

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

January 3, 2023  
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Scott Lightsey, Greg Gant, Bobby Irions, Susan Andrews. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Clint Chastain, Chief Financial Officer; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Vice Chairman Grant called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m. Vice-Chairman Grant wish everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed new Commissioners Scott Lightsey and Greg Gantt.
2. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Commissioner Andrews gave the invocation. Vice-Chairman Grant led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
4. **ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION**
  - A. **Election of Chairman.** The motion to appoint Rob Grant as Chairman was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Election of Vice Chairman.** The motion to appoint Susan Andrews as Vice-Chairman was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
  - C. **Appointment of County Attorney.** The motion to reappoint Russell Britt as County Attorney was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
  - D. **Appointment of County Clerk.** The motion to reappoint Andrea Dzioba as County Clerk was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chairman Andrews, and passed unanimously.
5. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
  - A. **Maria Copeland - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** Maria Copeland, citizen, appeared before the Board and stated that a person in charge of diversity, equity, and inclusion be added to the Commission; that she believes that there are issues related to the disposition of documents; that someone should have gone over time accrual information with Pamela Jackson; that there is a “good old boy network;” and that the benefit structure is discriminatory and unprofessional.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Resolution and Defined Benefit Plan Amendment - Section 10.07, Reemployment of Retired Participant.** Chairman Grant introduced the item to the Board. Paul Bates, retirement consultant from ACCG appeared by Microsoft Teams to provide information and respond to any questions. Discussion included about whether any changes could be retroactive; that there was no financial impact; that there isn’t any unfunded liability; that the benefit is funded; and that this is only one of several retirement issues that the Board will need to discuss. The motion to defer discussion on this item until the February Planning Retreat was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed with four in favor (Grant, Gantt, Andrews, Irions) and one abstention (Lightsey).
  - B. **Financial Statement - October 2022.** Clint Chastain, Chief Financial Officer, was available to answer any questions. Discussion included the percentage of salaries and benefits included in total expenditures; that Mr. Chastain was not concerned that some line items were slightly over for the time period in the fiscal year, and that Mr. Chastain believes that the County is caught up with back-ordered vehicles except for a trash or dump truck that is on order. The motion to approve the Financial Statements for October 2022 was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

C. **Resolution - GEFA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement and Note.** Chairman Grant provided background information related to the U.S. 27 Water Line Upgrade and Relocation project that this loan would fund. The motion to approve the Resolution and authorize that Chairman and the Board to execute all necessary GEFA documents related to this project was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and pass unanimously.

D. **Request for Refund Garbage Assessment Fee Refund/Exemption - Lowell Hammock.** Chairman Grant introduced the request. Pamela Jackson from the Tax Assessors office informed the Board that the property isn't liveable and is in very poor condition. The motion to approve the refund for the Garbage Assessment Fee from the 2022 property taxes was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

E. **Appointment to the Board of Tax Assessors.** The motion to reappoint Jerry Smith to the Board of Tax Assessors was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

F. **Appointments to the Planning Commission.** A motion to appoint Nancy McMichael to the Planning Commission (At-Large position) was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed with three in favor (Grant, Lightsey, Gantt), and two opposed (Andrews, Irions).

A motion to appoint Becky Langston to the Planning Commission (District 3) was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed with three in favor (Grant, Lightsey, Gantt), and two opposed (Andrews, Irions).

G. **Appointments to the Recreation Board.** A motion to appoint Garnett Ray, III to the Recreation Board (Board of Education Representative) was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chairman Andrews, and passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Danny Rabon to the Recreation Board (Hamilton's Representative) was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Thomas Vowell to the Recreation Board (At-Large position) was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Luis Cordova to the Recreation Board (Unexpired At-Large position) was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

H. **Harris County Commissioners Meeting Schedule for 2023.** Discussion was held about whether to cancel the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting or move it to an alternate day. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews to approve the Harris County Commissioners Meeting Schedule for 2023 with the correction to move the July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to July 5<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

I. **Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedule 2023.** A brief discussion was held by the Board regarding the proposed schedule and that July 5<sup>th</sup> was already included. A motion to approve the Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedule for 2023 as presented was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

## 7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

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

- (1) **EMS/VFD Facility in NWHP.** Project is currently under construction.
- (2) **Annual LMIG Resurfacing Program.** Project will be out for bid next week.
- (3) **Dump Truck for Public Works.** Currently waiting for delivery.
- (4) **New Public Works Facility.** Design and survey work is on-going.

- (5) Ellerslie Park. Work is being done on the south-side trails. Project completion expected in February 2023.
- (6) Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI. This project is out for bid with the bid opening on January 18, 2023 and is expected to come to the Board on February 7, 2023. Completion expected by late Summer 2023.
- (7) New Fire Training Facility. Design has concluded and will go out for bid next week. Commissioner Lightsey inquired about whether the building beside the Senior Center might be used for the fire training facility. County Manager Randy Dowling advised that New Horizons has begun to utilize the building again after being shut down during the pandemic.
- (8) Design of 20 T-Hangars at Airport. The bid opening was held on December 8th and will go to the Board on January 17th.
- (9) Hadley Road Water Line Project. This project is expected to be completed in January 2023.
- (10) U.S. 27 Water Line. GEFA loan has been acquired and half will be paid by GDOT. GEFA loan funding was approved this evening. This project is out for bid with the bid opening on January 18, 2023 and Board consideration on February 7th.
- (11) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. Scaffolding is up and project is expected has started. This project should be complete by late Summer 2023.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. County Attorney Russell Britt requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of litigation and personnel.
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Commissioner Irions made the motion to go into Executive Session for litigation and personnel at 7:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Grant and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:00 p.m. by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chairman Andrews, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chairman Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

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Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk