

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

March 17, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, J. Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner.
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.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020, Regular Session, and the March 5, 2020, Called Session, was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Proclamation: Donate Life Month.** Chairman Langston read the document proclaiming April as Donate Life Month in Harris County. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Resolution: Constitution & Second Amendment Support.** Chairman Langston read the document resolving to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Grant and seconded by Commissioner Andrews. John Taylor, County Attorney, suggested that the words “except as required by State and Federal laws” be inserted in the fifth paragraph after “any funds”. Commissioner Grant amended his motion and Commissioner Andrews amended her second. Following discussion, the motion to approve, as amended, passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Bid Award: 24 Parcels of Land.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the Board, during its January 21 meeting, had declared 24 parcels of land to be surplus and authorized the sale of same by sealed bid; that bids were properly advertised and five bids were received; and the high bidders were:
 - (1) B. Parker for parcel #11 for a total bid of \$2,020;
 - (2) L. Gibson for parcel #24 for a total bid of \$900;
 - (3) K. Alexander for parcels #1, 2, 3 & 4 for a total of \$4,000; and
 - (4) D. Hatfield Enterprises for parcels #6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 & 22 for a total of \$9,111.30.

Mr. Dowling said that the total amount due to the County is \$16,031.30; that the staff recommends awarded the parcels as announced; and that each bidder will have 10 calendar days from the date of the notice of award to complete the transaction or the bid will go to the next highest bidder. The motion to award the bids as shown above was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Project Updates.** This item was removed from tonight’s agenda.
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**
 - A. **First Reading: Ordinance to Amend the Alcohol Ordinance to Allow Wineries.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the draft document to allow wineries on parcels of no less than five acres on agriculturally zoned property. Chairman Langston asked if anyone wished to make comments on the proposed Ordinance. There being none, she said that the Second Reading will be during the next Commission meeting.
7. **OTHER**
 - A. **COVID-19 (Coronavirus).** Due to state and federal recommendations regarding public meetings, there is a possibility the Commissioners could postpone future

meetings. John Taylor, County Attorney, said the President has recommended no more than 10 individuals be at a meeting; that because there are three weeks between this meeting and the next, the Board could consider cancelling or postponing the next and/or future meetings; that meetings during this declared emergency can be held at locations other than the regular meeting place, can be closed to the public, but must be teleconferenced in some manner to allow live access to the meeting; and that IT may have to be involved for meeting setup should the Board decide to hold such meetings that are closed to the public. Chairman Langston said that she participated in a conference call with Governor Kemp who indicated he was not going to dictate how Commissioners held their meetings, but it would be up to each individual board, and that he said, in an effort to halt rumors, that the state borders will not be closing. She also said that the Board met in a joint meeting with members of the Board of Education and other stakeholders this past Saturday to share information; and that County staff are doing an outstanding job in taking precautions for the public and themselves as well as doing what they can to keep everyone safe.

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

Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk