

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

June 21, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Bobby Irions, Becky Langston.
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Andrea Dzioba, 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 May 19, 2022 Planning Retreat, May 24, 2022 Budget Work Session III (with an amendment by Commissioner Langston), June 7, 2022 Budget Work Session IV, June 7, 2022 Regular Session and June 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS.**
 - A. **Second Reading: Alcohol Application of Whitley Harris for Special Events Facility at Olde Whitesville, 4731 Pine Lake Road, West Point.** Chairman Zuerner read the specifics of the application and said that the Sheriff's Office recommended approval and that no recommendations were given by the Health Department or the Community Development Department. Whitley Harris, applicant, appeared before the Board and stated that the application was made so that guests at the facility would be able to have the option of a champagne toast or mimosa at their event. Although there was an individual that wanted to speak in opposition to the application, Community Development Director Brian Williams advised that this was a second reading and was not a public hearing. The motion to approve the Alcohol Application of Whitley Harris for Special Events Facility at Olde Whitesville, 4731 Pine Lake Road, West Point was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Consideration of prior withdrawal of the Application of Dylan Lloyd Thomas for a Special Use Permit for a commercial Kennel for Training and Boarding of Dogs on 16.867 acres of property located at 1245 Winfree Road, Hamilton, GA.** Chairman Zuerner introduced the item for consideration of the prior withdrawal. Commissioner Langston informed the Board that she requested that the item be brought back so that they could vote on the item. Community Development Director Brian Williams explained the waiting period and that it is imposed on the land. The motion to accept the prior withdrawal of the Application of Dylan Thomas for a Special Use Permit for a commercial Kennel for Training and Boarding of Dogs on 16.867 acres of property located at 1245 Winfree Road, Hamilton, GA with the 2-year waiting period was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed with four in favor (Langston, Andrews, Zuerner, Irions) and one opposed (Grant).
 - C. **Bid Award: Fire Training Center Addition.** Chairman Zuerner introduced the item related to the bid award for the Fire Training Center Addition. Discussion was held by the Board. County Manager Randy Dowling informed the Commissioners that he recommends that the bid be rejected and that funds have been allocated in the budget to go through the proper process as an official County project. Jay Johnson with Principle Construction advised the Board that they are able to honor and maintain their bid price. The motion to reject the bids for the Fire Training Center Addition was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **FY 22/23 Budget Public Hearing #2.** Chairman Zuerner called the Public Hearing to order and said that this is the second of two public hearings regarding the proposed budget and asked if there were any comments from those in attendance.

Joe Weldon, County Coronor, addressed the Board and requests that the salary be set at \$21,000. In addition, he requested \$14,594.00 be added to line item to correct miscalculations for the past 3 years. County Manager Randy Dowling advised that the coronor should be paid based on local legislation or the state specific minimum salary formula whichever higher. Kris Summerall, Payroll and Benefit Technician,

was on hand to assist with the calculated amounts. Discussion was held that included that the County previously included fees for transportation related to Weldon Services in our calculation and that the state minimum formula is the higher amount. County Manager Randy Dowling advised that we need to include an additional 13,000 for salary and benefits plus \$27,500 to correct the miscalculation for the last 3 years.

Facility Director Jamie Webb addressed the Board and requested that the previous requested salary grade changes be made. Discussion included that all of the assistant directors need to all be at the same grade across the board if they are not already a salary grade of 20. The consensus was to reclassify the facility maintenance assistant director from 18 to 20, facility maintenance lead tech from 12 to 14, fac from 8 to 10, assistant director of vehicle maintenance from 18 to 20, assistant solid waste director from 18 to 20 for a total increase in salary and benefits of \$52,738.

Stacey Jackson, District Attorney, addressed the Board and requested that he would like a range for his open position for an assistant district attorney to have a top end of \$80,000. He also advised that he would like to be able to offer an additional increase to the Assistant District Attorney currently employed in his office.

An extensive discussion was held with the Board of Commissioners related to items that they requested clarification on and changes that they would like to implement including the proposed employee COLA; supplements for constitutional officers excluding the Board; the possibility of giving some money back to the taxpayers; current inflation rates; recreation field maintenance; and departmental requests.

- B. **FY 22/23 Budget Adoption.** The motion to approve the FY 2022-23 budget as presented with discussed amendments and to adopt the Adoption Resolution regarding same was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Request for Tax Refund - George Frank Lean, Jr.** A brief discussion was held by the Board related to the amounts included in the request for tax refund. Tax Assessor Wayne Morris advised that consideration should really only be for 3 years of prior tax amounts. The motion to deny the Request for Tax Refund of George Frank Lean, Jr. was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed with four in favor (Langston, Grant, Zuerner, Irions) and one opposed (Andrews).
- D. **Re-appointment to the Department of Family and Children Services Board.** The motion to approve the re-appointment of Janice Harris to the Department of Family and Children Services was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner and passed unanimously.
- E. **Re-appointment to the Region 7 EMS Advisory Council.** The motion to approve the re-appointment of Thomas Faulkner was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
 - (1) **UDC/Land Use Codes.** The UDC will go to the Planning Commission on July 20th and will have a Public Hearing at the August 2nd Board of Commissioners meeting.
 - (2) **New EMS/VFD Facility at NWHBP.** This project is on bid and the deadline is August 4th and will be considered by the Board on August 16th.
 - (3) **Replace Prison Roof.** This should be finished late this month.
 - (4) **New Public Works Building.** Initial design meeting held on June 15th and the project is progressing.
 - (5) **Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase V (aka Rails to Trails).** Phase V will be completed by Thanksgiving.
 - (6) **Replacement Building at Transfer Station.** Project is under construction and completion in early 2023.
 - (7) **Replacement Garbage Truck.** The truck should be delivered later this month.

- (8) Water Works Administration Building. Project is under construction and should be completed in early 2023.
- (9) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is expected to be finished in 2023 and has a guaranteed maximum price.
- (10) Impact Fee Study. It is expected that the State will approve the CIE this week and then the Board can continue with the project.
- (11) NWHBP Project. This project is on bid and the deadline is August 4th and will be considered by the Board on August 16th
- (12) LOST Negotiations. The initial meeting was held on June 14, 2022 at Library and the next is on July 14th.
- (13) 5311 Rural Transportation Program. The van should arrive soon and the program should begin on July 5th.

10. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Ordinance to Amend Railroad Recreation Ordinance Regarding New Driveways or Crossings**. A brief discussion was held related to the proposed ordinance amendment including that any requested crossing would have to be presented to the Board of Commissioners with the engineer's recommendation for their consideration. County Manager Randy Dowling advised that the fee schedule will also be amended independent of this proposed ordinance to include the \$250.00 related to engineer review and that fee will be paid by the applicant. The motion to award the approve the an Amendment to the Railroad Recreation Trail Ordinance was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, passed with four in favor (Grant, Zuerner, Irions, Andrews) and one opposed (Langston).

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

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk