed and it may be more feasible to have the building(s) constructed by County personnel; and that regarding the request by the Magistrate Judge, to leave the request open, but not include it in the budget at this time. Regarding compression, Chairman Lange said that it is not included in the proposed budget, but the Board will be looking at it strongly and that once information he has requested is forthcoming within the next two to three weeks, the Board will further discuss and make a decision. He also said that included in the budget is a 2% COLA increase for employees (full time and part time hired before July 1, and out of their six month probation period), Ellerslie Park, and the rerouting of the stream in the Northwest Harris Business Park. Discussion included that Ellerslie Park will have a "soft Opening" on November 1 for the main

areas, trail, and playground, and that the consultants are working on the roadway and pedestrian paths to make a loop around the lake.

- D. **Budget FY 18/19 Adoption and Resolution**. The motion to adopt the FY 18/19 budget as discussed during the preceding Public Hearing and to adopt the Adoption Resolution regarding same was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Airport Master Plan/Airport Layout Plan (ALP)**. Amanda Hill of MaesAwyr, Katie Eleam of MaesAwyr, and Hugh Weaver, VP of Pond, appeared before the Board to present the Airport Master Plan/ALP. Ms. Hill distributed the drawings depicting various aspects of the ALP to include the existing conditions, the existing terminal area, the runway 9/27 extension and rehabilitation, the terminal area development, and the overall airport development. She then reviewed each of the depictions, responded to questions from the Board, and said that action should be taken by the Board to approve sending the ALP to GDOT for review along with the narrative statistical data drawings that are required by FAA. She then reviewed the drawings. Following discussion, the motion to approve sending the proposal ALP and the narrative drawings to GDOT for review and approval was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Project Updates**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, as follows:
- (1) **Fund Accounting Software**. Project is ongoing and should be ready in October or November.
  - (2) **CCTV Prison Security Cameras**. Project was completed on time and on budget and has been accepted by the Warden.
  - (3) **County Radio System**. Diverse Power has the agreement and is reviewing same.
  - (4) **LMIG 2018**. Project has been completed, and the road listing for approval by the Board for LMIG 2019 funding is expected to take place during the July 3 meeting.
  - (5) **Hamilton Business Park Road Improvement**. Project is in progress but has been delayed due to recent weather conditions.
  - (6) **Holland Drive**. Four outstanding deeds - two are under negotiation and two have title issues. Discussion included that Mark DeGennaro, Acting Attorney, has a title opinion for one property and is waiting on the opinion for the second property, which appears to have no deed on file; and that it may be quicker to go through condemnation proceedings. Commissioner Langston suggested to continue working on the deeds, but to move forward with the second road in District 3, which is Pitts Drive. Consensus was to wait on the title opinion and if it turns out that it will take much longer than anticipated, move to the second road in District 3.
  - (7) **Ellerslie Park**. With the award of the GRPA playground grant, work is on a faster track to have the Park open on November 1.
  - (8) **Pate Park Playground**. Project is in progress and should be completed by late July.
  - (9) **Pate Park Tennis Courts**. Project begins June 25 and should be completed by the 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - (10) **Airport Wildlife Fence**. Project should start in July.
  - (11) **Airport Road Design**. Project design should be completed in July, be bid out in October or September, and finished by Christmas.
  - (12) **Reroute Stream for Daesol**. Project is out on bid, the mandatory pre bid conference is June 29, bids are due July 10, award by the Board is tentatively scheduled for July 17, and 90 days for completion from the Notice to Proceed.

- (13) Comprehensive Plan Update. The first meeting, to discuss Needs and Opportunities, is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the new Library.
  - (14) Exterior Courthouse Cleaning. Commissioner Chewning commented that the Courthouse looks much better as a result of the recent cleaning of the exterior.
  - (15) Single Family Building Permits. Total of 10 permits issued in May with a total of 201 so far this fiscal year that exceeds the total for each of the previous four years.
8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. Mark DeGennaro said he had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
9. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk