

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

November 19, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Susan Andrews, Greg Gantt, Scott Lightsey, Bobby Irions. Staff Present: Russell Britt, County Attorney; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk; Elizabeth Barfield, Chief Financial Officer; Brian Griffith, Public Works Director. Also present: Bryan Huskey, Managing Director of Stifel; Tommy Ratchford, Bond Attorney from Murray Barnes Finister LLP.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Grant called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Grant asked that the Jarrett and Rees families be kept in our thoughts and prayers after losing family members recently.
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 November 5, 2024 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Appointment to the Harris County Board of Health.** Chairman Grant introduced the need for an appointment to the Harris County Board of Health. The motion to appoint Curt Ellis to the Harris County Board of Health to fill the unexpired term that ends on December 31, 2027 was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing the execution of various documents related to the issuance of the Harris County Public Improvement Authority's revenue bonds, including an intergovernmental contract with the Authority.** Chairman Grant introduced the item related to the adoption of a resolution related to the issuance of the Harris County Public Improvement Authority's revenue bonds. Mr. Tommy Ratchford advised that the Public Improvements Authority met and authorized the issuance of the bonds and that this resolution memorializes the terms of the intergovernmental agreement. Mr. Bryan Huskey advised that the County was contributing equity in the amount of \$3.5 million towards the project and the County received an extremely strong rating with Moody's of Aa1. Mr. Huskey further provided an overview of the debt service, validation service, and expected timeline for the closing. The motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of various documents related to the issuance of the Harris County Public Improvement Authority's revenue bonds, including an intergovernmental contract with the Authority was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Financials - January 2024 through June 2024.** Chief Financial Officer Elizabeth Barfield appeared before the Board and advised that all of the major funds for FY 2024 came in under budget; advised that the first payment on the elevated water tank was made from ARP funds; that cash balances are in great shape with \$66 million in cash balances; that 27% of funds are restricted; and that with the issuance of the revenue bonds that approximately \$1.5 million will be restricted each year between the debt payments and maintenance for the radio system.
 - C. **CVIOG Employee Compensation and Classification Study.** Chairman Grant introduced the item related to the CVIOG Employee Compensation and Classification Study. The Board reviewed the information related to the proposed changes for the compensation and classification of some positions and departments and had a consensus related to the items discussed. The Board would like to discuss further at the Regular Session meeting on December 3, 2024 with the changes discussed.
 - D. **Consider 5-Year Lease Agreements for Paving and Grading Equipment for the Public Works Department.** Chairman Grant provided background information related to the proposed 5-year lease agreements for paving and grading equipment for the Public Works Department.

Public Works Director Brian Griffith appeared before the Board and advised that the motorgraders are used to maintain dirt roads and the mini-excavator is used to pull ditches and that the other equipment (three rollers and one paving machine) are to be able to perform some paving in-house. He stated that, if approved, that the equipment will be received this week and the first payment won't be until July. The Board requested next year a list of what has been completed along with information related to any savings that have been realized.

Bo Barber, citizen who lives on Old West Point Road, appeared before the Board and expressed concerns related to road conditions that currently exist where there haven't been amounts budgeted for emergency repairs like the damaged guardrails; whether it is fiscally responsible to not deal with unforeseen expenditures; and whether new proposals take precedence over immediate needs.

Public Works Director Brian Griffith stated that he should have an estimate related to the guardrail repairs and that there is an item budgeted (road damage) that will take care of the situation being described.

The motion to approve the trade-in of the 2019 equipment, the proposed lease/financing of the new paving and grading equipment and authorize the Chairman and/or County Clerk to execute any necessary documents was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.

- E. **Consider the adoption of a resolution authorizing participation in the ACCG - Interlocal Risk Management Agency Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund: First Responder PTSD Program.** Chairman Grant introduced the proposed resolution authorizing participation in the ACCG - Interlocal Risk Management Agency Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund: First Responder PTSD Program. He further advised that the recently passed House Bill 451 mandates all public entities that have employed or volunteer first responders provide lump-sum and income replacement (long-disability) PTSD benefits, effective January 1, 2025. The motion to adopt a resolution authorizing participation in the ACCG - Interlocal Risk Management Agency Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund: First Responder PTSD Program was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
- F. **Appointment to the Region 7 EMS Advisory Council.** Chairman Grant stated that Tom Faulkner who recently retired from EMS served on the Region 7 EMS Council and that an appointment is needed to fill the unexpired term that ends on June 30, 2025. The motion to appoint Assistant Chief Tami White to fill the unexpired term that ends on June 30, 2025 was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
- G. **Consider a change to the Holiday Schedule.** Chairman Grant advised that there are no changes to the County Holiday Schedule and reviewed the Thanksgiving and Christmas closings.
6. **COUNTY MANAGER.** County Clerk Andrea Dzioba reviewed the updated SPLOST, LOST, TSPLOST, Single Family Home Building Permits, Solid Waste Tonnage, Active Water Works Customers, and Georgia Fund 1 Monthly Yields. Ms. Dzioba further advised that the Public Works building is expected to be completed in mid-December; that they are waiting on the store front doors, and that lockers and benches were delivered and will be installed; and that the renovations of the third floor of the Courthouse are moving along. Ms. Dzioba advised that she and Facility Maintenance Director Jamie Webb are working on a solution related to storage for furniture from the Courthouse during the ongoing renovations.
7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**
- A. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** County Attorney Russell Britt said that he had a need for an executive session under litigation and personnel.
8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session for litigation and personnel at 7:44 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.
9. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:10 p.m. by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously.

10. **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 8:10p.m.

Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk