

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

August 1, 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; Ashley Marston, Recreation Director; Mike Fuson, Assistant Recreation 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 July 18, 2023 Work Session and Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **First Reading: Alcohol Application of Vance C. Smith for Harris County Chamber of Commerce.** Chairman Grant read the specifics of the application and said that the Sheriff's Office recommended approval and that there was no recommendation from the Health Department or Community Development. The applicant was available to respond to any questions. There being no comments from the Board, Chairman Grant stated that the second reading and action are scheduled to take place during the August 15, 2023 meeting.
 - B. **2024 Local Maintenance Improvements Grant (LMIG) Projects.** Chairman Grant advised that one County road was identified as needing resurfacing and is being recommended to be submitted to GDOT for the 2024 LMIG allocation. The motion to approve the submission of Ripshin Road to GDOT for the 2024 LMIG allocation and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Resolution to Accept Altapass Way, Cypress Trail, and Morus Lane in The Orchards at Mulberry Grove, Plat 2.** Chairman Grant introduced the item related to acceptance of Altapass Way, Cypress Trail and Morus Lane. In response to a question from the Board, Community Director Brian Williams advised that Plat 2 is the second phase of the development. The motion to approve the Resolution to Accept Altapass Way, Cypress Trail, and Morus Lane was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **CVIOG Agreement for Compensation and Classification Plan Update.** County Manager Randy Dowling provided an overview of the agenda item related to the proposed CVIOG Agreement for Compensation and Classification Plan Update. Mr. Dowling advised that the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 approved budget contains funds to engage CVIOG to prepare/update job descriptions as needed and update the study to ensure that all employee positions are competitively priced. The motion to approve the CVIOG Agreement for Compensation and Classification Plan Update and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Update Fee Schedule for Community Center and Rodeo Pavilion.** Chairman Grant stated that the Community Center fee schedule needs to be updated to add the existing Silver Sneakers program and the new Renew Active program. He advised that these two health and fitness programs are available for senior adults as part of their Medicare plans (if included) and pays the Community Center a fee when Medicare members use it. Additionally, Chairman Grant said that a rodeo pavilion and arena fee schedule need to be added to the overall fee schedules. Ashley Marston, Recreation Director, stated in response to questions that the facility has been used by the Boy Scouts, Cowpunchers, and Labor Day Fireworks. The motion to approve the fee schedules for the Community Center

and Rodeo Pavilion and Arena was made by Chairman Grant and seconded by Commissioner Lightsey. Vice-Chair Andrews made a motion to amend Chairman Grant's motion to take "Rodeo" out of the fee schedule title and change it to AG Center, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously. The motion to approve the fee schedules for the Community Center and AG Center Pavilion and Arena was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

C. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, advised that this is the first Program of Work for this fiscal year and reviewed various projects as follows:

- (1) Employee Compensation and Classification Plan. The agreement was approved tonight. CVIOG will begin project in January 2024 and be completed by June 2024 and implementation during Fiscal Year 2024-2025
- (2) Prepare for and Conduct SPLOST Continuation Referendum. We are preparing strategic plan.
- (3) Design of Digital Zoning Map. We are in the process of scanning information to RVRC.
- (4) Update to Comprehensive Master Plan. RVRC attended the July 27 Planning Session and reviewed the schedule with the Board.
- (5) New EMS/VFD Facility. This project is under construction and is approximately 50% complete. Completion in late October 2023.
- (6) New Citizen Request Management System. The SeeClickFix software is being implemented and should be working late next month.
- (7) Annual LMIG Resurfacing Program. Road list approved tonight and information will be sent to GDOT.
- (8) Develop Pine Mountain Valley Park. Board of Education does not want the property. There are perpetual restrictions on the 11 acres and we are in the process of obtaining a survey and Phase I assessment.

In response to questions from the Board, County Manager Randy Dowling advised that the concrete was completed on the Trail where it was cut by a contractor and that the work was supervised by the County's contracted engineer. He said that the asphalt should be done this week. Mr. Dowling expects that there should be a ribbon cutting soon - later this month - and that they are going through the punch list right now.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that he had no business to come before the Board this evening. However, he requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel.

Chairman Grant recessed the meeting at 6:51 p.m. until the public hearings are held at 7:00 p.m.

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

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 The Farm House/McKenzie's Farm House Inc. For a Special Use Permit for a Special Event Facility and Outdoor Wedding Venue on a 4.50-acre parcel located at 469 Farmhouse Road, Eilerslie, GA; Located on Map 080, Parcel 021F, Land Lot 189, Land District 18th, and is zoned C-4 (Highway Commercial District).** Chairman Grant called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and said that the recommendations of the Planning Commission was approval with no conditions and Staff recommended approval with conditions. Ms. Beckie McKenzie, Applicant, was available to provide information and respond to any questions.

Chairman Grant asked if there was anyone that would like to speak in favor of this application. There being none, he asked if any one would like to speak in opposition to the application. There being none, Chairman Grant closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

The motion to approve the Application of The Farm House/McKenzie's Farm House Inc, for a Special Use Permit for a Special Event Facility and Outdoor Wedding Venue on a 4.50-acre parcel located at 469 Farmhouse Road, Ellerslie with Staff recommendations that the site of special event facilities and parking shall meet the following requirements: a) The proposed quantity of on-site parking shall be determined and designed parking areas delineated and designed to meet applicable County standards; and b) Illumination and noise associated with events shall not extend beyond the property in such a way as to constitute a nuisance to residences in the vicinity was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

8. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** County Attorney Russell Britt had requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel. Chairman Grant stated that he would like to discuss personnel and real estate.
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session for personnel and real estate at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gantt and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lightsey and Commissioner Irions, seconded by vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk