

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

April 4, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Susan Andrews, Greg Gantt, Bobby Irions. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Cynthia Nelson, Warden; Brian Williams, Community Development 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 March 21, 2023 Regular Session was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Amendment to Remove or Increase the Pre-Retirement Death Benefit.** Chairman Grant provided an overview of the proposed plan amendment to remove or increase the pre-retirement death benefit. The motion to increase the pre-retirement death benefit cap to \$100,000.00 effective July 1, 2023 and approve the Resolution to Amend Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Harris County Employees Adoption Agreement and Adoption Agreement Amendment #3 was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Amendment to Amend Section 10.07, Re-Employment of Retired Participant.** Chairman Grant provided an overview of the proposed plan amendment to amend Section 10.07, Re-Employment of Retired Participant. Discussion was held by the Board. County Manager Randy Dowling advised that a local policy to define the status of a returning County employee as requested by the Board was included in the updated Personnel Policy Handbook to be considered this evening. The motion to amend Section 10.07, Re-Employment of Retired Participant effective July 1, 2023 and approve the Resolution to Amend Association County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Harris County Employees Adoption Agreement and Adoption Agreement Amendment #4 was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed with four in favor (Grant, Andrews, Irions, Gantt) and one abstention (Lightsey).
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Inmate Work Agreement with the City of Manchester.** Chairman Grant introduced the agenda item and advised that Warden Cynthia Nelson was available to respond to any questions. The motion to approve the Inmate Work Agreement with the City of Manchester was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Appointments to the Harris County Board of Health.** Chairman Grant introduced the agenda item related to needed appointments to the Harris County Board of Health. The motion to re-appoint Shirley Manning and Julie Brown to the Harris County Board of Health for a term effective from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2028 was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
6. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Recognition.** County Manager Randy Dowling advised the Board that tornados came through the area on March 27, 2023 and it affected our neighbors to the north. He expressed his thanks to our Public Works employees for assisting Troup County at their request. He thanked Sam Roring, Ricky Culpepper, Dillon Searcy, Cody Brown, James Lee, Robert Santaliz, and Hunter Grantham for contributing their work and assistance in bring help and equipment to Troup County. He further thanked all of Public Works, E-911, Sheriff's Office, EMS, and all Public Safety workers in Harris County for their work during and after the event. Chairman Grant extended his thanks and gratitude to all that assisted on behalf of the Board.

B. **Personnel Policy Handbook**. County Manager Randy Dowling provided an overview of the agenda item related to the proposed Personnel Policy Handbook and repealing of the previous ordinance by approving the proposed ordinance. The motion to approve the proposed ordinance and approve the Personnel Policy Handbook effective May 1, 2023 was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

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

- (1) Unified Development Code (UDC). The UDC went into effect on April 1, 2023.
- (2) EMS/VFD Facility in NWHBP. This project is ongoing and going very well.
- (3) New Public Works Facility. This project is ongoing, the design is completed, and they should be moving dirt very soon.
- (4) Dehumidification System at the Community Center. Phase I will be done on Thursday and the pool will re-open.
- (5) Ellerslie Park. This project going well. The playground is about 2/3 completed. The southside trails/board walks are complete. The observation tower is expected to be bid out this month.
- (6) Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI. The project has started and is about 2/3 completed. It should be finished this month.
- (7) New Fire Training Facility. The project is proceeding.
- (8) Airport Runway Lighting. The project that includes runway lighting, airfield signage, and a wind cone is on bid and the bid opening was on March 29th and will be considered by the Board at the next meeting.
- (9) Airport Open House. The Airport Open House will be held on May 20, 2023.
- (10) New Water Works Administrative Office. This project should be finished in June and the building occupied by July.
- (11) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is going well and is expected to be finished in June.
- (12) Hotel/Motel Tax. The increase from 5% to 8% has been approved by the Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- (13) Personnel Policies. The Board has approved the policies this evening.
- (14) Tire Amnesty Days. A State tire grant was received and Tire Amnesty Days will be held on June 10, 2023 and June 17, 2023 at the Transfer Station. A flyer is on the County website.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS at 7:00 p.m.**

The Conflict of Interest forms were completed at the request of Chairman Grant. Chairman Grant explained the procedures for the Public Hearing.

A. **Application of Shannon Boykin for a Special Use Permit for an Amendment to the Conditions of the Original Special Use Permit to increase the limit of the number of dogs from 10 dogs to 41-80 dogs on a 5-acre parcel located at 384 Harold Williams Road, Hamilton, GA; Located on Map 069, Parcel 006A001, Land Lot 41, Land District 21, and zoned A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry)**. Chairman Grant read the information related to the Application of Shannon Boykin for a Special Use Permit for an Amendment to the Conditions of the Original Special Use Permit. Shannon Boykin and James Boykin appeared to respond to questions from the Board. James Boykin provided an overview of the facility and its operations.

Additionally, he provided a photograph of the original kennels at the facility when the original Special Use Permit was approved in order for the Board to be able to compare the original facility to what the facility currently contains.

Chairman Grant asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of this application.

Ritchie Grantham, 5367 US Hwy 27, advised that he boards his dogs at this facility, that he trusts them to take care of his animals, and that the Boykins are a Harris County born and bred couple and business.

Chairman Grant asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to this application. There being none, Chairman Grant closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

The motion to approve the Application of Shannon Boykin for a Special Use Permit for an Amendment to the Conditions of the Original Special Use Permit to increase the limit of the number of dogs from 10 dogs to 41-80 dogs on a 5-acre parcel located at 384 Harold Williams Road, Hamilton, GA was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews and Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk