

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
October 18, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Rob Grant (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Becky Langston, Bobby Irions, Susan Andrews. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk; Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Zuerner called the Regular Session to order.
2. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Andrews gave the invocation. Chairman Zuerner led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2022 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Chairman Zuerner and passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**

A. **Blake Alford - Concerns about road conditions in West Point.** Mr. Blake Alford was not present at the meeting.

B. **Debbie and Tom Ramon - Water pressure on Hopewell Church Road.** Mrs. Debbie Ramon and Mr. Tom Ramon, citizens who live on Hopewell Church Road, appeared before the Board, and informed them that they have very low water pressure at their home; that they installed a booster pump and originally had 21 lbs; that now they have water pressure that is less than that; and that they would like to be reimbursed for the \$5,900.00 they spent on the booster pump. Mr. Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director, informed the Board that he advised them that they needed a booster pump when they moved in and that he hasn't received any other complaints. Commissioner Irions requested that Mr. Culpepper check their water pressure. Mr. Culpepper stated that he would check it in the morning.

Stacey Baker – Chickens, Dogs, and Easement Issues. Ms. Stacey Baker, citizen who lives on Dowdells View Drive, appeared before the Board and informed them that she lives on a private easement; that she has had about 14 different instances with animals from her new neighbors; that she has had 7 of her dogs killed in the past several years; that she hasn't been able to work since March due to a hand injury sustained while restraining her dog from one of their dogs; that the neighbor has dug a ditch around her property; and that she is worried about her grandchildren being injured.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Bid Award – Hadley Road Water Line Phase II.** Chairman Zuerner introduced the item related to the Bid Award - Hadley Road Water Line Phase II for the consideration of the Board

Contractor	Total Bid
Gordy Construction (Fortson, GA)	\$405,040.00
Crawford Grading & Pipeline (Luthersville, GA)	\$476,720.00
F.S. Scarborough, LLC (Peachtree City, GA)	\$510,601.67
RDJE, Inc. (Newnan, GA)	\$546,243.00

The motion to award the bid to Gordy Construction in the amount of \$405,040.00 for the Hadley Road Water Line Phase II and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

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

- (1) **UDC/Land Use Codes.** This will be considered by Planning Commission tomorrow and the Board on November 1, 2022.

- (2) New EMS/VFD Facility at NWHBP. Preconstruction meeting was this morning and project should be starting in the next 2-3 weeks.
- (3) New Public Works Facility. Building design is being finalized.
- (4) Ellerslie Park. Currently building a pavilion with a restroom. The playground is expected to be delivered in February. Trailheads and the observation tower are also being worked on.
- (5) Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase V (aka Rails to Trails). Ribbon cutting is November 1st at 5:00 p.m.
- (6) Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI. This project should be out for bid in the next 30 days.
- (7) Update the 2017 Tusa Evaluation Study. Discussion will continue on November 3, 2022.
- (8) New Solid Waste Facility. Roof and drywall are going in. Project should be complete in early 2023.
- (9) New Water Works Administrative Office. Foundation work has started.
- (10) Hadley Road Water Line Project Phase II. The Board awarded the bid this evening.
- (11) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is now expected to start in early January 2023. This project should be complete within 6 months after starting.
- (12) Quarterly Retreats. Next Retreat is scheduled for November 3, 2022.
- (13) Increase Hotel/Motel Tax. Consideration for County Attorney to prepare documents will be considered this evening.
- (14) LOST Negotiations. Certificate of Distribution on this evening's agenda for consideration.

Commissioner Langston inquired about the cost of the sign for elections. County Manager Randy Dowling advised her that it was in the \$3,500.00 range.

Vice Chairman Rob Grant arrived at 7:02 p.m.

8. COUNTY ATTORNEY

A. Agreement with Cities: Distribution of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).

County Attorney Russell Britt advised the Board that the overall breakdown is 68% to the County and 32% to the Cities and reviewed the following city-by-city breakdown:

Shiloh	3.60%
Waverly Hall	6.35%
West Point	6.60%
Hamilton	6.60%
Pine Mountain	8.85%

The motion to approve the Distribution of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), authorize the Chairman to execute the Certificate of Distribution, and direct that the completed document be submitted to the State was made by Vice Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously

- ### B. Proposed Local Legislation for Hotel-Motel Tax Increase. County Attorney Russell Britt advised that at the May 19, 2022 Planning Session that the Board had a consensus to proceed with the preparation of documents to increase the county's hotel/motel tax rate from 5% to 8% and to submit the documents to the local legislative delegation during the Fall for the General Assembly to act on during the 2023 Legislative Session. The motion to direct the County Attorney to prepare the necessary documents to increase the County's hotel/motel tax rate from 5% to 8% and to submit the documents to the local legislative delegation during the Fall for the General Assembly to act on during the 2023 Legislative Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Vice Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

C. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** County Attorney Russell Britt requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel and litigation.

9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Commissioner Irions made the motion to go into Executive Session for personnel and litigation at 7:09 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Zuerner and passed unanimously. At 8:09 p.m., County Attorney Russell Britt, County Manager Randy Dowling, and County Clerk Andrea Dzioba exited Executive Session and the Board remained in Executive Session.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:44 p.m. by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk