

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

January 19, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Bobby Irions.
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael,
County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Zuerner called the Regular Session to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Zuerner led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Soccer Field Lighting.** Commissioner Langston reported that she had met with the Soccer Association to determine what funding they will be able to contribute toward the lighting of another soccer field, and that the Association has not yet made that determination.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Proclamation: American Business Women's Association.** At the request of Chairman Zuerner, Commissioner Langston read the Proclamation regarding the 40th anniversary of the Harris County Charter Chapter of the ABWA on February 15, 2021. She then made the motion to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grant and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Boards/Committees on Which Chairman Serves.** Chairman Zuerner said there are several boards and committees on which the Chairman serves or can appoint a designee. In that regard, he said (1) he will serve on the Airport Committee, (2) that Jim Woods will continue to serve as his designee on the Health Board, (3) that Commissioner Rob Grant will serve as his designee on the RVRC Board, and (4) that Randy Dowling, County Manager, will serve as his designee on the RVRC T-SPLOST Round Table.
6. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the update report now includes a color-coded chart to show what projects are in progress, have been completed, not started, or at risk. He then reviewed various projects, as follows:
 - (1) **Replacement Telephone System for Courthouse, Administration Building and Community Development Building.** Telephones are being "cut over" this week and project should be completed by the end of the week.
 - (2) **Ambulances for EMS.** Two replacement ambulances should arrive in April.
 - (3) **LMIG Road Resurfacing.** Bid requests have been distributed, bids are due February 23, Board consideration on March 2, and project completion by June 30, 2021.
 - (4) **Restriping of County Roads.** Bid requests have been distributed, bids are due February 23, Board consideration on March 2, and project completion by June 30, 2021.
 - (5) **Repair/Renovation of Five (5) County Bridges.** Project is on-going, and is to be completed by June 30, 2021.
 - (6) **Melody Lakes Dam.** Pre-con meeting held January 12, construction should begin early February with completion by June 30, 2021. The local citizens as well as the Board of Education have been notified.

- (7) Patching of County Roads. Bid requests have been distributed, bids are due February 23, Board consideration on March 2, and project completion by June 30, 2021.
- (8) Ellerslie Park. Alexander Paving to complete work on internal roads and the drainage associated with the roads as well as the turn lanes. In response to a question from Commissioner Andrews, Mr. Dowling said that the County is in close contact with the Georgia Forestry regarding the burn permit and as soon as clearance to proceed is given, the Board will be notified and the information posted on the County's website as to when the burn will occur.
- (9) Scrap Tire Amnesty Events. With grant approval having been received from the State, events will be held on Saturday, March 13 and March 20, from 8 AM to 4 PM, at the County's Transfer Station, and an informational flyer is being distributed.
- (10) Water Works Administration Building. Initial design meeting was held December 1 with floor plan review on January 14. Once the final plans are received, they will be provided to the Board for review, which should be by the next meeting.
- (11) Renovation of Old Library. The committee has raised enough funds to move forward with design; pre-proposal meeting was held January 13 and are due Friday, January 22 for the committee to choose an architect. In response to a question from Commissioner Andrews, Mr. Dowling said that the project will be managed with help from himself and Building Inspection.
- (12) Land Use and Development Codes Update. Project is on-going; drafts of four articles have been provided with two more expected this week; the draft product should be ready in early February for review by the Board, the Planning Commission, and the steering committee via telephone or Zoom with the final product ready for adoption by the Board on April 6.
- (13) Program of Work Color Codes. Mr. Dowling explained the color codes, which are new to the project updates report, and show 32% of the projects have been completed, 52% are in progress, 16% have not yet started, and 0% are at risk.
- (14) SPLOST. Coming in at normal rate.
- (15) LOST. Coming in at normal rate.
- (16) T-SPLOST. Coming in at normal rate.
- (17) Single Family Building Permits. 102 permits have been issued through December for this fiscal year.
- (18) Solid Waste Tonnage. A record high of almost 1,800 tons for the month of December.
- (19) Rails to Trails Project. In response to question from Commissioner Grant, Mr. Dowling said that the results of the LWCF grant application won't be known until February; if the grant is not approved, then the plans for the trail will move ahead accordingly and bids will go out in February or March; but if the grant is approved, the plans will be extended another two miles and bids would go out in mid summer.

7. COUNTY ATTORNEY

- A. **First Reading: Timber Ordinance**. Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that during the last legislative session, HB 897 amended the state timber harvesting statute (OCGA 12-6-24) to require the State Forestry Commission to create a notification website for providing notice of timber harvesting operations to local governments and to change the surety bond and letter of credit requirements; that counties with local timber harvesting ordinances are to update their ordinances to reflect the amendments; and that ACCG prepared a model ordinance for consideration in collaboration with the Georgia Forestry Association and the Georgia Forestry Commission. He said that this is the first reading to repeal Article V of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinance and replace it with a new Article V, and that the second reading is scheduled for February 2. Discussion included that the Public Works Director has been provided with a copy of the draft ordinance.

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

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk