

**HARRIS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION**

April 18, 2018
7:00 PM

Board Members Present: John Britt, Chance Carlisle, Matthew Newberry, Ken Napier, Chad Kimbrough. Board Members Absent: John Brent, Chris Lintner. Staff Present: Brian Williams, Community Development Director; Nancy McMichael, Recording Secretary.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Britt called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2018 Regular Session was made by Mr. Carlisle, seconded by Mr. Kimbrough, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Decisions of Harris County Board Commissioners.** The following action was taken by the Board of Commissioners on March 6, 2018:
 - (1) Application of Edgar Hughston Builder, Inc., to Rezone 42.4 acres from A-1 to R-1 located 2/10 of a mile south of the intersection of Abberly Lane and McKee Road, Waverly Hall, for single family residential. Approved 5-0 with no conditions.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Preliminary Plat: Oak Hill, 80 lots, Edgar Hughston Builder, Inc., Developer.** Discussion included some concern about lot 63 and the narrowness of same. Following discussion, the motion to approve this Preliminary Plat was made by Mr. Kimbrough, seconded by Mr. Napier, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Discussion of Development Impact on County Services.** Chairman Britt welcomed Mike Jolley, Sheriff; Bucky Searcy, EMS; Jack McClung, Chief of Council of Fire Chiefs; and Kelly Bowen, Finance Director with the School Board, and said that he would like to hear from each on how development impacts the County.

Mike Jolley, Sheriff, said that growth impacts the Jail more than anything; more houses mean more burglaries, more arrests, and more inmates; that according to Carl Vinson Institute of UGA, the ratio of deputies to population is one deputy for every 2,000 citizens; that he may be short a deputy or two, but between his office and the municipal police departments, there are about 7 to 9 law enforcement personnel on the roads every day; that regarding ingress/egress of subdivisions, he prefers one entrance because in the event of burglaries, a camera can be set up to watch who goes in and out; that an increase in population would result in a need for more deputies; that juveniles cause a lot of problems and he recommends that no additional juvenile facilities (like the one on Macedonia Church Road) be permitted as the state pays for the juveniles in such facilities where 95% to 98% are from outside the County; and that while there has been an increase in traffic, it has not been drastic but gradual.

Bucky Searcy, Assistant Director of 911, appeared before the Commission and said that there are four ambulances that run 24/7/365 to serve the medical of the citizens; that the county is 473 square miles with four EMS stations; that a high increase in population would warrant another ambulance and more personnel; that the highest medical calls are consistently between 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM on Tuesdays; that EMS prefers subdivisions to have more than one ingress/egress point to enable them to get through the subdivision in the event the main entrance is blocked; that

40% of the population is over 65 and require more medical attention than those who are younger; that regarding an increase in traffic, such doesn't affect the ambulances; that while the County does not have hospitals or medical facilities, it is in better shape than surrounding counties when it comes to having ambulance service; that mutual aid, by law, is provided when possible, and such is provided to Muscogee County almost daily.

Jack McClung, Chief of the Council of Fire Chiefs, appeared before the Commission and said that in 2017 there were 280 fire calls and so far in 2018 there have been 250 calls; that firefighters are first responders and go to medical calls; that a master fire plan was drafted in 2015, but the Council of Fire Chiefs has not yet adopted it; that for hydrants, the line should be at least six inches to meet ISO standards; that accessory buildings are a concern for firefighters because people tend to store hazardous materials and also LP tanks because people usually have them too close to their homes; and that having looped roads within subdivisions make it easier to respond to fires in that firefighters can come from both directions if necessary.

Kelly Bowen, with the Board of Education (BOE), appeared before the Commission and said that it costs about \$9,500 a year per student; that the taxes on a \$650,000 home typically pays for about half a student with the other half coming from the state; that receiving copies of final plans (plats) helps in transportation planning by the BOE; that the BOE plans to build a new middle school and convert the existing one to a college and career academy; that state funding is permitted only for current needs, not future needs; that state funding has not been forthcoming as it has in the past but the word is that it should be back to full funding next year; that right now the student population has been stagnate for the last four years with 5,100 students four years ago and 5,400 current; and that currently there are 92 bus routes.

Chairman Britt thanked everyone for their comments and for being in attendance.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kimbrough, seconded by Mr. Newberry, and passed unanimously.

John Britt, Chairman

Prepared by:

Nancy McMichael, Recording Secretary