

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR SESSION**

September 5, 2023

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; Sherrail Jarrett, Election Supervisor/Chief Registrar; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk.

WORK SESSION

5:30 p.m.

1. **SPLOST 2025 Proposal.** Chairman Grant called the Work Session to order. County Manager Randy Dowling provided background on the current SPLOST and advised of the need to start the process now. Discussion regarding the projects for the upcoming SPLOST included that the current SPLOST continues until March 31, 2025; that right now it is projected that the current SPLOST will generate \$22,042,008; that the current intergovernmental agreement has percentages as follows: Pine Mountain (4.1%), Hamilton (3.7%), Waverly Hall (3.2%), West Point within Harris County (3.0%), Shiloh (2.0%), and Unincorporated Harris County (84.0%); that a special election can only be held on three dates: March 12, 2024, May 21, 2024, and November 5, 2024; that the March 12, 2024 election date is being proposed; that the County and the cities will need to determine what projects they would like to include; that it is desired to have another intergovernmental agreement between the County and its five municipalities regarding SPLOST projects and the distribution of SPLOST proceeds; what projects the County might consider for the upcoming SPLOST including Sheriff's vehicles, tractors for Public Works, the Agricultural Facility, VFD vehicles and equipment, water and sewer projects, and recreation improvements; and that the County will coordinate a joint meeting between the County and the cities to discuss each entity's proposed projects.

The Work Session adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

6:30 p.m.

2. **CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Grant called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.
3. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Vice-Chair Andrews gave the invocation. Chairman Grant led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **PRESENTATION**
 - A. **Harris County Little League - 12U State Champs.** Chairman Grant and the Board of Commissioners read and presented Certificates of Recognition to the 12U Allstar baseball team coaches and players for their accomplishment of being the 2023 District 8 Champions, State Champions, and placing third in the Southeast Regional Tournament. Certificates were presented to Manager Chris Gilstrap, Assistant Coach Jaime Goudie, and players Luke Goudie, Hudson Harper, Carson Vega, Michael Ribas, Colton Clayton, Cabott Clark, Jacob Gilstrap, AJ Robinson, Malik Levy II, Fuller Carver, Charlie Thomas, and Knox Nance.
5. **MINUTES** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2023 Called Work Session, May 18, 2023 Planning Retreat, May 23, 2023 Budget Work Session, and August 15, 2023 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **First Reading: Alcohol Application of Bhavanaben G. Patel for Mulberry 315 Inc dba Mulberry Food Mart.** Chairman Grant read the specifics of the application and said that the Sheriff's Office recommended approval, the Health Department recommended approval, and Community Development recommended approval. 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 September 19, 2023 meeting.

B. **Selection of a Consultant to Prepare an RFP to Obtain a Vendor to Design and Install a County-wide P25 911 Radio System.** Chairman Grant introduced and read the details of the item being considered. Richard Burke, Managing Partner of Televate, LLC, was available via video conference and members of the evaluation committee were on hand to provide input and respond to questions. Mr. Bill Czukor, Cataula Fire Chief, advised that the committee felt confident with Televate, the costs, timelines and the interview process. Chief Chris Walden states that there are issues with the system now and the thought of really fixing the system is appealing; that it is good to bring in an expert; that they are eager to work with us; and that they will provide us with the ability to make the right decision. Discussion included that there is only a select group that have the ability to do the work; that ours is a niche project; that it will be a two-year process; that the topography is unique; that Televate's goal is to be a trusted advisor; that end-user community requirements need to be defined; that they will rely on the end-user community; and that Televate will be an extension of the County team.

The motion to approve the contract with Televate, LLC and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute all related documents was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Bid Award to Restripe 30 County Roads (48± miles) and Add Additional Roads.** County Manager Randy Dowling provided an overview of the agenda item related to the bid award to restripe 30 County roads (48± miles) and add additional roads. Mr. Dowling stated that one (1) bid was received as follows:

Company	Bid Amount	# of Days to Complete
Peek Pavement Markings, LLC Columbus, GA	\$ 99,800.00	60days

Mr. Dowling informed the Board that since the bid was well under the grant amount, the Public Works Department identified nine additional roads (45.2 miles) that need to be restriped, submitted them to GDOT for approval, and GDOT has approved them. A bid document is being prepared for those additional roads and that results of that bid will be considered by the Board at a subsequent commission meeting to spend the remaining grant funds.

The motion to award the bid to Peek Pavement Markings, LLC in the amount of \$99,800, approve the additional nine roads (45.2 miles), and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.

B. **Agreement Between Harris County and River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) Regarding the Development of a GIS System and a Digital Zoning Map.** County Manager Randy Dowling stated that the FY 2023-2024 approved Community Development Department budget contains \$65,000 to partner with RVRC to develop a new Geographic Information System (GIS) and a new digital zoning map for the County and that an agreement has been prepared and reviewed by both parties.

The motion to approve the agreement between Harris County and River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) regarding the development of a GIS system and a digital zoning map and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and pass 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.** CVIOG will begin project in January 2024 and be completed by June 2024.
- (2) **SPLOST Continuation.** Information was presented to the Board earlier this evening and this will be ongoing.

- (3) RVRC Design Digital Zoning Map. The agreement was approved tonight and all maps have been scanned and sent to RVRV for digitizing.
- (4) Update to Comprehensive Master Plan. The first public hearing was on August 28, 2023 and this will be ongoing.
- (5) New GIS System. The agreement was approved tonight.
- (6) New EMS/VFD Facility. This project is ongoing and completion should be during late November 2023.
- (7) New Citizen Request Management System. SeeClickFix will be rolled out late this month and will enable items being reported to be tracked.
- (8) Re-Stripe Numerous County Roads. The bid was awarded this evening.
- (9) Develop Pine Mountain Valley Park. A survey and Phase I environmental has been completed and the attorney is preparing documents for ownership transition. This will be on the September 19, 2023 agenda for consideration.
- (10) New Fire Training Facility. This is under construction and will be complete by October of 2023.
- (11) RFP for Vendor to Provide a P25 Standard 911 Radio System. The agreement with Televate was approved this evening.
- (12) Courthouse Renovations, Phase II. The County is working with architects for Phase II of the Courthouse renovations.

Additional discussion included the lighting on Field #7; praise for the Man O'War Trail; and that Matt Smith at Carter & Sloope will provide further information about the King's Gap water issue. Chairman Grant advised that the Man O'War Trail is listed on the national trail website. Additionally, the Board was advised that the ribbon cutting for the Man O'War Trail, Phase VI will be held on September 19th at 5:30 p.m.

8. COUNTY ATTORNEY.

- A. **Granting an Easement to Arrinco, LLC Over, Under, Through and/or Across the Man O'War Trail in Hamilton.** County Attorney Russell Britt provided information related to the proposed easement to Arrinco, LLC due to the installation of an underground storm drain pipe without permission, permit, or easement from the County.

The motion to grant an easement to Arrinco, LLC over, under, through, and/or across the Man O'War Trail in Hamilton contingent upon payment of \$2,017.50 for the engineering invoice and \$2,560.00 for the cost of the easement was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Resolution to Approve Language Revisions to the Public Improvements Authority (PIA) Act.** County Attorney Russell Britt introduced the Resolution to approve language revisions to the Public Improvements Authority (PIA) Act and advised that it has been prepared requesting the County's local legislative delegation introduce local legislation during the 2024 General Assembly to amend sections and add new sections to the original Public Improvement Authority (PIA) Act to allow the PIA to finance additional types of projects.

The motion to approve the resolution to approve language revisions to the Public Improvements Authority (PIA) Act was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

C. **Memorandum of Understanding: Daesol Ausys Georgia LLC in Northwest Harris Business Park.** County Attorney Russell Britt provided information related to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Development Authority Chairman Craig Greenhaw was available to provide information to the Board of Commissioners and respond to any questions. Chairman Grant thanked Mr. Greenhaw for his hard work and time in helping facilitate this agreement.

The motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Daesol Ausys Georgia LLC was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

D. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** County Attorney Russell Britt requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of litigation and real estate.

9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Vice-Chair Andrews made the motion to go into Executive Session for litigation and real estate at 7:48 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gantt and Commissioner Irions and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:17 p.m. by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
11. **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 8:17 p.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk