

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

February 21, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Scott Lightsey, Greg Gantt, Bobby Irions, Susan Andrews. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Grant called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Vice-Chair Andrews gave the invocation. Chairman Grant led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES** The motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Eric Frazier - Traffic on State Route 315 at new Development.** Mr. Eric Frazier addressed the Board regarding traffic on State Route 315 near that new development and expressed his concern. He asked if the County was doing anything to help traffic in that area especially in the morning. He advised that he had already talked to Sheriff Jolley and was looking to the Board as leaders. Chairman Grant advised Mr. Frazier that the County is limited by the timing of when GDOT starts their projects and that the County could contact GDOT but that we were unlikely to receive a positive response. Staff was directed to provide Mr. Frazier with contact information for the regional GDOT manager.
 - B. **Monica Myles, Public Affairs Specialist at the US Small Business Administration - Economic Injury Disaster Loans for Business and Non-Profit Organizations.** Ms. Monica Myles, Public Affairs Specialist at the US Small Business Administration, addressed the Board about economic injury disaster loans for businesses and non-profit organizations. She advised that she wanted Harris County to know that businesses affected by storms in January of 2023 can apply for loans due to disaster. The loans are working capital loans of up to \$2,000,000 for economic injury. Additionally, she informed the Board that businesses can apply in-person or online; that loan repayment is up to 30 years; that interest rates are 2.375% for non-profits and 3.305% for businesses; and that the deadline to apply is October 16, 2023.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Presentation of Library Fund Donation - Harry Lange.** Harry Lange, former Commissioner and Chairman, appeared before the Board to present a donation in the amount of \$35,726.00 which is the last installment of the donation for the Library fund. The Board thanked Mr. Lange for helping facilitate the donation and for his continued work and dedication to the Library.
 - B. **Presentation - David Hawkins, Freeman & Associates - Mike Tracy Arena/2023 West Central Georgia Alliance Skills Challenge.** Commissioner Gantt requested that David Hawkins from Freeman and Associates make a presentation to the Board related to the Mike Tracy Arena/2023 West Central Georgia Alliance Skills Challenge. Mr. David Hawkins informed the Board that the skills challenge brings excitement; that there is a major demand for people working in trades; that the Challenge will be held on November 1st for the 15-County region; that a site is needed to hold the Challenge; that an open pavilion arena would be ideal; that they would like to fund the project via donations; that he would like to keep the event in Harris County; that the Harris County School District does not have an adequate location; and that the project would cost the County a maximum of \$170,000.00. The Board informed Mr. Hawkins that they would continue with their due diligence and consider the project during the upcoming budget process.
 - C. **Resolution to Accept Mulberry Crossing Drive Ext., Mulberry Crossing Court, and Campbell Drive.** The motion to approve the Resolution to accept Mulberry Crossing Drive Ext, Mulberry Crossing Court and Campbell Drive was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioners Irions and Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Request to Change Part-Time Water Works Employee to Full-Time.** Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director, addressed the Board related to his request to change the status of a part-time Water Works employee to full-time. He stated that the part-time position was created 15 years ago and that the person in the position currently has been there for approximately 4 years. He informed the Board that the employee is a good employee and works well with other staff and customers. The Board asked the opinion of County Manager Randy Dowling who informed that Board that he had considered Mr. Culpepper's request and had informed him that it was a status change that could be presented during the upcoming budget process. A brief discussion was held and the consensus was that this should wait and be considered during the upcoming budget process.
- E. **Appointment to the Public Improvements Authority.** Chairman Grant informed the Board that there was a Commissioner vacancy on the Public Improvements Authority and advised that he was already a member of the Public Improvements Authority in one of the Commissioner positions. Commissioner Greg Gantt volunteered to serve as a member on the Public Improvements Authority. The motion to appoint Commissioner Greg Gantt to the Public Improvements Authority was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Bid Award: LMIG Roads 2023.** County Manager Randy Dowling provided an overview of the agenda item related to the bid award for the 2023 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Resurfacing Program. Mr. Dowling advised that GDOT approved the submitted list; that bid specifications were developed, advertised, and distributed; and that the funds from GDOT in the amount of \$827,092.48 were received. On February 7, 2023, three (3) bids were received as follows:

Road	Robinson Paving (Columbus, GA)	C.W. Matthews (Marietta, GA)	Piedmont Paving (Newnan, GA)
Grey Rock	\$ 503,362.26	\$ 620,908.14	\$ 677,815.78
Dogwood Terrace	\$ 44,975.40	\$ 50,968.91	\$ 55,773.31
Pike Drive	\$ 105,193.55	\$ 123,442.15	\$ 134,461.59
Maria Lane	\$ 34,729.03	\$ 38,257.61	\$ 41,892.86
Boat Club Road	\$ 85,731.69	\$ 97,190.38	\$ 106,347.98
Mountain Drive	\$ 253,328.08	\$ 291,330.63	\$ 317,975.68
Total	\$1,027,320.01	\$1,222,097.82	\$1,334,267.20

He stated that the low bidder was Robinson Paving from Columbus with a bid of \$1,027,320.01. With the funds from GDOT in the amount of \$827,092.48, the state required 10% match (\$82,709.00) from TSPLOST, the total project budget is \$909,802.00 and that the remaining amount of \$117,519.00 needed to fully fund the project will also be funded by TSPLOST.

The motion to award the bid to Robinson Paving in the amount of \$1,027,320.01 for the resurfacing of six (6) County Roads and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Bid Award: Airport T-Hangars.** County Manager Randy Dowling provided an overview of the agenda item related to the bid award for the construction of twenty (20) airport t-hangars.

Discussion included that Clint Chastain, Chief Financial Officer, recommended to Commissioner Lightsey that it was bad timing and to hold off on the project; that it is a great project for economic development; that there are so many projects right now; that this should be considered during the upcoming budget process; and that the perception is that the airport only benefits a small amount of people. The Board did not take any action.

- C. **Surplus Property.** County Manager Randy Dowling introduced the item related to the declaration of surplus County property and that the proceeds from the sale of these obsolete and unneeded items goes back to the General Fund. The motion to declare the list of items listed as surplus County property and authorize the County Manager, County Clerk, and Fleet Manager to dispose of these items through electronic public auction and execute all related documents was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

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

- (1) EMS/VFD Facility in NWHBP. Construction is ongoing and the project is approximately 9% complete.
- (2) Annual LMIG Resurfacing Program. This project was awarded this evening.
- (3) New Public Works Facility. This project is still in the design phase.
- (4) New Playground at Moultrie Park. The playgrounds for Moultrie Park and Ellerslie Park have been delivered yesterday and are being erected.
- (5) Dehumidification System at the Community Center. The pool was shut down last week and the project is approximately 15% complete. It is anticipated that longer shut downs will have to happen to complete the project during the summer.
- (6) Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI. The preconstruction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.
- (7) New Fire Training Facility. The bids have been received and the Fire Chiefs Association will discuss the project and make a recommendation. The project will be presented for Board consideration on March 21, 2023.
- (8) New Solid Waste Facility. This project is approximately 83% complete.
- (9) New Water Works Administrative Office. This project is approximately 37% complete and should be done by mid-2023.
- (10) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is ongoing and approximately 25% complete. Phase II will be considered for next year's budget.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Update on Local Legislation**. County Attorney Russell Britt informed the Board that the Local Legislation to increase the Hotel-Motel Tax from 5% to 8% had passed the Senate and the House and was on the Governor's desk for signature. Additionally, the Local Legislation related to the Probate Judge seeking a technology fee is also on the Governor's desk for signature.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk