

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

May 16, 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; Brian Williams, Community Development Director; Lee Walton and Bill Ross, Consultants; 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 May 2, 2023 Budget Work Session I and Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Georgia Department of Corrections and Harris County (County Capacity) for Prison.** Chairman Grant said that every year the County and the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) renew an intergovernmental agreement regarding the County prison inmate capacity. He said that the current inmate capacity is 160 and the average capacity stays very near that amount; that the proposed agreement still has capacity at up to 160; and that the GDC will continue to pay the County \$22.00 per inmate per day for the duration of the agreement. The motion to approve an intergovernmental agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and authorize the County Manager to execute the necessary documents was made by Vice-Chair Andrew, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement between the Harris County Department of Public Health and Harris County Board of Commissioners.** Chairman Grant stated that for over twenty years the County has provided vaccines to the Volunteer Fire Department personnel and various County employees. He said that VFD personnel will be required to submit a Requisition for Services before a vaccine would be administered by the Health Department; that the Tdap vaccine is \$58.00 and the Td vaccine is \$49.00 for VFD personnel and employees; that the Health Department will submit health insurance claims for staff to all accepted insurance carriers for each firefighter and/or employee; and that the Health Department will have a space at the yearly employee health fair to provide an influenza clinic and access to Tdap and Td vaccines should employees desire those as well. The motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement between the Harris County Department of Public Health and Harris County Board of Commissioners for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
  - A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
    - (1) **New EMS/VFD Facility.** Project is ongoing and is expected to be completed in September.
    - (2) **Road and Bridge Master Plan.** The RFP is being prepared, it is a three month process, and the project has been included in next year's proposed budget.
    - (3) **New Public Works Facility.** The design is complete and land clearing permits are being obtained.
    - (4) **Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI.** This project will be finished very soon and the last leg of the paving is being completed.
    - (5) **Airport Runway Lighting and Airfield Signage.** The contracts will be completed shortly for this project.

- (6) Airport Open House. The Airport Open House will be held on May 20, 2023.
- (7) New Water Works Administrative Office. This project is nearing completion.
- (8) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is winding down and should be complete in June.
- (9) Ellerslie Park Observation Tower. This project is currently out on bid and the bid opening is June 8, 2023. It will go to the Board for consideration.
- (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.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**.

- A. **Amendment to Article V (Hotel-Motel Tax) of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances**. Chairman Grant said that the Board requested, the General Assembly approved, and the Governor signed HB 210 increasing the County's hotel/motel tax rate from 5% to 8% for those hotels, motels, and online venues located in the unincorporated area of the County. He stated that this rate increase needs to be implemented by amending the existing ordinance; distributing the amended ordinance to all affected hotels, motels and online venues so they can be aware of and implement the new rate; and amend the existing agreement between the County and the Harris County Chamber of Commerce to reflect the rate change. The motion to approve the ordinance amending Article V (Hotel-Motel Tax) of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Grant announced at 6:46 p.m. that the meeting would recess until the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Grant called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

- A. **First Reading: Proposed Development Impact Fee Ordinance of Harris County, Georgia**. Chairman Grant announced that this is the first of two public hearings to receive and consider comments for the implementation of an impact fee ordinance. He further stated that this is also the first of two readings for the proposed Development Impact Fee Ordinance of Harris County, Georgia. Chairman Grant advised that the second public hearing and second reading are scheduled to be heard on June 6, 2023, after which the Board will take action.

Lee Walton, Consultant, advised that this is the first reading of the ordinance; that prior to adoption of the ordinance that the Board will need to adopt the Capital Improvements Element (CIE); that the Board will consider the adoption of both the ordinance and CIE at the next meeting; that it would be the establishment of the program; that the proposed fee schedule has \$0 in all areas; that it would be maintained and updated over time with statuses to the DCA; and that the ordinance and fee schedule can be updated if needed for fee schedule changes.

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

Bill Czukor, 402 Preston Ct, appeared before the Board and stated that he sees the burden that is on homeowners and the burden for funding and that he sees this as a new funding source.

Chairman Grant asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition to this application. There were none that wanted to speak in opposition. Discussion included that at the time of the CIE adoption that it becomes part of the Comprehensive Plan; that the process for the Comprehensive Plan would include review of projects; that the normal recommendation is that fees and studies are updated the year after the

Comprehensive Plan since the Comprehensive Plan provides plans; that there would be an annual update report; and that report is still required to be sent in even with \$0.

Chairman Grant closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

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

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Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

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Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk