

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 24, 2010

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Lonnie Pittman, Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Frances Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded the minutes. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported for the first time this year there was a concerted effort for Relay for Life Friday night. He stated it was very successful and he and Commissioner Cook did not stay until it was over but they stayed for quite a while. He recognized the county employees who were on the county's team and a couple of other employees who were on other teams also: Melissa Nieves, Team Captain, who did a great job, Kathy Greenwood, Sherri Gilley, Chad Searcy, Cheryl Parrish, Claire McCarron, Laney Atkinson, Wendy Watkins, Angie Driggers, Angie Christian, Loretta Paul and Ryan Hallford. He also stated Greg Holland and Susie Robbins were there on other teams. He thanked all of them for the excellent job they did and he stated he thought they were all committed to making it bigger and better next year.

The chairman reported Memorial Day is May 31st, and there will be a service at 10:00 A.M. at the Veterans Park on East Main Street. He stated there would also be a service at Sunset Funeral Home at 2:15 P.M. that day, and he encouraged everyone to come out and participate. He urged everyone to take a moment and pause to remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Chairman Culver reported the Primary Election Day is June 1st, and he reminded everyone to exercise their right to go out and vote. He stated everyone will have to either vote Republican or Democrat. Chairman Culver reported since Election Day is the day after Memorial Day, many people will be out of town and he asked them to think about it because they have until Thursday, May 27th, to vote absentee. He stated you can request an absentee ballot be mailed to you or go to the 4th floor of the Courthouse and actually go ahead and vote while there. The chairman encouraged everyone to get an absentee ballot and not wake up on June 1st, and realize they forgot to vote.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “National Foster Care Month” – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County DHR

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County Department of Human Resources, to come forward and bring her guests. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as “National Foster Care Month.” Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Paulk. Chairman Culver stated he thought it was important to annually recognize foster parents for the great job they do and Mrs. Paulk's staff for working with them. Mrs. Paulk thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for helping her organization to recognize a very special group who are very dedicated to the children in the community. She reported they call on the foster families to open their homes maybe in the middle of the night or early morning bringing children who did not grow up in their home and do not know their rules and do not always behave as their children do. Mrs. Paulk stated these foster parents are patient, loving, caring, and work to bring these children to a state of well being providing love, care and nurture for them. She stated she could not say enough about the wonderful group of foster parents in Houston

County. Mrs. Paulk reported without these foster parents they could not make it. She also praised the wonderful staff they have of individuals that pull call in the middle of the night, go get the children, and help them to return to their homes. Mrs. Paulk reported they appreciate all of the commissioners for helping them to recognize that need. She then introduced Mrs. Tina Green, Supervisor of the Resource Unit responsible for training the foster parents and also for approving the homes for keeping the children. Mrs. Paulk thanked the commission.

2. Presentation – Human Resources Development Corporation – Ms. Peggy Stokes, Executive Director

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Peggy Stokes, Executive Director, Human Resources Development Corporation, and her guests to come forward. He reported she would be making comments relative to her organization. He stated he thought it appropriate that he was at a gathering a week or so ago recognizing Foster Grandparents. Ms. Stokes passed out packets to the commissioners. She stated on behalf of the Board of Directors of Human Resources Development Corporation, she thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for allowing them to come and make the presentation. She stated HRDC is a non-profit community action agency. She reported President Kennedy had a vision and President Johnson continued it on with the War on Poverty, and that is how community action agency began. She pointed out in Alabama there are 22 agencies. Ms. Stokes reported their organization covers five counties with community service and they expand to two counties for the Foster Grandparent Program and then the Child Nutrition Program in one county. She then introduced her staff: Ms. Maria Nelson, Foster Grandparent Senior Companion Manager, Ms. June Malloy, CSBG Manager, Ms. Jackie Walker, AURA Manager, and Ms. Jennifer Williams, Community Coordinator for Houston County. Ms. Stokes reported they have two offices in Houston County, one in Dothan, and one in Wicksburg. She then covered some services they provide. Ms. Stokes requested if there is anything they can do to please call their office for assistance. Ms. Stokes thanked the Commission and Chairman Culver for having them.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution and Statement of Commitment for SAMC Medical College.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Resolution and Statement of commitment for SAMC Medical College. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is an exciting project that they have been talking about the last week or so, and Mr. Ron Owen, CEO, SAMC, gave an excellent presentation on Thursday. The chairman reported the commission primarily wanted to know if there were any questions related to this issue. He stated this is one of those things that several years from now you will be able to reflect back and see what a huge impact this has had on our community. He reported there were several board members present and he thanked them for the vision they have and all of the research they have done to make sure the project is both viable and appropriate for the community. The chairman also thanked the commission for having an open mind to be willing to be a small part of it to help the process in bringing this to fruition. He pointed out the project is medical center driven. Commissioner Snellgrove reported he had talked with a lot of the parents and grandparents out in the county and they are really excited about this project. He stated he had been asked the procedure for the selection of the students, and what they have to do in order to become enrolled? Chairman Culver asked Mr. Ron Owen to come forward and answer this question? Mr. Owen reported to become a physician is a long involved process. He stated a person must be a strong student all the way through high school. A person gets in pre-med and if he or she does well in college and there is a national admissions test for med school, and an interview process. He reported as they get the school developed, there will be a recruitment program for students. Mr. Owen reported the students will be admitted in 2012. He stated he had received several calls from people wanting to start this summer. Mr. Owen reported they will work with the counselors in the high schools and he had talked with Dr. Linda Young at Wallace Community College. He reported they wanted everyone who wanted to be a physician to have an opportunity and that is one of the reasons they are doing this. Mr. Owen reported it would increase the capacity in Alabama by 150 slots to be able to train physicians, and he stated he was glad there was so much interest in the project. Commissioner Snellgrove stated there had been many positive comments throughout the county. Chairman Culver reported as big as this project is and with the impact it will

have he stated normally as elected officials they receive various comments. He stated he had received one inquisitive comment.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Matt Parker to come forward and give a brief history of the economic impact the project will have. Mr. Parker also called Dr. Steve Turkoski, Project manager, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, to come forward. Mr. Parker commended the tremendous leadership at the SAMC and the Health Care Authority for having the vision to transform and elevate the whole region to a new level. He reported this project will put our community in select company in that this area will be 1 in 159 areas in the U.S. training physicians. Mr. Parker stated the project will create all kinds of other ancillary things that he did not feel they could think about as the project begins and is fully implemented, and the 600 students are in there by 2015. Mr. Parker reported that the select company and the status for this market is tremendous.

Dr. Turkoski reported this would be a significant impact both in the economic sense and jobs. He stated they looked at several similar studies that were done, and the employment at the school will be 46, the construction costs, employment, visitors coming down, students spending and through 2015 it would be \$112 million, with \$26 million in retail sales, and over \$1.3 million collections in county and city sales taxes, and lodging taxes. Dr. Turkoski reported there will be the initial 46 jobs and an additional 119 jobs that will be developed secondarily to that. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Parker and Dr. Turkoski and he stated he wanted everyone to realize what a tremendous impact the project will have.

Chairman Culver reported the motion is to adopt the Resolution and Statement of Commitment for SAMC Medical College, and both the motion and the Resolution and Statement of Commitment both authorize the chairman to make any small adjustment changes such as "ands and the's" type changes if necessary because it does have to go before the regulatory agency that approves the site, and if there are minor changes in there it authorizes him to make them. He pointed out if there is anything significant, it would come back before the commission. The chairman then called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to approve Gordon garbage pickup outside the city limits.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve Gordon garbage pickup outside the city limits. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this item arose at the request from a gentleman wanting to change his pickup, and it was determined for a municipality to pick up outside the city limits requires authorization of the commission. He stated there are some Gordon has historically been picking up, and he reported the commission is not trying to create any issues with those, just have to make sure they are done legally. He reported it turns out from conversations they have had the commission will be doing this for the Town of Columbia and the City of Ashford at a later date. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve carpet replacement and renovations to courthouse to accommodate relocations and new Judges.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request for carpet replacement and renovations to the courthouse to accommodate relocations and new Judges not to exceed \$7,500.00. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated he hoped this would be the last time this would be discussed. He stated all but one judge has been appointed and they are happy about where they are going and the moves. Chairman Culver reported this would require a budget amendment in the amount not to exceed \$7,500.00. Commissioner Forrester asked if this would also include the area that the yet to be appointed judge would occupy? Chairman Culver stated yes. He reported the yet to be appointed judge will move to the former judges' quarters that are vacant. Commissioner Cook stated she thought it would get everyone pretty much together. Chairman Culver then gave a breakdown of the move: Judge Binford will move into Judge Jackson's old location using that courtroom. Judge Ingram will then move down to where Judge Binford was because her courtroom is across the hall. First floor DA's office staff will move up to the old Parole and Probation office which is adjacent to the DA's office, and everyone associated with the DA will be together with one exception.

He stated there is a small office on the 4th floor they will occupy. The chairman reported the Juvenile Clerks that are currently next door to Judge Binford's old office will move down to the first floor so that they can be with the other clerks. He stated all of the clerks will be together. He stated Judge Moulton will move in to where the Juvenile Clerks are which will be adjacent to his courtroom. The chairman reported with the move, all of the judges will be by their courtrooms, all of the other departments will all be on the same levels. He reported until the commission can find some money to do the basement renovations that have been discussed, they should not have to do anything else on the courthouse for a while. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve contract with PrimeCare Occupational Medicine for employment medical services.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the contract with PrimeCare Occupational Medicine for employment medical services. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the county was moving drug testing and health screenings to another location because of convenience primarily. Mr. Dempsey reported he had stated last week the reasons were that the prices are comparable, the hours of availability, and the long term industrial health care needs are probably better met by PrimeCare. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to adopt Resolution to install guardrail and end anchors at various locations in the county.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution to install guardrail and end anchors at the following locations in the county: Taylor Road at Limestone Creek, Bethel Road at Long Branch, Bill Yance Road at Thomas Creek, Bill Yance Road at Beaver Creek, Bill Yance Road at Smith Branch, Bill Yance Road at Yance Branch, Nuclear Plant Road at Meadows Creek, and County Road #33 at Breakfast Pond Branch. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Pool stated they had applied for federal funds, and they hope to have the project ready for next spring. Commissioner Snellgrove stated this is a much needed project for the traveling public. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

6. Request to eliminate one (1) position of Engineering Designer, two (2) positions of Engineering Aide 1 (Summer Help), and create one (1) position of Laborer with an annual savings of \$25,094.00. This will also be placed on the Personnel Board Meeting Agenda to be held on May 27, 2010.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to eliminate one (1) position of Engineering Designer, two (2) positions of Engineering Aide 1 (Summer Help), and create one (1) position of Laborer with an annual savings of \$25,094.00, and subject to the Personnel Board's approval on May 27th. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Mr. Pool stated sometimes when someone leaves or retires you have an opportunity to reorganize and make things more efficient. (Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

7. Request to approve items to be sold on Govdeals.

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

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Pool reported on Tuesday, June 1st, they will begin resurfacing on South Brannon Stand Road. He stated the first layer will be tar and rock and people will need to try to avoid it. He reported people traveling to and from Florida who use this as a cut through will not get this information and there may be a wait of as much as 30 minutes. He stated when they get that layer completed they will put down a

temporary stripe, and they will go to Jordan Avenue and start on that project. He reported they will come back to Brannon Stand and start a leveling course and then a wearing surface. Chairman Culver stated as Mr. Pool always does he would have signage well in advance so if someone chooses to go another route they can do so. The chairman reported this project is scheduled to be completed before July 4th weekend.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone June 1st, is Election Day, and they need to have another route planned in order to get to the polling places. Chairman Culver reported this project is South Brannon Stand Road from Fortner Street to Highway #52.

County Attorney – there was no report.

Adjourn.

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