

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 15, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present (by phone): Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner. Staff Present (by phone): 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 and announced that due to COVID-19, the meeting is being held by audio only.
2. **MINUTES**
 - A. **December 1, 2020 Regular Session.** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed with four in favor (Lange, Andrews, Grant, Zuerner), no opposition, and one abstention (Langston, who was not present on December 1).
 - B. **Reconsideration of Approval of the November 17, 2020, Regular Session.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that during the December 1 meeting, the Board approved the November 17 Regular Session minutes with a change to reflect the expiration of the approved Moratorium Resolution regarding PUDs to “whichever occurs last” rather than “whichever occurs first”, which is the language in the Moratorium; that with the approval of the amended minutes, they do not accurately reflect the Board’s action regarding the Moratorium; and that he recommends the Board reconsider the approval of the November 17 minutes to reflect the wording contained in the Moratorium the Board adopted. Following a brief discussion regarding the wording, Commissioner Lange made the motion to re-discuss the issue of the Moratorium and Commissioner Andrews seconded same. Additional discussion ensued, Commissioner Zuerner made the motion to approve the November 17, 2020, Regular Session minutes to show the expiration date of the Moratorium to be “whichever occurs first”. Second was by Commissioner Grant. At this point Commissioner Lange withdrew his motion and Commissioner Andrews withdrew her second, and the motion by Commissioner Zuerner passed with four in favor (Zuerner, Grant, Andrews, Langston) and one opposed (Lange).
 - C. **Reconsideration of Moratorium Resolution regarding PUDs.** As a result of the preceding discussion, Commissioner Andrews made the motion to reconsider the Moratorium during the January 5, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lange and passed unanimously.
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Resolution of Appreciation: J. Harry Lange.** Chairman Langston read the resolution honoring Commissioner Lange, who chose not to run for re-election after having served 20 years as Commissioner for District 4. Upon conclusion of the reading, Chairman Langston congratulated Commissioner Lange. Commissioner Lange said that he appreciates the Resolution, that having been Commissioner has been fun most of the time, and that he enjoyed getting to know people and doing a lot for them. The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed by a vote of three in favor (Langston, Andrews, Zuerner), no opposition, and one abstention (Lange). (Note: Commissioner Grant had to leave the meeting before the vote was taken due to a family emergency. He did not return to the meeting.)
 - B. **Rezoning & Special Use Permit Schedule for 2021.** The motion to approve the schedule for 2021 was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Appointments.** Chairman Langston said that appointments were needed due to vacancies on the Development Authority and the Planning Commission. The following appointments were made following a motion by Commissioner Zuerner, second by Commissioner Lange, and unanimous vote:
 - (1) **Development Authority.** Chris Butzon appointed to complete the term of Gene Weldon, who had resigned upon being appointed to the Planning Commission, as appointment from District 1 with an expiration term of December 31, 2023.

- (2) Planning Commission. Wayne Harbert appointed to complete the term of Bobby Irions, newly elected Commissioner, as appointment from District 4 with an expiration term of December 31, 2021.

D. **Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**. Chairman Langston said that the County applied for a Hazard Mitigation Grant in February 2019 and received the grant in January 2020 for the purpose of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which is required every five (5) years; that the current HMP expires in January 2021; that the HMP process has been completed and that Katie Westbrook, of Lux Mitigation, and Monty Davis, E911 & EMA Director, were in attendance(via phone) to respond to questions or comments, and that in order for the document to be submitted to GEMA, the Board must approve same. There being no questions or comments, the motion to approve sending the document to GEMA was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" as MD#20-12.)

4. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **LMIG 2021 Road List**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that GDOT is accepting applications for the 2021 LMIG program and has notified the County that its share is \$734,779.04, which will require a 10% match of \$73,447.90 from SPLOST 2014, for a total of \$808,256.94 for resurfacing needs; that the Public Works Director has determined there are nine (9) roads (Janee's Way, Daniel's Court, Williams Court, Kristi Lynn's Way, Kristi Lynn's Court, Grey Smoke Trail, Grey Smoke Loop, Harrisville Road, and Lewis Bryant Road) in need of resurfacing and restriping; that it is proposed the nine roads be submitted to GDOT for the upcoming LMIG distribution; and that any overage that may result from the project will also come from SPLOST 2014 or T-SPLOST. Commissioner Zuerner asked about the resurfacing needs on Brown Creek Road, and Mr. Dowling responded that there is a small section of Brown Creek Road that needs patching and it will be taken care of in the appropriate manner. The motion to approve the LMIG 2021 list was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

B. **Scrap Tire Grant Authorization**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the Georgia DNR offers a local government scrap tire abatement grant program to assist in collecting and properly disposing of scrap tires at no cost to the County or the public; that the County conducted two successful scrap tire amnesty days last year using Quality Tire Recycling, LLC, of Jackson, GA,; that staff would like to conduct scrap tire events on Saturday, March 13 and 20, 2021, at the Transfer Station from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM using the same company (Quality Tire); and that if the application is approved, the State will reimburse the County for all costs including disposing of the scrap tires, freight charges, and fuel charges. Following discussion, the motion to authorize the submission of the Scrap Tire grant application and for the County Manager to execute the application and all other necessary documents, was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

C. **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) Courthouse ERU Replacement. Completed and in operation.
- (3) Underground Storage Tank. EPD has approved everything that was submitted in connection with this project.
- (4) LMIG Road Resurfacing. The resurfacing list was approved this evening and will be sent to GDOT; project will be out on bid in January and completed by June 30, 2021.
- (5) Restriping of County Roads. The restriping list will be bid out on the same schedule as the LMIG project.
- (6) Repair/Renovation of Five (5) County Bridges. Project is underway, and is to be completed by June 30, 2021.

- (7) Melody Lakes Dam. Project should start in January and be completed by mid 2021, and that the citizens in the area are being informed.
- (8) Ellerslie Park. Acreage to be burned in January; that repairs to the internal road and ingress/ingress will be made; and further development will take place if the County is awarded the GOSP grant. In response to a question from Commissioner Lange, Mr. Dowling said that a Sheriff's substation is not longer in the development plan, but that it could be, but that he understands the Sheriff has indicated he would not use same.
- (9) Rails to Trails Project. Design and survey are on going; should be notified about the LWCF grant in January or February.
- (10) Soccer Field Poles and Lights. Bids open December 16, with Board consideration on January 5. Chairman Langston said that when the Soccer Association approached the Board about this project, they indicated they would contribute to the costs, and that if there were no objections, she will pursue that issue. There were no objections.
- (11) Quarterly Retreat. Next retreat should be in January.
- (12) Land Use and Development Codes Update. Draft portions should be available for review by the end of the month.
- (13) Hazard Mitigation Update. Document was approved this evening and will be submitted to the State.
- (14) SPLOST. Coming in at normal rate.
- (15) LOST. Coming in at normal rate.
- (16) T-SPLOST. Very high in October; normal collection is around \$90,000. In response to a question from Chairman Langston, Commissioner Lange said that the T-SPLOST allocation formula does not change.
- (17) Single Family Building Permits. 22 were issued during November, for a total of 92 for this fiscal year.

5. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Resolution to Designate Community Center as a Courthouse Annex**. Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that in an effort to resume jury trials during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit would like to use the Harris County Community Center as a Courthouse Annex and that in order to do so, the Board must approve a resolution regarding same. Following discussion, during which it was mentioned that no trials would be held in the Community Center but that it would be used for jury selection, the motion to approve the Resolution was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Surplus Property: Whitesville Street (10+/- acres)**. Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that the County owns approximately 10 acres of real property on Whitesville Street in West Point, near the I-85 and Hopewell Church Road interchange; that the property was given to the County by the Board of Education during 2013 by means of a warranty deed with certain conditions; that the Board of Education has no interest in this property, which has an old abandoned school on the site that was used as a volunteer fire department, may contain lead-based paint and asbestos, and possibly an underground fuel tank, but local and state records offer no evidence of such; and that while the County tax records show a total tax value of \$247,680, staff is recommending that the Board declare the property as surplus real property and authorize staff to dispose of the property in accordance with O.C.G.A. §36-9-3 by using the sealed bid option with a minimum bid amount of \$25,000. Following discussion, which included the property would be sold "as is" by means of a Quit Claim deed, the motion to declare the property as surplus and to authorize the sale of same in accordance with O.C.G.A §36-9-3 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

6. **ADJOURNMENT & CHRISTMAS WISHES.** There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously. Prior to, during and after the motion to adjourn, the Commissioners wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk