

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

May 2, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Susan Andrews, Greg Gantt, Scott Lightsey, Bobby Irions. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Clint Chastain, Chief Financial Officer; 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 April 18, 2023 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **David Hawkins, Freeman & Associates - Mike Tracy Arena/2023 West Central Georgia Alliance Skills Challenge.** Discussion by the Board included that if they wanted to move forward with the project that it would have to added to the budget that they just reviewed during the Work Session; that the school district does not have this project on their radar; that the project would have to be designed and bid out but that items and services could be donated; and that a design-build was being recommended. The motion to deny moving forward with the project to make improvements to the Mike Tracy Arena was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Health Insurance Renewal: John Leggett.** John Leggett, insurance broker with MSI, appeared before the Board and reviewed the various aspects of the renewal documents which included that there is an increase in medical premium; that there was no change in dental; that there was a slight decrease related to vision; that there is no increase to County-paid life insurance but some options have been provided that could increase the benefit to the employee for a slight increase; and that it is recommended that Flexible Spending Account (FSA) administration be moved to AdminAmerica that currently provides services for COBRA. Kris Summerall, Payroll and Benefits Specialist, advised that she agrees with the recommendation to change the medical to Cigna and change the FSA to AdminAmerica. Following discussion, the motion to change medical, dental and vision to Cigna, increase the basic life amount to \$25,000, and change the new employee waiting period for all new employees hired after July 1, 2023 to the "1st" of the month following 30 days of employment was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
6. **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 John Clarence Wilkes, III, for a Special Use Permit for a private kennel to breed five-dogs on a 4.94-acre parcel located at 20320 GA Hwy 116, Shiloh, GA; Located on Map 094, Parcel 044, Land Lot 250, Land District 22, and zoned A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry).** Chairman Grant called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application and said that the recommendations of the Planning Commission and Staff were for approval with conditions. John Clarence Wilkes, III was in attendance to provide information and to respond to questions from the Board.

Mr. Wilkes advised that it would be a "boutique-style" kennel; that he would be breeding Bernedoodles; that the are desirable for families and children; that there would be no signage or business traffic; and that he has obtained a pet dealer's license.

Chairman Grant asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of this application. There being none, Chairman Grant asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to this application. There being none, Chairman Grant closed the public hearing

at 7:09 p.m. A motion to approve the Application of John Clarence Wilkes, III, for a Special Use Permit for a private kennel to breed five dogs on a 4.94-acre parcel located at 20320 GA Hwy 116, Shiloh, GA; with the condition that the applicant shall maintain the existing wooded buffer on the eastern, southern, and western sides of the facility site and that the number of dogs kept on-site at any time shall not exceed five (5) was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

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

- (1) New EMS/VFD Facility. Project is ongoing and the walls are going up.
- (2) New Public Works Facility. The land has been cleared and we are waiting on additional permits.
- (3) Ellerslie Park Playground. The playground could be completed this week or next.
- (4) Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI. This project will be finished very soon. Chairman Grant advised that Georgia Parks and Recreation would like the County to notify them when there is a date for the ribbon cutting.
- (5) New Fire Training Facility. The preconstruction meeting was held yesterday.
- (6) Airport Open House. The Airport Open House will be held on May 20, 2023.
- (7) New Water Works Administrative Office. This project should be finished in three to four weeks.
- (8) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is going well and is almost complete.
- (9) Ellerslie Park Observation Tower. This project is currently out on bid.
- (10) 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.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that he had no business to bring before the Board this evening.

9. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of real estate and personnel.

10. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session for real estate and personnel at 7:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews and Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

11. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:47 p.m. by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk