

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION - VIA TELECONFERENCE**

July 21, 2020  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present (via telephone): Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, J. Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner. Staff Present (via telephone): Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Langston called the Regular Session to order.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - A. **Teleconference Meeting.** Chairman Langston announced that in compliance with the Governor's Declaration of Public Health State of Emergency and in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 54-14-1(g), tonight's meeting will be conducted live by conference call to comply with recommended social distancing and public gathering guidelines; that citizens may also listen to the meeting via telephone by calling 408-418-9388, and entering access code 132 220 9309#, and the attendee ID 706 628 77#; and that instructions are on the Harris County website.
  - B. **Public Comments Suspended.** Chairman Langston said that in compliance with Governor Brian P. Kemp's Executive Orders and based on recommendations from President Trump's Coronavirus Guidelines for America to limit social gatherings and practice social distancing, tonight's meeting is being broadcast live, therefore the County's policy regarding public participation (Harris County Public Comment Policy) is temporarily suspended and public comment for the meeting is unavailable. She also said that the invocation and the pledge of allegiance will not occur during tonight's meeting.
  - C. **Voting During Meeting.** Chairman Langston reminded the Board that in making motions, seconds, or votes, Commissioners give their name and district number.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020, Regular Session and the July 7, 2020, Dog Classification Appeal Hearing of Amber Massey, was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
  - A. **Joseph Bryan: Confederate Statute on Square in Hamilton.** Joseph Bryan, citizen made comments (via telephone) regarding the Confederate Statute on the square in Hamilton, to include excerpts from Southern states involved in the Civil War regarding slaves; and that the War was due to slavery and should be taught as such. He concluded his comments by saying that the Confederate Statute along with any other Confederate memorials that may be in Harris County should be removed. Chairman Langston thanked Mr. Bryan for his comments and reminded him that the square, and the statute thereon, belongs to the City of Hamilton.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Safety Discounts for Property & Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance.** Chairman Langston said that these are the usual documents necessary for the County to receive a discount on its property & liability and workers' compensation insurance. The motion to approve both documents was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Grant Application: ACCG Workers Compensation Safety Grant.** Chairman Langston said the County has an opportunity to apply for financial assistance up to \$6,000 to purchase safety-related equipment and that approval is being requested to apply for body armor for the Sheriff's Office. The motion to approve application of the grant was made by Commissioner Zuerner, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously.
6. **COUNTY MANAGER**
  - A. **Proposal from Carter & Sloope: Melody Lakes Construction Administration.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the Melody Lakes Dam project has been on-going for some time; that Carter & Sloope, the County's consulting engineers, has worked on this project the entire time preparing various

documents to include inundation mapping, emergency action plan, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, breach analysis, dam remediation designs, construction plans and specifications; that the state EPD has finally approved the construction plans, as of June 30, 2020, and construction must start within six months of June 30 and be completed within 12 months; that Carter & Sloope has submitted a proposal for the contract and construction administration services for this project at a cost of \$34,500 and includes keeping the project on schedule, process applications for payment, and ensuring the project is in compliance with all EPD requirements; that the FY 2020-21 approved Public Works budget includes \$425,000 for this project; that staff recommends the Board approve the proposal agreement and authorize the Chairman to execute same; and that if approved, the project can continue without interruption with bidding in July and August, award by the Board during September, and completed during late Summer 2021. The motion to deny this proposal agreement was made by Commissioner Lange, who said that the work on the dam is not something the County should do. The motion died for lack of a second. The motion to approve the proposal agreement was made by Commissioner Zuerner and seconded by Commissioner Grant, who said that he agrees and understands where Commissioner Lange is coming from and respects his comments, the County allowed this issue to drag out far too long. Commissioner Zuerner said that the County failed to take care of the dam and in doing so essentially created the problem. Commissioner Lange said he does not disagree with those comments and feels the citizens in Melody Lakes should come up with the funds. The motion passed with four in favor (Zuerner, Grant, Langston, Andrews) and one opposed (Lange).

B. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:

- (1) Replacement Telephone System. Eighteen proposals were received July 1 and are undergoing evaluation with Board consideration scheduled for September 1.
- (2) Live Stream Equipment for Commission Chambers. Four proposals were received this afternoon and are undergoing evaluation with Board consideration scheduled for August 4.
- (3) Ambulances. Bid responses for two ambulances are due July 23 with Board consideration scheduled for August 4.
- (4) Courthouse ERU Replacement. Bid responses are due July 28 with Board consideration scheduled for August 4.
- (5) Kitchen Equipment (replacement) for Prison. Bid responses are due August 5 with Board consideration scheduled for August 18.
- (6) Removal & Disposal of Underground Fuel Storage Tank. Bid responses are due July 28 with Board consideration scheduled for August 18.
- (7) Melody Lakes Dam. The Board approved the proposal with Carter & Sloope this evening, therefore, bid specifications are being prepared, and project completion is expected in late summer 2021. He said that the road over the dam will be lowered about two feet and the water level should decrease by six to eight inches.
- (8) Ellerslie Park Storm Debris. Prison crew is burning debris and Public Works crew is clearing up, with project continuing during July and August.
- (9) Airport Sign. The sign has been designed and could be in place within two to three weeks. In response to questions from Commissioner Grant, Mr. Dowling said that he will provide the Board with a rendering of the sign, which has been reviewed by the Airport Committee, via email, with consensus in favor, and that the sign will be about \$2,000.
- (10) Replacement of Two (2) Garbage Trucks. Bid responses are due July 23 with Board consideration scheduled for August 4.
- (11) Update of Land Use and Development Codes. Progress has been slowed due to COVID-19, but virtual focus group meetings will be taking place at the end of this month.

- (12) Compensation Study by CVIIOG. Project is beginning to come to full term; that the plan is to soon provide Department Heads with their employee information for review and comment with review by the Board during its July 30 planning session and approval on August 4 or 18.
- (13) Solid Waste Tonnage. The FY 18-19 total was right at 15,000 tons and the FY 19-20 total was 17,650 tons, which is a large increase.
- C. **Other**. Chairman Langston asked Randy Dowling, County Manager, to provide the Board with the Recreation Little League Return to Play decision by Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director. Mr. Dowling said that the information would be provided tomorrow morning (July 22).
7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. There was no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
8. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Chairman Langston said that an Executive Session is needed for the discussion of pending and potential litigation.
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending and potential litigation was made at 7:35 PM by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. Russell Britt, County Attorney, commented that the Board would come back into Regular Session following the Executive Session.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

---

Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

---

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk