

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Commission Chamber, Room 215, Harris County Courthouse
102 N College Street, Hamilton, GA 31811

REGULAR SESSION

August 4, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Susan Andrews, Bobby Irions, Rob Grant, Greg Gantt, Scott Lightsey. Staff Present: Russell Britt, County Attorney; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk; Shalee Mallory, Chief Appraiser.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Andrews called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Pastor Keith Jennings from Roosevelt Memorial Church in Pine Mountain Valley gave the invocation. Commissioner Grant led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES** The motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions, and passed unanimously.
4. **SECOND PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE ON THE COUNTY'S 2026 MILLAGE LEVY - To hold a Public Hearing as required by State Law on the County's intent to levy a millage rate that differs from the calculated "rollback" millage rate for ad valorem tax purposes.** Chair Andrews called the Public Hearing to order and said that the purpose of this meeting is regarding the notice of intent to increase the property tax and that this is the second of three hearings the County is required to hold regarding same; and that there will be one more Public Hearing on August 18, 2026 before the millage rate is set. Chair Andrews said that the County has tentatively adopted a 2026 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 0.71 percent County Wide less West Point and by 1.39 percent in the West Point area; that this tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 9.13 mills.

Commissioner Grant stated that the millage rate of 9.13 is the same rate as the prior year and has stayed the same since 2022.

Chair Andrews opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. and asked if anyone wished to comment on the millage rate.

Leigh Dupriest, citizen who lives on Monument Road in West Point, appeared before the Board and inquired about how the additional tax revenue is used and stated that she believes that higher values on a home are unrealized gains.

Mark Williams, citizen who lives on Blackgum Drive in Waverly Hall, appeared before the Board and wanted to know how to be able to ask questions of all of the Board and that he believes that property tax is the only thing within the United States that they pay unrealized gains on before they make that gain.

There being no additional individuals that wanted to speak, Chair Andrews closed the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m.

5. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS.**
 - A. **Jacqueline Moyer - Moratorium on Hyperscale Data Centers.** Jacqueline Moyer appeared before the Board and stated that she started the "Keep Rural Harris County" website; that she respectfully requests that the Harris County Board of Commissioners adopt a one year moratorium on the approval of hyperscale data centers within Harris County; that hyperscale data centers represent a relatively new form of industrial development; that they can have significant long term impacts on communities; that these facilities often require substantial amounts of electricity, water, land and supporting infrastructure; that a temporary one year moratorium would provide the County with the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive study of economic, environmental and infrastructure impacts of data centers; that a moratorium of twelve months will give citizens a peace of mind that the Commissioners are not being rushed or influenced by big corporations or developers; that the community wants to be part of the process; and that she requests that a one-year moratorium be put in place while a comprehensive review and public planning process is able to be completed.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Elections Supervisor Recommendation.** Chair Andrews introduced the item related to the Elections Supervisor Recommendation and stated that the Elections Supervisor has resigned effective August 12, 2026 and that the Board of Elections and Registration has advertised the position and interviewed candidates. She further advised that the Board of Elections and Registration has recommended Salenthia Thomas for the position of Elections Supervisor.

Sherrail Jarrett, citizen who lives on US Hwy 27 in Hamilton, addressed the Board and make sure that Elections will be taken care of and whether or not the person being recommended has elections experience in the State of Georgia.

Chair Andrews read the recommendation letter provided by Philip Towles, Vice-Chair of the Board of Elections and Registration.

Chair Andrews recognized Philip Towles, Vice-Chair of the Board of Elections and Registration, in attendance at the meeting. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Towles stated that Ms. Thomas had not applied during the last application process; that the Board of Elections and Registration moved with a sense of urgency due to the upcoming ordering of ballots and election; and that eighteen individuals applied for the position.

The motion to accept the nomination from the Board of Elections and Registration to hire Salenthia Thomas as the Elections Supervisor was made by Chair Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Bid Award: 2026 Local Road Assistance (LRA) Project.** Chair Andrews provided an overview of the agenda item related to the bid award for the 2026 Local Road Assistance (LRA). Chair Andrews advised that GDOT approved the submitted roads; that bid specifications were developed, advertised, and distributed; and that the funds from GDOT in the amount of \$1,119,475.74 have been allocated.

