

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

APRIL 12, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. John Smith, Pastor, Cottonwood First Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported a couple calls came in last week regarding weather sirens. He stated the siren system across the county is programmed so that EMA can set off the sirens only in the areas that are impacted. The chairman reported last week there was an incident where a potential tornado was skirting the northern end of the county and the sirens in the northwestern portion of the county went off. He reported he had received some calls from people from the other end of the county that their sirens did not go off. Mr. Culver pointed out the reason these sirens did not go off in the other areas of the county was because they were not under any imminent threat. Chairman Culver reported he wanted everyone to remember the sirens are programmable and they are set off in the areas of the occurrence as opposed to all over the county.

Chairman Culver publicly thanked everyone for their prayers, thoughts, and support in the difficulty with his family over the last couple of weeks. He reported without those prayers, they would not make it through difficult times and he stated they were all appreciated.

Awards and Presentations

1. Request to adopt Resolution in Recognition of Coach Emmanuel Brown and the Houston County Lions Basketball Team

Chairman Culver asked Coach Brown and the Houston County Lions Basketball Team to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution in recognition of Coach Emmanuel Brown and the Houston County Lions basketball Team. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Harvey then congratulated Coach Brown and the Lions team on their exceptional performance and his heartfelt love for the team. Mr. Harvey then read the Resolution and presented it to Coach Brown. Commissioner Harvey stated he has watched Coach Brown on and off the court and he

could take this group anywhere and they stand head and shoulders above the rest. Coach Brown thanked the commission for their support and he stated it is not hard to coach with this group of boys. Coach Brown reported these guys have worked very hard and given it their all. He thanked the commission. Commissioner Harvey then presented each team member with the official Houston County pin. Chairman Culver stated these young men are to be commended for representing themselves as well as the 100,000 citizens of Houston County.

2. Recognition of Houston County Queens – Mrs. Lisa Peter, Altrusa Club
Ms. Houston County – Sydney Medford, Teen Ms. – Raven Pasibe, Jr. Ms. – Raley Pasibe,
Little Ms. – Rachel White, and Future Little Ms. – Pressley Blackwell

Chairman Culver reported it was a good day in that the county had just recognized some of the finest young men in the county and are going to recognize some of the prettiest girls in the county. He stated it is always one of the favorite meetings when the commission gets to invite the new Houston County queens and introduce them to the commission and to those in attendance as well as the public. At that time, he asked Mrs. Lisa Peter of the Altrusa Club to come forward and bring the Houston County queens. Mrs. Peter's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, served as the spokesperson.

The chairman then introduced the queens as follows: Ms. Pressley Blackwell, Future Little Ms., Ms. Rachel White - Little Ms., Ms. Raley Pasibe - Jr. Ms., Ms. Raven Pasibe – Teen Ms. , and Ms. Sydney Medford -Ms. Houston County. Ms. Medford stated she felt honored to represent the county and she looked forward to getting to know the commission. She also stated she looked forward to representing the county in the Miss National Peanut Festival pageant. Ms. Raven Pasibe, stated she was happy to be Jr. Ms. Houston County because it is a great opportunity and she stated she felt all of the queens would do well and she could not wait to be in the parade and participate in all of the other events. Ms. Pressley Blackwell, Future Little Ms. stated she was so excited because it would be so much fun. Ms. Raley Pasibe, stated she was so honored to represent the Altrusa Club and could not wait to work with Rachel and Sydney on their journey to the National Peanut Festival pageant. Chairman Culver presented each of the queens with a Houston County pin.

Mrs. Hall stated she and her mom had recently taken over the pageant which is sponsored by the Altrusa Club of Dothan. She thanked Chairman Culver and the Houston County Commission for all of their support throughout the year as well as the financial support they give for the float for the National Peanut Festival parade. She stated they have a great group of girls this year who will do a wonderful job representing the county. Chairman Culver thanked the Altrusa Club for sponsoring the pageant and coordinating it. He pointed out years ago, the county did this, and Altrusa stepped up, and it is being handled much better than when the commission was doing it. Chairman Culver thanked the girls and stated the commission looked forward to working with them all year.

3. Proclamation – “Public Safety Telecommunications Week” – Clark Matthews, EMA Director

Chairman Culver asked Clark Matthews, EMA Director, Sheriff Hughes, and the dispatchers to come forward. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April 11th-17th as “Public Safety Telecommunications Week.” Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and it

carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Sheriff Hughes. Chairman Culver reported there were dispatchers from the Dothan Police Department and even though the Proclamation mentioned the Houston County Sheriff's Department it included them also. The sheriff stated a lot of times the communications personnel are forgotten by the public because they are not in the public eye. He reported the communications personnel are the first link in the chain that gets things going to get everyone some help. The sheriff stated they are the most vital link because without the communications personnel they are not going to be able to get the call or to obtain accurate information in order to get the help the people need. He pointed out he started as a dispatcher in 1986 with the Sheriff's Department and they had to write everything down on a log because they did not have any computer aided dispatch. He reported times have changed and technology has advanced and they have to have people who are skilled and can use the technology to get the necessary help to the public. Sheriff Hughes reported the Sheriff's dispatchers and the Dothan Police Department work together very well. Chairman Culver recognized Lt. Ray Owens, E-911 Director. He thanked the dispatchers for the great job they do.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from Senior Employment Program of the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for 4 additional slots – Mrs. Barbara Knight.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Senior Employment Program of the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for 4 additional slots. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Knight to come forward. He stated on Thursday there were some questions. Mrs. Knight prepared a breakdown and presented it to the commission. She stated they started out with 32 original slots and added 5 in January at a cost of \$450 per slot at that time because they were half way through the year. She stated the 4 slots they are requesting would be \$225 per slot because they are in the last quarter of the year. She reported all of the slots are projected to go through June 30, 2011. Chairman Culver asked if the \$225 would last the commission through June, 2011? Mrs. Knight stated yes. Mrs. Knight reported the last 4 slots would be \$225 from now until June 30th, and beginning July 1st they would be at \$900 each slot, which is the same all of the others. Chairman Culver reported in the county's budget, there were 32 originally, and 5 were added in January for a total of 37. He stated if the commission adds these 4 that would be 41. Chairman Culver stated if the commission approves the 4 at this meeting they would be asked to fund all 41 as of July 1st for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Knight stated that was correct. Chairman Culver pointed out the commission's year is different than the Planning Commission's year and the slots would have to be funded through September 30th. She stated the \$225 would be through the end of their project year, June 30th, and beginning July 1st, all 41 slots would be \$900. Chairman Culver reported there would be some additional funds if the commission is going to authorize the slots after July 1st. The chairman stated if the commission wants to do this it would be around \$5,000 to \$7,000 to fund through the county's fiscal year. Commissioner Snellgrove asked what was appropriated in the 2009/10 budget? Mr. Dempsey reported in the 2008/09 budget it was \$25,200. He reported in the 2009/10 budget it was \$28,800. He reported \$2,250 was added in January and an additional \$900 with this request. He stated the total with no questions as of today would be \$31,950, and that is only through three-fourths of the

year. He stated the bottom line would be \$38,000 - \$40,000 versus \$26,000 or so last year. The chairman reported to fund all 41 slots for a whole year would be \$36,900 at \$900 each. Chairman Culver asked that a budget amendment be made to fund it for the rest of this budget year because that is really all the commission has control over. He stated when next year's budget is prepared they would be looking at \$36,900 unless they wanted to eliminate someone. Chairman Culver stated they were looking for the approval of the remainder of the county's fiscal year. The chairman stated it is not something the county has to do. He pointed out it is a great program and for \$900 a year the agency gets an employee. He reported the intent is to put a senior in a position that is funded only \$900 for the whole year and hopefully the senior will be hired by the entity as a full-time employee. Commissioner Cook asked Mrs. Knight if she had a good success of keeping the employees on? Mrs. Knight stated yes. She pointed out these employees are paid \$8,000 in federal dollars through this program. The chairman reported \$900 is the county's cost, and the reason these are available is that other counties in the region have chosen not to fill these slots. Mrs. Knight reported it is very hard to fill the slots in the rural areas, but there is a great need in Houston County. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if it was necessary to take action on it today since there is a question on the funding? Chairman Culver stated they would do whatever the commission wanted to do. Commissioner Harvey stated he would like to see the commission go ahead and do it for the rest of the year. Chairman Culver stated there was a motion on the floor; and he called for the question. The motion carried unanimously. He stated the motion included approving the appropriate budget amendment to take it through the rest of the county's fiscal year. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

2. Request to fund Endangered Species Study and Geotechnical Study to complete Advantage Site designation for the Houston County Distribution Park in the amount of \$9,250.00 – Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Cook made a motion approve the request to fund the Endangered Species Study and Geotechnical Study to complete Advantage Site designation for the Houston County Distribution Park in the amount of \$9,250.00. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion.

Mr. Matt Parker thanked the commission for their continued support for economic development and stated he felt this report will help the county to obtain a designation that will be very helpful for showcasing how business friendly the area is and expediting projects. Mr. Parker stated he received a lead on Friday as a result of the discussion at Thursday's meeting. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Parker how soon he thought it would be before receiving the final designation? Mr. Parker stated he thought in the next 90 days. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request from EMA to approve SNS grant in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant the request from EMA to approve SNS grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a Strategic National Stockpile grant that the county is designated to be the central location of our region. The

chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

4. Request to place on dirt road paving list the remaining portion of Singletary Road, Scott Nursery Road, and Hardy Road in District 3.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to place on the dirt road paving list the remaining portion of Singletary Road, Scott Nursery Road, and Hardy Road in District 3. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Cook stated she did have the miles. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Houston County Soil & Water Conservation District to assist with the 2010 Land Career Development Event. (Dig 4 holes with backhoe)

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Soil & Water Conservation District to assist with the 2010 Land Career Development Event to dig 4 holes with a backhoe. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this is done every year and they do evaluations of dirt. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals and Deanco.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals and Deanco. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

7. Request to award bid for MC-70 Prime.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for MC-70 Prime to Hunt Refining Company, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$3.1969 per gallon. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheet in Minute Book)

8. Request from the House of Ruth for the Commission to make application on their behalf to ADECA for an ESG grant in the amount of \$106,478. (Pass-through only)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the House of Ruth's request for the Commission to make application on their behalf to ADECA for an ESG grant in the amount of \$106,478 to be a pass-through only. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman stated this is a grant the House of Ruth qualifies for through ADECA, but it has to go through a governmental entity. He stated the commission has done this for some other agencies. He pointed out there is a match and the House of Ruth will provide the match. Chairman Culver stated the commission probably needed to draft an agreement. Ms. Beverlye Youse reported she had it. He asked Ms. Youse to get with Mr. Dempsey after the meeting. He commended Ms. Youse for the job the House of Ruth does for the unfortunate ladies in

the area. Chairman Culver stated it is unfortunate the community has to have the House of Ruth but it is fortunate that we do. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer –

Mr. Dempsey reported the county had received the sales tax and use tax information for the month which is for February. He stated it is down 4 percent over last year for the same month and year to date it is down 3.5 percent. He reported last year it was down 4.5 percent and over the last two years it is down more than 8 percent.

Chairman Culver reported the sales tax is used as an indicator of where the economy has been. He stated it has some financial impact on the county but it really impacts education, and it impacts the city more than it does the county. The chairman stated he hoped the numbers would turn around shortly.

County Engineer – there was no report.

County Attorney –there was no report.

Chairman Culver reported a few months ago, the commission was approached by Troy University about partnering with them and the City of Dothan on building a road to their plant in order to give them access to a new building as well as a safety outlet. The chairman reported at that time, they discussed Mr. Pool getting with the City of Dothan and Troy putting that meeting together. He stated he did not think the meeting had totally come together. He pointed out part of the city's work was putting in water lines, and when they cleared it for the project, it was the county's understanding they were going to clear 8 feet. He reported the city actually cleared 20 feet which was part of what the county was going to do. Chairman Culver reported it was going to be sometime next year before they actually need the road. He stated what they need is to make sure that the dirt road going into the new building is capable of transporting the trucks, allowing the trucks to build the new building. Chairman Culver reported he and Mr. Pool had been out to the site, and Commissioner Forrester has seen it also, and it is basically a pretty good road now but Troy University wants to make sure that dirt road will handle the trucks until the county can arrive at what they will do with the City of Dothan. He pointed out this will be well within the county's portion of what they will spend. Chairman Culver reported it not a very long project, and this will help them out tremendously to get the building going. He stated he wanted the commission to know what the county planned to do. Chairman Culver reported the commission agreed to do the work pending the meeting and he stated he would get with Troy and get them to schedule the meeting and finalize the figures. Chairman Culver asked if there were any objections? There were none. Mr. Pool stated he planned on doing the work sometime next month. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the chairman was asking for permission to upgrade the dirt road so they can get in and out? Chairman Culver stated yes. Mr. Pool stated it was really a clearing; and not really a road. He stated it was natural base dirt and only needed shaping up with a motorgrader. He stated the city cleared approximately 40 feet instead of 20 feet. Chairman Culver reported Troy wants to build the building before they asphalt the road.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the bridge on East Cook Road? He asked if the contractor was still involved or was the work left to be done by the county? Mr. Pool reported the contractor still had a little work to do after it is paved by the county. Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the timeframe when the people can travel through there? Mr. Pool stated he did not know how quick the contractor was going to work. He reported the county has all of the dirt on the site, and they have to put it down, prime and asphalt it.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked if South County Road #81 was open to the public at this time? He stated it had been open to local traffic and they should put some asphalt on it this week.

Mr. Snellgrove asked about a report on Chattahoochee Park? Mr. Pool reported they had a record crowd on the first Sunday in April. He stated the lady with the ponies stayed an extra hour because so many people wanted to ride the ponies. Commissioner Snellgrove thanked the media for assisting with getting the information out to the public. He stated the park is an excellent place to go for an outing, and it is not far from home. He encouraged the public to use the park.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to give an update on Fortner Street? He stated they took care of all the road closings, and they are working on putting in pipes. He reported there would be a construction conference with the contractor later this month. He stated construction should start in May. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool if he had talked to the contractor about not doing Fortner and S. Brannon Stand Road at the same time? Mr. Pool stated yes.

Commissioner Forrester commended Mr. Pool on the work being done on Jones Road. Mr. Pool reported Jones Road will be next to be paved, and then they will have 4 more to do this year.

Adjourn.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.