

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2011

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Patrick Jones, Acting County Attorney, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Gene McKissic, Pastor, Patterson Street Free Will Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the Elected Officials/Media Softball game was Saturday, May 21st, and he stated some of them were still feeling the results--both physically and emotionally. He stated they had a great time and the media won by one run with a final score of 13-12. Chairman Culver reported they would try to do it again next year, and he felt the participation level was very good on both sides. He pointed out although there were some injuries, there was nothing major. The chairman reported they have been playing the game for three years, and they raised the most food ever for the Wiregrass Area Food Bank. He thanked those who came out, and he thanked the media for promoting it.

Chairman Culver reported the county's team participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on May 13th. He thanked Mickey Segó, Farm Center Manager, and his staff for helping put it together. The chairman thanked the employees in the Revenue Commissioner's office and the other employees who participated.

The chairman reported the commission had received a letter from the Botanical Gardens thanking them for the signage at the gardens. He pointed out they had some issues with trucks going in and out of the gardens, and the signage would help.

Chairman Culver reported the county offices would be closed on Monday, May 30th, in observance of Memorial Day. He encouraged everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day, and to remember the reason for it.

He then recognized the following employees from the Road and Bridge Department who had volunteered to go to Gilbert, Alabama located in Sumter County for a week to assist with the clean-up from the tornado that occurred on April 27th: Chris Bowen, Josh Harper, Danny Jernigan, Tony Harold, Michael Harper, Rusty Tolar, David Newton, Mike Edwards, Ernest Bowen, Joe Ryan, Culey Ward, Danny Hall, Ricky Quattlebaum, Danny Peters, John Sanders, Clint Knight, Carlton Jones, and Ashley Clements. He stated these employees do a great job every day, and he thanked them. He pointed out their

volunteerism says a lot about them and he stated he wanted these employees to know how much the county appreciates their efforts, and how proud the commission is of them. They each received a county pin, and a round of applause.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Foster Care Month” – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County Department of Human Resources

Chairman Culver reported Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County Department of Human Resources, was unable to attend. He asked Ms. Julie Lindsey, Program Supervisor, to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as “Foster Care Month.” Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Lindsey. Chairman Culver stated the commission appreciated the opportunity to recognize this month. He reported foster parents are so important and they do not receive a lot of attention, but they deserve a pat on the back. Ms. Lindsey introduces Ms. Jeannie Bell, one of the Resource Workers, who licenses the foster homes. She reported Mrs. Paulk and some of their staff members were on the way to Greene County to assist with the emergency food assistance for those who suffered in the recent tornado. Ms. Lindsey thanked everyone for recognizing “Foster Care Month” and their many community partners who work so diligently with the department. She also thanked the foster parents who give their time and devotion to children that they serve in their homes.

2. Presentation of new Houston County Website.

Chairman Culver reported Houston County has had its website for many years and it has served the county well, but it was time for a new and improved version. He reported Mr. Paul Clark, Manager, Information Systems, and his staff have worked very hard on this new website along with department heads and others. The chairman reported he felt this website was something the county could be really proud of, and it should be more user friendly. At that time, Mr. Clark gave an overview of the website. He reported they hope to go online on June 1st, and it would have the same web address: www.houtoncounty.org. It was pointed out department heads can update their own sites directly regarding road closings, job openings, etc.; and will not have to go through the IT Department.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve appropriation to assist in funding of court reporters as needed – Judge Butch Binford.

Chairman Culver reported Judge Binford had been detained in court. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for a \$3,000 appropriation to assist in the funding of court reporters as needed. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the commission currently funds court reporters by law through salary supplements. He pointed out one of those was the roving court reporter and that position has been eliminated. The chairman reported the

commission funded that position at a little over \$7,000 per year, and rather than funding it they are going to contract for court reporters as needed and the request is for \$3,000 per year. He stated he thought the intent would be for this to be effective June 1st also, and that will leave \$1,000 for the remainder of this year. The chairman reported they budgeted the whole \$7,000 plus and there would be a small savings in this year's budget and \$3,000 will be placed in next year's budget. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Town of Columbia to approve sanitation pick-up at 53 Azalea Court outside the city limits of the Town of Columbia.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Columbia to approve sanitation pick-up at 53 Azalea Court outside the city limits of the Town of Columbia. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is the only pick-up on the road for the county sanitation department. He pointed out the rest of them were "grandfathered" in last year, and it makes sense that there will not be two trucks going up and down the road for pick-ups. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool stated things were going well, and some rain was needed. He reported the State had completed their portion on the Ardilla intersection, and the whole project should be completed by July 1st.

County Attorney – Acting Attorney, Pat Jones, had nothing to report.

Adjourn

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