On July 30, 2026, three (3) bids were received as follows:

Company	Bid Amount
Robinson Paving/The Scruggs Co (Columbus, GA)	\$ 1,125,804.32
C.W. Matthews (Marietta, GA)	\$ 1,163,432.42
McLeroy Inc (Zebulon, GA)	\$ 1,326,811.61

Chair Andrews stated that the low bidder was Robinson Paving/The Scruggs Co with a bid of \$1,125,804.32. With the funds from GDOT in the amount of \$1,119,475.74 with no required match, the total project budget is \$1,125,804.32 and that the remaining amount of \$6,328.58 needed to fully fund the project will be funded by TSPLOST.

The motion to award the bid to Robinson Paving/Scruggs Co in the amount of \$1,125,804.32 and authorize the Chair, County Manager, and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Vice-Chairman Irions, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Georgia Department of Corrections and Harris County (County Capacity) for the Prison.** Chair Andrews advised that this is the annual intergovernmental agreement regarding County prison inmate capacity effecton from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 which provides for payment to the County of \$30.00 per inmate per day. The motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections and authorize the Chair, County Manager, and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Memorandum of Agreement between the Harris County Department of Public Health and Harris County Board of Commissioners.** Chair Andrews stated that the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Harris County Department of Health provides for Tdap and Td vaccines for employees and provide for an influenza clinic at the yearly employee health fair. The motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Harris County Department of Health and Harris County Board of Commissioners and authorize the Chair, County Manager, and County Clerk to execute any necessary documents was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions, and passed unanimously.

E. **Intellectual Property Licensing and Assignment Agreement between Harris County, Georgia and the Harris County Chamber of Commerce.**

Chair Andrews introduced the item related to the Intellectual Property Licensing and Assignment Agreement between Harris County, Georgia and the Harris County Chamber of Commerce and advised that between November of 2024 and the end of December 2025, the County registered five separate classes related to the “Man O’War Trail” and the logo. She further stated that the County Attorney’s office recommended that Harris County enter into an agreement with the Harris County Chamber of Commerce under which the Harris County Chamber of Commerce assigns ownership rights in the marks used on goods and merchandise and the County licenses the rights of use to the Chamber. The motion to approve the Intellectual Property Licensing and Assignment Agreement between Harris County, Georgia and the Harris County Chamber of Commerce and authorize the Chair, County Manager, and County Clerk to execute any necessary documents was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

F. **Appointment to the Region 7 EMS Advisory Council.** Chair Andrews stated that Bucky Searcy 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, 2027 and that Tami White with EMS also serve on the Region 7 EMS Council and she would like to be reappointed for the term with an expiration date of June 30, 2028. The motion to appoint Chad Dallas to serve on the Region 7 EMS Advisory Council for the unexpired term ending on June 30, 2027 and Tami White to fill the term that ends on June 30, 2028 was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER.**

A. **County Manager Correspondence.** County Clerk Andrea Dzioba stated that the road resurfacing has been completed; that Public Works is starting on the third round of cutting grass utilizing three mowers on each side of the County; that Scenic Preserve, the R-R subdivision outside of Pine Mountain has begun timbering; that Community Development expects to receive construction plans soon related to BC Stone Homes’ Foxchase subdivision containing 34 lots; and that tower agreements for the new radio system are in place and construction is expected to begin in September.

Commissioner Grant informed the Board that Phase 3 of the Courthouse renovations related to the parking lot areas will begin in mid-September and continue through October.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

A. **REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** County Attorney Russell Britt stated that he has a need for executive session for litigation and personnel .

9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Commissioner Gantt made the motion to go into Executive Session for litigation and personnel at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:56 p.m. by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Vice-Chairman Irions, and passed unanimously.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Susan Andrews, Chair

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk