

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

October 17, 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; 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 October 3, 2023 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Request for Tax Refund - Dorinda Morpeth.** Chairman Grant introduced the request by Dorinda Morpeth for a \$44.21 refund for the ad valorem taxes paid on September 14, 2023, for a vehicle renewal and that the Requestor sold the vehicle on September 16, 2023 which was before the renewal due date of October 10, 2023.

The motion to approve the \$44.21 refund to Dorinda Morpeth for the ad valorem taxes paid on the vehicle renewal was made by Vice Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Resolution - Urging Continuation of Efforts to Reform and Improve Mental Health Services for the Citizens of Georgia.** Chairman Grant stated that ACCG is strongly encouraging every county in the state to adopt a resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. He further stated that ACCG asks for the resolution to be adopted prior to the start of the 2024 legislative session. The motion to approve a resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **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) **SPLOST Continuation.** The proposed plan is being finalized and an updated plan will be sent out tomorrow to the cities for a final review. In response to a question from Chairman Grant about why they can't impose more than 1¢ in order to lower property taxes, County Attorney Russell Britt explained the State law regarding the SPLOST and stated that SPLOST has certain restrictions. He further said that you can go up to 1¢ but can't go over 1¢.
  - (2) **New EMA/VFD Facility.** This project is expected to be completed late next month with a ribbon cutting in early December.
  - (3) **New Citizen Request Management System.** SeeClickFix is being used and feedback is being obtained.
  - (4) **New Public Works Facility.** The final design meeting was this week and the project is expected to start in early 2024.
  - (5) **GDOT SR 315 Improvements.** GDOT has selected an engineer - WSP - for this project.
  - (6) **Observation Tower at Ellerslie Park.** The footings are done and construction has begun.

- (7) Develop Pine Mountain Valley Park. Recreation is meeting with residents in the area to obtain feedback on what they would like to see and a master plan can be compiled based on information received.
- (8) New Fire Training Facility. The ribbon cutting will be held on November 28, 2023 followed by the November planning session.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

- A. **Fitness Passport Service Agreement with OptumHealth Care Solutions LLC.** County Attorney Russell Britt provided information related to the Fitness Passport Service Agreement with OptumHealth Care Solutions LLC and advised that the agreement institutes Renew Active, a health and fitness program that is available for senior adults as part of their Medicare plans (if included) and pays the Community Center a fee when Medicare members use it. The motion to approve the Fitness Passport Service Agreement with OptumHealth Care Solutions LLC was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** County Attorney Russell Britt requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of litigation.
7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session for litigation at 6:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews and passed unanimously.
  8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:06 p.m. by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
  9. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

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Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk