

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

May 4, 2021
6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Bobby Irions, Becky Langston.
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 20, 2021 Regular Session and the April 27, 2021 Planning Session was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Statement: March 2021.** In response to questions from the Board, Clint Chastain, CFO, said that the \$12,000 in contract labor expense for Recreation is due to umpires, officials, and programming and that the only department that might go over budget is Elections, which is due to the voting activity. The motion to approve the March 2021 financial statement was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Resolution to Accept Mt. Olive Lane, Hanson Way and Hanson Court in Oak Hill Subdivision, Phase Two.** Chairman Zuerner said that all required documents to accept the three roads have been submitted in accordance with County regulations. The motion to approve the Resolution to accept the three roads was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Employee Healthcare Insurance Renewal: John Leggett, MSI.** John Leggett, with MSI, the County's insurance broker, appeared before the Board and reviewed the various aspects of the renewal documents, which included there is a 25% increase in medical premium, no change in dental, vision, life or disability; that quotes from other companies were higher than the increase from Cigna; and that the claims paid from July 2020 to February 2021 include \$448,000 due to COVID-19. Discussion included that the 25% increase will be absorbed by the County, includes an increase in dependent coverage to almost 60%, thus there will not be an increase to the premiums paid by employees; and that Open Enrollment for employees will be May 19 and 20 in the Community Center gym. Following discussion, the motion to approve the renewal as presented was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
 - (1) **Replacement Ambulances for EMS.** Both ambulances should be delivered this month.
 - (2) **Replacement 911 Consoles & Server.** Equipment should be installed this month.
 - (3) **Melody Lakes Dam.** Project is coming to a conclusion with an engineer inspection this Friday.
 - (4) **Ellerslie Park.** A walk thru is scheduled for May 7 after which gates will be installed.
 - (5) **Soccer Field Lights.** Project should start about May 17 and be completed before the end of June; in negotiations with the Soccer Association regarding lighting of another field, with info presented to the Board at the next meeting.
 - (6) **Replacement Garbage Trucks.** Should be delivered this week.

- (7) Water Works Administration Building. On pause at the moment; waiting for examples of the building facade from the Board.
- (8) Renovation of Old Library. Project mandatory pre-bid was today; bids are due May 18 and Board consideration, for its part, will be on June 1.
- (9) Land Use and Development Codes Update. All 14 draft articles are on the website for review by the public, which is to be followed by joint work sessions of the Board and Planning Commissioner, an Open House on May 20, the first hearing before the Planning Commission on July 21 and the second, and decision, before the Board on August 3; project is to be finished in July.
- (10) Impact Fee Study. On going.
- (11) Courthouse Assessment. Performed April 7, preliminary report provided to the Board on April 27, with final report to be delivered this week.
- (12) SPLOST. Collection up from last year and last month.
- (13) LOST. Collection up from last year and last month.
- (14) T-SPLOST. Collection up from last year but down from last month.
- (15) Single Family Home Permits. Number of permits issued in April was 25, which brings the total this fiscal year to 203.
- (16) Solid Waste Tonnage. Collection up from last year and last month with almost 1,700 tons collected in March.

B. Other.

- (1) SPLOST 14. In response to a question from Commissioner Andrews, Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that any funds remaining after all projects are completed in the SPLOST 14 must be used for projects in the voter approved language.
 - (2) Airport Open House. In response to a question from Commissioner Grant, Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the Airport Committee is planning on having an Open House in the fall.
 - (3) Northwest Harris Business Park. Commissioner Andrews asked if there was funding and plans for making improvements at the business park, to which Commissioner Langston replied that there are plans for that to occur, and Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that such plans should be before the Board before the budget is adopted.
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. No business to bring before the Board this evening.
 7. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk