

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**APRIL 2, 2024**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. Deputy Clerk Sandi Couch offered the Invocation, and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Tarpley, Elsberry, Daniel, and Farmer were present along with County Attorney Avery Jackson.

**Department Reports**

**Terry Edwards, Public Works** – Mr. Edwards updated the Board on his department. He stated the Bush Hog Tractor had arrived, noted that the paving projects were getting a little later start than anticipated due to the weather, and said that they had just completed replacing the 72” pipe on Agan Road that had failed. Chairman Ridley stated that the state had opened up additional LMIG funding which Mr. Edwards immediately applied for and received \$874,000 above the regular funding. This will be used to pave Providence Church Road.

**Approval of Previous Month Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting March 5, 2024

Work Session March 19, 2024

Commissioner Elsberry motioned to approve the minutes from the March meetings as written, Commissioner Daniel seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to add Item #7 – Resolution to Increase Hotel/Motel Tax to 8%. Commissioner Daniel motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – National Telecommunications Week Proclamation**

Commissioner Daniel read and presented the Proclamation to E911 Director Holly Ray and several of the employees. He expressed the county’s appreciation for the job they perform for the citizens and the responders.

**Item #2 – Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation**

Commissioner Farmer read and presented the Proclamation to the DFACS Director, Danielle Schiffbauer.

**Item #3 – Rezoning Request – Haralson County Tax Map 0099-0037, located on Rockmart Road. Present zoning is A-1, agricultural, proposed zoning is R-2, with Conditional Use for a residential home with a bakery. Requested by Debra Long – Vote**

Chairman Ridley stated that a public hearing had been held regarding this rezoning request at the March Work Session. There was no opposition. He asked if there was anyone who wished to speak about this item. There was none.

Commissioner Daniel motioned to approve the rezoning from A-1 to R-2 with Conditional use for a bakery. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #4 – Public Works Request to Purchase a 5710 Massey Ferguson Bush Hog Tractor for \$57,343**

Chairman Ridley stated that this is the tractor that the board gave a consensus to purchase at the work session. It is over the limit the Chairman can approve and the board needs to have an official vote. Commissioner Daniel motioned to approve the purchase of the Massey Ferguson tractor. Commissioner Elsberry seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – Haralson County Veterans Association request for \$20,000 in funding for the West Georgia Veterans Museum and Education Center – Vote**

Chairman Ridley stated that Sammy Robinson had a presentation for the board at a previous meeting and at the work session, they group asked the county to donate \$20,000 for the museum. They stated that Carroll County was giving funds for the museum. Attorney Avery Jackson stated that he had said he would look into the gratuities clause for the state but had not had the chance to do that. He did ask Carroll County, who said they had declined to donate for legal reasons. Chairman Ridley asked Mr. Jackson to have that at the next meeting. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to table this item to do further research. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #6 – Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance – Vote**

Chairman Ridley stated that this is the ordinance to levy a 5% tax on Hotels, Motels, Airbnb, etc. that was discussed at the work session. This funding can be used for tourism, economic development, and other limited uses. Some counties have this tax and a separate license for Airbnb's and VRBO's. Commissioner Farmer motioned to approve the Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance levying a 5% tax. Commissioner Daniel seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #7 – Resolution to Increase the Hotel Motel Tax to 8%.**

Chairman Ridley stated that this is the resolution to send to the state legislature requesting the Hotel Motel Tax be increased to 8%. Commissioner Farmer motioned to approve the Resolution asking the legislature to approve increasing the Hotel/Motel Tax to 8%. Commissioner Elsberry seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items**

Brooke Robyck and Lyndon Smith asked the board to vote to allow a question to be placed on the May ballot regarding Right to Life in Georgia. After discussion, it was determined that the deadline for putting a question on the ballot has passed. The state sets the deadline for the counties to have ballots sent in to be built. After discussion, it was determined that we would check the deadline for putting a question on the November ballot.

Commissioner Farmer motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Daniel seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk, CPM