

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

March 5, 2024  
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 February 20, 2024 Regular Session and February 22, 2024 Planning Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**

- A. **Connie Guy - Meetings of Boards Appointed by Harris County Commissioners.** Ms. Connie Guy, citizen who lives on Bugg Road, addressed the Board and discussed the Agricultural Master Plan Committee and stated that no minutes were produced for any of the meetings except draft minutes for November 14, 2022 meeting; that there is no way to know who attended the meetings or facility tours nor any other details of the meetings; that the posted notices related to the tours of other facilities stated that no minutes would be kept and so there is no way to know who attended the tours; that the Bulloch County site was “most liked by those who visited”; that the meetings did not follow parliamentary standards; and that she requests that the Agricultural Master Plan Committee be dissolved and that a new committee be appointed to have an “open mind/fresh eyes” to provide alternatives.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Identification of Voting Delegate for Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission Members (GOSAC) and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Members.** Chairman Grant advised that the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Georgia and Participating Local Governments as part of Georgia’s participation in the national Opioid Distributor and Janssen Settlements requires the creation of the Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission (GOSAC) and Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to access grant applications and recommend funding for the regional portion of the opioid settlement funds. He further stated that each Participating Local Government will receive one vote as part of this process and that the vote for our region (Region 6) will be held on March 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Harris County Library and the voting delegate must be present to cast a vote on behalf of Harris County for the three remaining GOSAC members to represent local governments and RAC members for our region. Chairman Grant stated that he has volunteered to represent Harris County as our Voting Delegate.

A motion to approve Chairman Rob Grant as the voting delegate for Harris County was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Vice-Chair Susan Andrews, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Appointments to the Housing Authority of Harris County.** Chairman Grant provided information related to the needed appointments to the Housing Authority of Harris County and stated that the terms of Vickie Taylor, Chris Butzon, Jenny Eckman, Kim Bussey, and John Winchester have expired.

A motion to reappoint Vickie Taylor to a term expiring on October 31, 2026; Chris Butzon, Jenny Eckman, and Kim Bussey to terms expiring on October 31, 2027; and John Winchester to a term expiring on October 31, 2028 to the Housing Authority of Harris County was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Appointment to the Board of Elections and Registration.** Chairman Grant provided information related to the needed appointment to the Board of Elections and Registration. A motion to appoint Fredarius Marshall to the Board of Elections and Registration for the unexpired term that will expire December 31, 2025 was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

6. **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) **Employee Compensation and Classification Plan.** This project is ongoing and should be finished by June and implemented during the upcoming fiscal year.
  - (2) **SPLOST Continuation.** Advanced voting is occurring now and election day is March 12, 2024.
  - (3) **LMIG Resurfacing.** The Board awarded the bid to Robinson Paving to repave 4.1 miles of Ripshin Road and the project should be complete by the end of June.
  - (4) **New Public Works Facility.** Principle Construction has started and this project is ongoing.
  - (5) **Observation at Ellerslie Park.** This project is almost completed and should be finished in the next 2 weeks.
  - (6) **Pine Mountain Valley Park.** A concept plan is being prepared and should be brought before the Board in the next 30-45 days.
  - (7) **Airport Runway Lighting Project.** This project is going on now and should be finished in mid-March. There is a new AWOS system and now the runway lighting is being installed.
  - (8) **Conduct Airport Open House.** Annual open house will be held on May 4, 2024. This is a great annual event with airplane rides, food, and antique cars. We hope that everyone will come out to attend this event.

Chairman Grant inquired as to the whether there have been any additional inquires about having a weather camera installed on the observation tower. Mr. Dowling stated that he had not received any but that he believes that may happen in the future. Commissioner Gantt asked about housing starts for February and Mr. Dowling advised that there were 14 housing starts in February. County Manager Randy Dowling said that even though sales tax collections are down that we will meet our budget but that it is not as robust as in previous years.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

- A. **Construction and Access Road Workspace Permit.** County Attorney Russell Britt advised that Harris County has been approached by Southern Natural Gas Company, LLC and Kinder Morgan SNG Operator LLC to request temporary access across Harris County property so that they can move heavy equipment to their gas line easement without bringing the equipment over roads in Ellerslie Place. County Attorney stated that he has reviewed the permit and that his requested edits to same had been made. A motion to approve the Constructon and Access Road Workspace Permit and authorize the Chairman to execute same was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

- B. **All Hazard - All Emergency Mutual Aid Assistance Memorandum of Agreement**. County Attorney Russell Britt advised that this item is an emergency mutual aid agreement with Fort Moore and jurisdictions including the Sheriff's office. He stated that he has reviewed the agreement and does not have any concerns. He further provided information on how a mutual aid agreement works from a multi-jurisdictional level. A motion to approve the All Hazard - All Emergency Mutual Aid Assistance Memorandum of Agreement was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

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

8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

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Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk