

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

July 7, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present in person: Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Andrew Zuerner. Commissioners Present via telephone: J. Harry Lange. Staff Present in person: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME.** Chairman Langston called the Regular Session to order. She introduced Russell Britt as the County Attorney, replacing John Taylor, County Attorney, who retired. She also said that Mr. Taylor has COVID-19 and asked that everyone keep Mr. Taylor and his wife in their prayers.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Statements: March & April 2020.** The motion to approve the March and April 2020 financial statements was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Reappointment: Region 7 EMS Council.** Chairman Langston said that term of Tom Faulkner expired June 30, 2020, and that the Region 7 EMS Council is requesting position be filled. The motion to reappoint Mr. Faulkner to the Council for the term ending June 30, 2022, was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Alcohol Applicant Privacy Notification Policy.** Chairman Langston said that with the last GCIC audit regarding alcohol applications, the County was advised that a policy regarding the privacy notification was needed. The motion to approve the Alcohol Applicant Privacy Notification Policy was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD#20-08.)
 - D. **Dean Ginn: Washington Road Tower Site.** Dean Ginn, of Dean's Commercial Two Way and of Washington Road Towers LLC, appeared before the Board, distributed documents (cover letter, lease agreement, and co-locate agreement) and reminded the Board that he had been before them about a year ago regarding the location of two cell towers, one on Washington Road and the other on West Bon Acre Road; that the West Bon Acre Road cell tower has been withdrawn; that the ground lease agreement between him and the property owners of the Washington Road site has been drawn up; that he is offering the Board the ability to co-locate on the tower at no charge, except for the cost of the necessary equipment and the utilities; and that if the County is on board with the Washington Road site, he would provide all necessary documents for permitting and construction, but he needs the County's response within 30 days. Chairman Langston asked Randy Dowling, County Manager, about the County's position on this, and Mr. Dowling said that he would defer to Brian Williams, Community Development Director, since his office handles such requests. Mr. Williams was not in attendance, and Chairman Lange said that the Board should be able to provide Mr. Ginn with an answer within the 30-day time frame.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Proposal from Carter & Sloope: Engineering Services for Phase IV of the Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that Phases I, II and III of the Trail have been completed and are in use; that in the approved FY 2020-21 budget, the T-SPLOST budget includes \$100,000 for engineering and \$1,100,000 for construction of Phase IV of the Trail, which would continue 1.5 miles from where it currently ends to the Callaway Country Store and include the rehabilitation of the railroad bridge over US 27; that Carter & Sloope, the County's consulting engineer for Phases I, II and III, has prepared and submitted a

proposal for engineering services related to Phase IV in the amount of \$98,500 and includes design, survey, permitting, assistance in bidding, contract administration, and construction supervision; that the Staff recommends approval of this proposal; and that if approved, the project would be completed during the Spring of 2021. Following discussion, the motion to approve the proposal agreement from Carter & Sloope in the amount of \$98,500, was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-12.)

- B. **GEFA Offer of Load Modification: Consideration**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County has three loans with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) for the Water Meter Replacement project, which is under construction; for the Filter Plant Expansion, which has been completed; and for the Callaway Gardens Conservation Easement, which is on-going, paid by Callaway to the County, and the County remit payment to GEFA; that GEFA has submitted optional loan modification documents for all three loans to defer principal and interest payments for six months (July through December); that Water Works has sufficient funds to pay the Water Meter and Filter Plant loan; that the General Manager of Callaway Gardens has expressed interest in deferring the Conservation Easement loan for the six-month period; and that the Board may choose to defer any, all, or none of the modification agreements. The motion to accept the modification offer regarding the Callaway Gardens Conservation Easement but to not defer payments on the Water Meter and Filter Plant loans was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-13.)
- C. **Project Updates**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
- (1) Replacement Telephone System. Proposals were received July 2, and 18 proposals were received. Board consideration is scheduled for September 1.
 - (2) Live Stream Equipment for Commission Chambers. Project is on bid, responses are due July 21 with decision by the Board scheduled for August 4.
 - (3) Ambulances. Bid for two ambulances is out, responses are due July 23 with decision by the Board scheduled for August 4.
 - (4) Courthouse ERU Replacement. Project is on bid, responses are due July 28 with decision by the Board scheduled for August 4.
 - (5) Removal & Disposal of Underground Fuel Storage Tank. Project is on bid, responses are due July 28 with decision by the Board scheduled for August 18.
 - (6) Melody Lakes Dam. State has approved the project, bid specifications are being prepared, and project completion is expected in early 2021.
 - (7) Compensation Study by CVIOG. Project is progressing and going and should be to the Board in mid to late July.
 - (8) Rails to Trails Project Continuation. Board approved moving forward with Phase IV, a distance of 1.5 miles, this evening.
 - (9) Replacement Garbage Trucks. Bid is out for two (2) new replacement trucks, responses are due July 23 with decision by the Board scheduled for August 4.
 - (10) SPLOST Collections. May collection is higher than last month and the same time last year.
 - (11) LOST Collections. May collection is higher than last month and the same time last year.
 - (12) T-SPLOST Collections. Little less than last month and same time last year.
 - (13) Single Family Building Permits. 29 permits were issued in June for a total of 236 for the fiscal year, which is higher than last fiscal year.
 - (14) Solid Waste Tonnage. On track to exceed 17,000 tons for last fiscal year.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Agreement w/West Central Health District: Hepatitis B Services.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that the County has been providing Hepatitis B vaccine to its Volunteer Fire Department personnel and certain County personnel (EMS, Facilities Maintenance, Jail, Prison, Public Works, Solid Waste, Vehicle Maintenance, and Water Works); that until now, there has been no agreement with the Health Department; that the Health Department is now requiring an agreement; that the vaccine (series of 3 shots) is \$56/person and the titer is \$5/person; and that in order to receive the vaccine or titer, the County Clerk must authorize same. The motion to approve the agreement was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-14.)
- B. **Intergovernmental Agreement with Hamilton: Vehicle Maintenance.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that this is a renewal agreement with the City of Hamilton for maintenance on their vehicles; that the rates for the services by the County's Vehicle Maintenance Department have not changed; and that the agreement will be effective from execution to June 30, 2021. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-15.)
- C. **Intergovernmental Agreement with Shiloh: Vehicle Maintenance.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said that this is a renewal agreement with the City of Shiloh for maintenance on their vehicles; that the rates for the services by the County's Vehicle Maintenance Department have not changed; and that the agreement will be effective from execution to June 30, 2021. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-16.)
7. **NEXT MEETING.** Chairman Langston announced that due to COVID-19 concerns the July 21 meeting of the Board would take place via WebEx or Zoom, audio only; non in-person meeting, and that such may change from meeting to meeting.
8. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk