

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

April 20, 2021  
6:30 P.M.

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

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 April 6, 2021, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Second Reading: Application of Felicia & George Peavey for Beer & Wine On Premises and Distilled Spirits by the Drink On Premises at Tidbits Grill, 14661 GA Highway 18, Pine Mountain.** Chairman Zuerner read the specifics of the application and said that the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, and Community Development have recommended approval of the application. The applicant was in attendance but had no comments. Chairman Zuerner asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being none, and there being no comments from the Board, he asked for a motion. The motion to approve this application was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Second Reading: Application of Shabnam A. Humirani for Beer & Wine Off Premises at Pine Mountain Chevron, 9089 GA Highway 18, Pine Mountain.** Chairman Zuerner read the specifics of the application and said that the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, and Community Development have recommended approval of the application. The applicant was in attendance but had no comments. Commissioner Grant said that this location had been closed for quite sometime and asked the applicant if their intentions were to open the business soon, to which the applicant said yes, they are just waiting for the alcohol license. Chairman Zuerner asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being none, he asked for a motion. The motion to approve this application was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Belva Dorsey: Enrichment Services Program Update.** Belva Dorsey, CEO of Enrichment Services Program (ESP), appeared before the Board to provide an update of the services available through ESP and review the annual report. She also asked that the Board help get the word out about the employment services they provide - Certified Nurse Aide, Commercial Driver's License (both Class A and Class B), and Facility Maintenance. Commissioner Grant suggested that contact be made with the Board of Education about having the employment services information included in their media outreach. Commissioner Andrews said that she appreciates the work done by ESP as well as Ms. Dorsey's succinct and informative presentation. (Documents can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #21-08.)
  - B. **Audit Presentation FYE 06/30/2020.** Chairman Zuerner said that Clint Chastain, Chief Finance Officer, and Steve Voynich, of Robinson Grimes, are in attendance to review and present the FYE 06/30/2020 audit. Mr. Chastain appeared before the Board and said that the County is in excellent financial shape having an unrestricted fund balance of 66% of the total 2021 expenditures, or eight months' working capital. Mr. Voynich said that audit shows continued improvement over the last several years and that basically the only concern is internal control due to the limited accounting staff. Commissioner Langston asked about the notation on page 30 where it indicates the "county appoints one or more of the board of directors but they do not meet any other of the reporting entity criteria: Harris County Board of Education, Harris County Board of Family and Children Services, and the Cattlemen's Association"; that as far as she knows, the County only makes appointments to the Board of Family and Children Services, and that if correct, she would like that information corrected. Following discussion, the motion to approve

the FYE 06/30/2020 audit, with the appropriate correction(s), was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Agreement: GDOT Inmate Work Detail.** Chairman Zuerner said that this is the usual annual agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a work detail of a maximum of 10 inmates and a Correctional Officer, for which GDOT provides the necessary equipment, tools and vehicle, and pays the County \$39,500. The motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Langston and seconded by Commissioner Grant. Commissioner Irions asked if the \$39,500 was for the Correctional Officer and if it was in line with the recent CVIOG salary study, to which Randy Dowling, County Manager, replied that it goes toward the salary of the Correctional Officer but is not in line with the recently salary study because GDOT will not change the rate. There being no further questions or comments, the motion to approve passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #21-05.)

## 6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

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

- (1) **Replacement Ambulances for EMS.** One replacement ambulance should arrive in May and the other in June.
- (2) **Replacement 911 Consoles & Server.** Equipment should be delivered and installed later this month.
- (3) **Hay Baler for Public Works.** This has been completed.
- (4) **Utility Trailer (replacement) for Public Works.** This has been completed.
- (5) **LMIG Road Resurfacing.** Project is underway; to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (6) **Restriping of County Roads.** Project is underway; to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (7) **Patching of County Roads.** Project is underway; to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (8) **Repair of Five Bridges.** Project is underway; to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (9) **Melody Lakes Dam.** Project is almost completed; EPD inspected and gave a good report; to be completed by June 30, 2021.
- (10) **Ellerslie Park.** The road projects should be completed in April with the final punch list the first week in May.
- (11) **Rails to Trails Project.** Project is on bid for the continuation of 1.5 miles to the Country Store; bids are due May 7; consideration by the Board of May 18; and project completion scheduled by December 2021. In response to questions, Mr. Dowling said there will be signage at the trailhead and that Callaway is working with the County regarding the switchbacks.
- (12) **Water Works Administration Building.** Should have the new elevation in the next week or two to show the Board, since the first version was not popular.
- (13) **Renovation of Old Library.** Project is out on bid; bids are due May 18; the grant from the Center for Rural Prosperity & Innovation, in the amount of \$39,000, has been received and will cover the cost of the architectural fees.
- (14) **Land Use and Development Codes Update.** Project is proceeding and should be in draft form soon; it will soon be posted on the website for review by the public and followed by an Open House, after which the Board and the Planning Commission will meet in joint work session(s) to review; the first hearing will be before the Planning Commission and the second, and decision, before the Board; project is to be finished in July.
- (15) **Courthouse Assessment.** Performed April 7; results should be available for review during the retreat on April 27.

- (16) SPLOST. Collection lower than last month but higher than same time last year.
  - (17) LOST. Collection lower than last month but higher than same time last year.
  - (18) T-SPLOST. Collection lower than last month but higher than same time last year.
  - (19) Single Family Home Permits. Number of permits issued thus far this fiscal year is 178, which does not include the permits for homes in West Point, but located within the County. Commissioner Langston said that the signs for the selling of homes in Mulberry Grove are up.
  - (20) Solid Waste Tonnage. Collection higher than last month and the same time last year.
7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. No business to bring before the Board this evening.
8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

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Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk