

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

REGULAR SESSION

August 18, 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. Also in attendance: Chief Jason Westbrook, Northwest Harris Volunteer Fire Department; Chief Jack McClung, Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department; Chief Nick Terry, Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Andrews called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Chair Andrews gave the invocation and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES** The motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2026 Special Called Session and Regular Session was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
4. **THIRD 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 at 6: 34 p.m. and said that the purpose of this meeting is regarding the notice of intent to increase the property tax and that this is the third of three hearings the County is required to hold regarding same; and that it is expected that the 2026 millage rate will be adopted later this evening. 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 asked if anyone wished to comment on the millage rate.

There being none, Chair Andrews closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m.

5. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS.**
 - A. **Gina Lee - Concerns about Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.**
Gina Lee appeared before the Board and stated that trust between the public and its government is at one of the lowest points in generations; that people feel unheard, unrepresented, and that the government is something that happens to them rather than something they participate in; that she would like the Board to require comprehensive constitutional literacy training for Harris County officeholders and that the Georgia General Assembly mandate similar training statewide for county commissioners; that she is requesting a resolution pressing the state to include Harris County under HB 369 to have county commission elections be nonpartisan; that government has to demonstrate boundaries of power; and that people want technology, not surveillance infrastructure.
 - B. **Jacqueline Moyer - Moratorium on Hyperscale Data Centers.**
Jacqueline Moyer appeared before the Board and stated that two weeks ago she requested a 12-month moratorium on data centers to ensure time for community input and ordinance development; that a number of Georgia jurisdictions have employed moratoriums despite lacking existing data center ordinances; and that the request is based upon public trust, procedural transparency, and guarding against environmental and surveillance concerns.

In response, the Board discussed that a moratorium ties their hands; that the number one concern of citizens is property taxes; and that potential state-led property tax reductions require exploration of replacement revenue streams. Chair Andrews stated that the Board is in education mode - attending trainings, consulting counties with data centers (including those with moratoriums), and gather expert input before contemplating any comprehensive plan amendments or

code changes. Further discussion included that multiple public hearings for community input and engagement would precede and follow any comprehensive plan work; and that, if the County proceeds that strict standards would be codified (e.g. cooling methods, power specifications, fuel use, buffers, lighting, structural requirements, and minimum acreage).

- C. **Dwight Langston - Realignment of Mountain Hill Road.** Dwight Langston appeared before the Board and stated that the County realigned Mountain Hill Road from intersecting GA Hwy 315 at an angle to creating a straight intersection that made it safer; that the intersection of GA Hwy 315 and Mountain Hill road is the perfect location for a roundabout; and that he is questioning why the County wants to move Mountain Hill Road back to its previous location that was dangerous. Discussion of the Board included that a previous land swap was related to the water tower site; that the realignment of Mountain Hill Road was previously approved in 2022; and that they will look into Mr. Langston's concerns about proposed realignment.
- D. **Todd Christopher - Litigation.** Mr. Todd Christopher was not in attendance at the meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Proposal from Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC for Pierce Custom Commercial Chassis Apparatus.** Chair Andrews introduced the item related to the proposal from Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC for Pierce Custom Commercial Chassis Apparatus and advised that the Council of Fire Chiefs has decided that Northwest Harris Volunteer Fire Department would be the recipient of the next County-provided fire engine and that the Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department would receive the one after that.

Chief Jason Westbrook of the Northwest Harris Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Jack McClung of the Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department, and Chief Nick Terry of the Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department were in attendance to respond to any questions from the Board. Discussion included that there are funds allocated in SPLOST 2019 in this year's budget for a fire engine; that there are EPA-driven price increases project in future model years with engine specification changes; and that the prices are unlikely to go down over time.

The motion to approve the purchase of two fire apparatus with them to by budgeted in the FY 2028 budget under SPLOST 2019 and SPLOST 2025 and authorize the Chair and County Clerk to execute any necessary documents was made by Commissioner Grant, and seconded by Vice-Chair Irions.

Discussion of the Board included that one of the volunteer fire departments had an ISO rating issue because it did not have a ladder truck and that these types of purchases are what they need additional revenue streams to cover.

County Attorney Russell Britt advised that he would like to review a few points in the contract with the company - one being the arbitration clause and another being the limitation of liability clause.

The motion to amend the original motion to add authorization of the Chair and County Clerk to execute any necessary documents once approved by the County Attorney was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions, and passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the purchase of two fire apparatus with them to by budgeted in the FY 2028 budget under SPLOST 2019 and SPLOST 2025 and authorize the Chair and County Clerk to execute any necessary documents once approved by the County Attorney was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Agreement with Traylor Business Services Inc for Business Personal Property Verification Program.** Chair Andrews introduced the item related to a yearly contract with Traylor Business Services for the Business Personal Property Verification Program. The motion to approve the contract with Traylor Business Services, Inc for the Business Personal Property Verification Program was made by Commissioner Gantt, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions and Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

- C. **2026 Property Tax Millage Rate Adoption.** Chair Andrews stated that all State required documents have been prepared, published in the newspaper, and posted to the County's website for public review. Chair Andrews advised that based on the 9.13 millage rate that three public hearings were required and that the first public hearing was held on August 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., that the second public hearing was held on August 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., and that the third public hearing was held earlier during this meeting. She said that the Board can now adopt the 2026 property tax millage rate and that, if approved, the property tax bills will be distributed during early October and due in December.

The motion to adopt the proposed resolution and the Board of Commissioner's 2026 property tax millage rate at 9.13 mills, the millage rate for the portion of West Point that is located within the County at 5.478 mills, and the Board of Education's 2026 millage rate at 19.50 mills was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Vice-Chair Irions, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER.**

- A. **County Manager Correspondence.** County Clerk Andrea Dzioba stated that Water Works is installing a six-inch water line at Pate Park in order to shift from well water to County water and the work is expected to be completed by the end of the week; that the Courthouse parking lot renovations are scheduled to begin on September 22 and last until mid-October and that the County will post information on the website to provide alternative parking locations during the closure; and that Robinson Paving has received a notice to proceed on the resurfacing projects that were approved earlier this year and funded by GDOT LRA funds.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** County Attorney Russell Britt stated that he did not have any business to come before the Board this evening.

Commissioner Grant asked that everyone keep Warner Robins High School - the teachers, children, and families - in their thoughts and prayers after a shooting incident at the school. Commissioner Grant added that since the Board's last meeting that the Purple Heart ceremony was held and that it was a tremendous success.

9. **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 7:28 p.m.

Susan Andrews, Chair

Attest:

Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk