

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

January 7, 2025  
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; Brian Williams, Community Development Director.

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 December 17, 2024 Regular Session was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
4. **ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION**
  - A. **Election of Chairman, Election of Vice-Chairman, Appointment of County Attorney, and Appointment of County Clerk**. Chairman Grant introduced the agenda item related to the Organization of the Commission. The motion to reappoint Rob Grant as Chairman, Susan Andrews as Vice-Chair, Russell Britt as County Attorney, and Andrea Dzioba as County Clerk was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.
5. **PRESENTATION**
  - A. **Jim Livingston - Executive Director, RVRC**. Jim Livingston, Executive Director of RVRC, provided the Board with an update of what the River Valley Regional Commission has been working on and what the County receives for its investment. He expressed appreciation to Chairman Grant for serving on the RVRC Board as well as the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Transportation Authority and Vice-Chair Andrews for serving on the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Transportation Authority and thanked them for their continued involvement. He reviewed a number of their programs which include the Agency on Aging, Planning and Government Services, and Workforce Development. Mr. Livingston further advised that \$1.3 billion has been invested in our region over the last 20 years; that RVRC is involved in regional TIA projects; that projects occur as funds are available; that dues paid are used as a match for Federal funds; that the Economic Development Committee has restarted; and that the Economic Development strategy is on the RVRC website.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Appointments to the Planning Commission**. Chairman Grant stated that the terms of Jarrod Lloyd (At-Large position) and Mark Harris (District 5 position) expired on December 31, 2024. Vice-Chair Andrews has recommended that Nicholas Henson be appointed for the District 5 position. The motion to approve the appointment of Nicholas Henson for the District 5 position for a term effective from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028 was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

A recommendation for the At-Large position will be considered at the January 21, 2025 Regular Session meeting.
  - B. **Appointments to the Board of Zoning Adjustments**. Chairman Grant introduced the item and advised that the terms of Lora Taft (District 5 position) and Chris Butzon (District 4 position) expired on September 30, 2024 and that both individuals have expressed the desire to continue to serve. The motion to reappoint Lora Taft and Chris Butzon to the Board of Zoning Adjustments for a term effective from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027 was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Appointment to the Board of Tax Assessors.** Chairman Grant introduced the item and advised that the term of Lisa Scully expired on December 31, 2024 and that she is not requesting reappointment. The motion to appoint Shalee Mallory to the Board of Tax Assessors for a term effective from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028 was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
- Chair Grant stated that he would like from the Board of Commissioners to consider expanding the Board of Tax Assessors from three members to five members. County Attorney Russell Britt will review our ordinance and the State statute and provide that information to the Board for their consideration.
- D. **Harris County Commissioners Meeting Schedule 2025.** The motion to approve the Harris County Commissioners Meeting Schedule 2025 was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedule 2025.** The motion to approve the Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedule 2025 was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
7. **COUNTY MANAGER.** County Clerk Andrea Dzioba stated that the Public Works' staff hopes to move into their new building next week.
8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

- A. **Consider an Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Harris County, Georgia to Amend the Harris County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article III, as Amended; and for Other Purposes.** Chairman Grant introduced the item related to possible changes to the Alcohol Ordinance, Chapter 6, Article III and stated that proposed changes would further align the Harris County Code with state law. County Attorney Russell Britt provided an overview of the proposed changes to the ordinance.

Dorothy and Tommy Moss, citizens who live on Central Church Road in Midland, thanked the Board for listening to them; advised that they are active in the community; and are in favor of the proposed ordinance changes.

Mary Luhring, who lives on Davis Mill Road outside of Harris County, stated that she is the Moss' realtor as well as their daughter; that she is proud of what Harris County has accomplished with smart growth strategies; and that the ordinance update will match state law.

Kimberly Brower, who lives on Tuck Person Hwy in Talbotton, stated that she spends money along 85 between Waverly Hall and Ellerslie; and that she supports the ordinance change.

Brad McDonald, citizen who lives on GA Hwy 315 in Waverly Hall, advised that he has known the Mosses for about twelve years and that he supports the ordinance change.

Peter Staarfanger, citizen who lives on Abberly Lane in Ellerslie, stated that he considers this ordinance from a risk perspective; that he makes it a point to do business in Harris County; and that he supports the ordinance changes.

Beckie McKenzie, citizen who lives on Farmhouse Road in Waverly Hall, stated that she supports the ordinance changes and believes that it would be beneficial.

Victoria Cable, citizen who lives on Central Church Road in Midland, stated that she has lived here for three years; that she would enjoy a few more restaurants and wineries; and supports the ordinance changes.

Debbie Kearns, citizen who lives on GA Hwy 315 in Ellerslie, stated that she believes that the ordinance should be changed; and that it seems to be the right thing.

Steve Register, citizen who lives on Mt. Airy Drive in Waverly Hall, advised that he has witnessed the residential growth but that there needs to be more; and that he is in favor of the ordinance amendment.

Mike Sard, attorney from Atlanta that represents the Mosses, thanked the Board for taking up this issue; that he is involved with alcohol ordinance issues all

across the state; that he requests support of this ordinance change; that Harris County is in the minority related to parks and their alcohol ordinance with the exceptions of Atlanta and Cobb County.

Commissioner Lightsey requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting on January 21, 2025.

9. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant stated that he would like to have an executive session to discuss personnel.
10. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session for personnel at 7:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews and Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
11. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:59 p.m. by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously.
12. **Sheriff's Office Salaries.** Vice Chair Andrews wanted to clarify the motion made at the December 3, 2024 Regular Session meeting. The motion to increase the Sheriff's Department salaries by 8.8% - for every individual who works for the Sheriff's Office and Jail - of their hourly rate as of December 3, 2024 and to be effective January 1, 2025 was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Chairman Grant, and passed unanimously.
13. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey and Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

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Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk