

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

March 5, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Becky Langston, Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews Rob Grant. Absent: J. Harry Lange (due to laying wreath at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, DC, on behalf of Georgia Counties, as ACCG President). Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Langston called the Regular Session to order. She then thanked everyone for the work they have done during the preceding 48 hours following the tornado of March 3 to include County staff, volunteer firefighters, 911, and citizen volunteers who helped their neighbors.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Langston, Commissioner Andrews, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 Regular Session and the February 19, 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update Work Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Second Reading: Application of Lane & Larry Adams for Beer & Wine On Premises at Shorty's BBQ, 5161 GA Hwy 219, Fortson.** Chairman Langston read the specifics of the application; said that this was the Second Reading; and that approval had been recommended by the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, and the Community Development Department. Lane & Larry Adams, applicants, were in attendance. Mr. Adams said that he appreciates the assistance received regarding the application process. Chairman Langston asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this application. There being none, she asked for a motion. The motion to approve this application was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
  - A. **Tornado Update.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that during the last 48 hours, following the March 3 tornado, people have come together to provide aid; that in addition to the personnel of the Public Works Department, Community Development Department, 911, Sheriff's Office, and Solid Waste, the County has received assistance from the volunteer fire departments, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDOC), the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), Troup County Public Works, Upson County Public Works, and the Town of West Point. He said there has been a tremendous amount of yard debris, which will be picked up for a short time by the County and taken to the transfer station or to a location in Ellerslie Park, which sustained significant damage.
  - B. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
    - (1) **Jaws of Life.** Equipment is on order and should be received mid April.
    - (2) **Back-Up Generator for 911.** GEMA application has been submitted; awaiting response.
    - (3) **Resurfacing of Lower Blue Springs Road and Barnes Mill Road.** Currently underway with completion in May.
    - (4) **Road Striping Bid.** Project underway; completion by late May.
    - (5) **Rails to Trails.** Project going well; monthly conference calls with GDOT; bidding expected in June, with award in July and project completion in December. The signs will be developed by the consultant and brought to the Board for approval before making them; and the signs can be placed on the trail, in the Library, in the Chipley Museum, or basically anywhere the Board desires.

- (6) Airport Security & Wildlife Fence, Phase II. Bid opens March 27; completion expected by July.
- (7) Airport Crack Seal & Runway Remarkings. Bid opens March 27; completion expected by July.
- (8) Airport Open House. Event will occur May 4; planning meetings will continue until event occurs.
- (9) Scrap Tire Amnesty Event. Application has been submitted to DNR; awaiting response.
- (10) Comprehensive Master Plan Update. Update is underway; next meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 5:00 PM.
- (11) Clear and Grub 35+/- acres in Northwest Harris Business Park. Still waiting the proper permits.
- (12) Melody Lake Dam. Survey has been completed, calculations are underway, and results are expected to be presented to the Board during the March 19 meeting.
- (13) SPLOST. Two months left in the current SPLOST collection period; new SPLOST starts in April.
- (14) Single Family Home Permits. 15 permits issued during February bringing fiscal year total to 141.

C. **Tornado Damages**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said there was extensive damage at Ellerslie Park and Airport as a result of the March 3 tornado; that the insurance adjuster visited both sites today; and that contact has been made regarding repair to Airport hangars/doors.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**.

A. **Ante Litem Notice: Timothy Daniel**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the County has received an ante litem notice regarding an accident that occurred on February 4 of this year involving Timothy Daniel and a Sheriff's deputy, and he recommended denial of the claim. Chairman Langston asked for a motion. Commissioner Grant recused himself from the vote because his son is the deputy involved in this action. The motion to deny the claim was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed with three in favor (Langston, Zuerner, Andrews).

B. **GDOT MOA: Bridge on Fortune Hole Road at Williams Creek**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that GDOT will undertake the acquisition of the necessary right of way for the bridge project on Fortune Hole Road at Williams Creek and the MOA sets out the specifics of the contract and includes the cost estimate of \$120,000 to the County. Chairman Langston said that the cost will be funded by T-SPLOST and a budget amendment will be needed regarding same. Following discussion, the motion to approve the agreement and the necessary budget amendment was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" files as C&A #19-12.)

7. **RECESS**. Chairman Langston said that the meeting is in recess until the scheduled Public Hearing at 7:30 PM.

8. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**. Chairman Langston reconvened the Regular Session at 7:30 PM.

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

A. **Conflict of Interest Forms**. The Conflict of Interest Forms were completed at the request of Chairman Langston.

B. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures**. Chairman Langston explained the procedures regarding the Public Hearing.

C. **Application of William A. Gordy, Sr., to amend Rezoning Conditions on 10.548 acres on Land Lot 275, Land District 17, Map 085, Part of Parcel 11C and all of Parcel 11D, regarding specific property uses; property located on GA Hwy 85 at Twin Lakes Road, Waverly Hall, and zoned C-4 (Highway Commercial).** Chairman Langston called the Public Hearing to order and read the specifics of the application. William A. Gordy, Sr., applicant, and Mark Parsley, partner, appeared before the Board to discuss the application. Mr. Gordy introduced Mr. Parsley and said that Mr. Parsley has a sand and gravel business across Twin Lakes Road and needs a place on which to store a larger quantity of sand and gravel, which is why the request is to change the zoning conditions to allow such storage. There being no questions, Chairman Langston asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or in opposition to the application. There being none, she closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion. The motion to amend the zoning conditions to those shown on the preliminary layout presented with the application was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

10. **OTHER**

A. **Emergency Shelter: Quicker Method of Making Citizens Aware.** Commissioner Grant said that while the County has done a great job following the Sunday, March 3 tornado, there needs to be a better method of making citizens aware of emergency shelter areas; that it wasn't until Tuesday morning that the word went out about the Community Center being available for showers and shelter; and that we need to be better prepared for spreading the word in the future.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk