

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 1, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present (in person): Rob Grant, Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner. Commissioner Present (by phone): Susan Andrews. Commissioner Absent: Becky Langston. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** In the absence of Chairman Langston, Vice-Chairman Zuerner called the Regular Session to order.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENT.** Vice-Chairman Zuerner announced that Chairman Langston was absent from the meeting due to a family emergency, and that Commissioner Andrews was present via telephone due to having recently been in a vehicle accident.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Lange and seconded by Commissioner Grant. Commissioner Lange said that the first paragraph of 3B needs to reflect “whichever occurs last” rather than “whichever occurs first”. The motion, to include the correction, passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Requests for Tax Refund.** Vice-Chairman Zuerner said that four requests for tax refund had been received, as follows:
 - (1) Carr, David F. Refund of \$39.65 (ad valorem tax) due to having sold his vehicle after paying taxes, which were not due until November 9; and that the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agree with the request.
 - (2) Myrick, Sarah. Refund of \$55.41 (ad valorem tax) due to having traded her vehicle after purchase but before tax was due; and that the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agree with the request.
 - (3) Rodgers, Will. Refund of \$39.96 (ad valorem tax) due to having sold his vehicle before due date; and that the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agree with the request.
 - (4) Rodgers, Will. Refund of \$11.99 (ad valorem tax) due to having sold his trailer before due date; and that the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors agree with the request.

The motion to approve the requests was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Change Order #1: Jordan Road Bridge (Repair to Five Bridges Project).** Vice-Chairman Zuerner said that during the demolition of Jordan Road bridge, it was discovered there was more extensive damage than what could be seen during the original inspection; that the original contract with Lewallen Construction for the five bridges is \$846,178.44, of which \$66,440.76 is for Jordan Road bridge; that the additional bridge work on Jordan Road will be \$100,160.54, which will bring the total for the bridge to \$166,601.30 and the contract total to \$946,338.98; that Sastry & Associates, bridge consultant, will design and prepare the drawings and provide construction services for the additional work at a cost of an additional \$6,000 on the bridge, which brings that total to \$19,000; and that the total change order is \$106,160.54, which will come from T-SPLOST in the form of Budget Amendment #7. In response to a question, Mike Brown, Public Works Director, explained why the newly found damage had not been found during the initial inspection. The motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$106,160.54 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously. (Change Order document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #20-29.)
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:

- (1) Replacement Telephone System for Courthouse, Administration Building and Community Development Building. Project is on going and should be completed later this month.
- (2) Live Stream Equipment for Commission Chambers. Tonight's meeting is being live-streamed on YouTube through the County's website and that the AV equipment has been installed.
- (3) Courthouse ERU Replacement. Installation is scheduled to take place this weekend.
- (4) Underground Storage Tank. Still waiting for EPD's response.
- (5) LMIG Road Resurfacing. The resurfacing list will be before the Board during the December 15 meeting for approval and submittal to GDOT.
- (6) Restriping of County Roads. The restriping list will be bid out on the same schedule as the LMIG project.
- (7) Repair/Renovation of Five (5) County Bridges. Project is underway; change order #1 approved tonight; and the projects are to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (8) Melody Lakes Dam. Bid was awarded on November 17 and construction will start in January; and the Melody Lakes representative has been contacted and information of this project.
- (9) Soccer Field Poles and Lights. Bid responses are due December 16, with Board consideration on January 5.
- (10) Water Works Administration Building. Meeting with architect tomorrow morning regarding building design.
- (11) Renovation of Old Library. Waiting on funds in order to begin Phase I (design); donations going well according to committee.
- (12) Land Use and Development Codes Update. On going; hope to have a few chapters for review by the end of the month.
- (13) Hazard Mitigation Update. Document will be before the Board on December 15 for approval to submit to the State.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Fourth Amendment to County Manager Agreement.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that this is the fourth amendment to Randy Dowling's agreement with the County regarding his employment. The document includes his salary of July 1 based on the recent salary study plus the 1% anniversary increase; that he will receive whatever annual COLA increase employees receive; that he will receive the annual 1% anniversary increase; that the agreement is extended to October 31, 2024; that the contribution to his ACCG sponsored Senior Management Retirement Program will be 3% of his annual salary effective November 1, 2020; and clarification of severance pay should a unilateral termination occur. The motion to approve the Fourth Amendment was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Vice-Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-30.)
 - B. **Request for Executive Session.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said there was a need for Executive Session in order to discuss pending litigation.
7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation was made at 7:18 PM by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Vice-Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

9. **OTHER**

- A. **County Manager Agreement Comments.** Commissioner Andrews said that in conjunction with the fourth amendment to the County Manager's agreement, she should have indicated at that time how much the Board appreciates Mr. Dowling and the work that he does and that they are thankful for the job he does for the County. Commissioner Lange echoed Commissioner Andrews' comments, as did Vice-Chairman Zuerner.

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

- A. **Explanation of Public Hearings.** Vice-Chairman Zuerner explained the Public Hearing procedures.
- B. **Application of James Kevin Conley to amend the zoning conditions on 5.599 acres of Map 017, Parcel 005; Land Lots 15 & 28; Land District 19; located at 5815 GA Highway 219, Fortson, to allow outdoor RV and boat storage in addition to the current storage buildings.** Vice-Chairman Zuerner called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and said that the Planning Commission had recommended approval with the condition that all outside storage must be at least 100' from the front property line. Don Tyree, co-owner of the property, appeared before the Board and said that they would like to amend the zoning conditions to also allow the storage of boats and RVs outdoors. In response to questions, Mr. Tyree said that the outdoor storage area will be behind the grass drop off and on gravel. There being no one in favor of or in opposition to this application, Vice-Chairman Zuerner closed the Public Hearing. The motion to approve the amended zoning conditions to allow outdoor boat and RV storage, in addition to the storage units, and that the outside storage must be at least 100' from the front property line, was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Vice-Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

Andrew Zuerner, Vice-Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk