

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 22, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Chairman Culver stated Commissioner McClendon was going through a medical procedure, and he asked that everyone keep her in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Bishop Harry L. Smith, Pastor, Emmanuel Temple Community Apostolic Church, gave the invocation. Chairman Culver led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the commission would not meet again for three weeks because there are 5 Mondays in October. He stated the next meeting would be on Tuesday, November 13th, because the county offices would be closed for Veterans Day on November 12th.

Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Harvey was celebrating his 43rd Birthday, and congratulated him and wished him the very best. He stated two weeks ago, he failed to mention that Mark Pool, County Engineer, was celebrating his 61st Birthday. He congratulated Mr. Pool.

The chairman reported the following dates were related to the Presidential Election coming up on November 6th: The last day to register to vote is October 26th, and he encouraged people not to wait until the last day. He reported the 26th is on Friday, and the Admin Building is closed on Fridays. He pointed out although he had not spoken with Mrs. Molly Meadows, Chairperson of the Board of Registrars, he felt sure they would be set up in the lobby that day from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M., as they have been doing for several weeks. Chairman Culver reported November 1st is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot, and in order to obtain an absentee ballot, people needed to go to the 4th floor of the Courthouse in Mrs. Carla Woodall's office. The chairman reported people can apply and vote while they are there. Chairman Culver reported November 5th is the last day to turn in absentee ballots. He asked that everyone be aware of these dates if they need to register to vote or if they are not going to be in town on November 6th and need an absentee ballot.

Chairman Culver congratulated Little Miss Houston County, Claudia Aplin, who was in the top ten of the Little Miss National Peanut Festival Competition. He stated the commission was so proud of her for representing Houston County in such a great way, and looks forward to her being Little Miss Houston County for the remainder of her reign.

Chairman Culver reported as everyone is aware, Houston County is the awarding authority for the state wide County Joint Bid Program. He stated he wanted to go on record that the bids were opened on October 12th, and are being reviewed. He pointed out the bids will be awarded at the county's next meeting on November 13th.

Commissioner Sinquefield reported as many will recall, a year ago LCPL Jason Barfield was killed in action in Afghanistan, and on Saturday, October 27th, at 9:00 A.M., his family will have a Memorial Service at the Ashford Depot. He stated the public is invited to come and be a part of this service. Commissioner Sinquefield asked that those who attend to please bring a toy to donate to the "Toys for Tots" Project.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that the Ribbon Cutting for the National Peanut Festival is November 2nd, and the fair will run for 10 days. He reported the Parade will be on November 10th, and he encouraged everyone to enjoy themselves by participating in the activities.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Farm City Week" – Dr. Adair Gilbert, Chairperson, Farm City Week Committee

Chairman Culver asked Dr. Adair Gilbert Chairperson, Farm City Week Committee, to come forward and bring anyone with her she would like. He reported Commissioner Sinquefield is very involved in Farm City Week and he was welcome to join them at the podium. Chairman Culver also recognized Ms. Linda McGhee who is a member of the Farm City Week Committee. Chairman Culver stated he appreciated Dr. Gilbert serving as the chair this year and taking time to recognize the relationship between city and county. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring November 16th through November 22nd as "Farm City Week." Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation. Dr. Gilbert thanked the chairman and commission for the Proclamation. Chairman Culver thanked Dr. Gilbert again for her work on Farm City. He reported the City of Dothan is hosting the event this year, and he stated the commission looked forward to going over and enjoying their hospitality. Dr. Gilbert thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for recognizing "Farm City Week." She reported our area is so blessed to have the very best of farming, and she stated the theme this year is "Grown Safely, Extra Tasty." She pointed out as everyone is aware, when someone can buy locally, they know where it comes from and they feel comfortable with it. Dr. Gilbert reported she looked forward to the banquet coming up on November 15th.

2. Proclamation – "Red Ribbon Week" – Mrs. Beth Ford, Program Manager, The Prevention Project

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Beth Ford, Program Manager, The Prevention Project, to come forward, and bring her guest. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 23-31, 2012 as "Red Ribbon Week." Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Ford. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Ford for all of the work she does for such an important cause. Mrs. Ford thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for allowing them to come. She reported some of the figures that

have come in are very unsettling because last year for the very first time in history more teenagers died from drug overdoses than automobile accidents. Mrs. Ford reported that “Red Ribbon Week” is so important that they start the year round stressor of being alcohol, tobacco, and drug free. She pointed out there are so many drugs that kids are experimenting with and when it comes to inhalants, 25% of inhalant users die the first time they huff. Mrs. Ford reported by the time students graduate from high school, they have tried alcohol. She stated as hard as they try to combat it, the numbers keep rising and it becomes a community problem. Mrs. Ford reported everyone needs to take a stand to help fight the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Mrs. Ford introduced Ms. Tori Money, Youth Council President, and a senior at Rehobeth. Ms. Money thanked the commission for being able to come and share her thoughts on “Red Ribbon Week.” She stated she was very strong about the stance on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Ms. Money reported about half of her senior class has smoked, drank, or gone to a party where they had alcohol. She stated if people only knew how many chemicals are ingested into their body and how they mess up the organs in their body, then they might not smoke or drink just because they wanted a feeling of acceptance or to have a little buzz. Ms. Money pointed out she knows countless people who have cancer and if they had known about all of the bad effects of what they smoked or drank they might not have done that, but it is too late. Ms. Money thanked Mrs. Ford for allowing her to speak. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Ford and Ms. Money, and asked them to keep up the good work.

3. Proclamation – “Pro Bono Week” – Mrs. Holly Sawyer, President, Houston County Bar Association

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Holly Sawyer, President, Houston County Bar Association, to come forward and bring her guest. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 21-27, as “Pro Bono Week.” Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Holly Sawyer. Chairman Culver reported that pro bono basically means that lawyers donate their services to people. He stated most of the time the public does not think of lawyers in that manner. The chairman pointed out that many lawyers do help people in need, and he stated the commission appreciated Mrs. Sawyer bringing it to the public’s attention. Mrs. Sawyer thanked Chairman Culver, and introduced Ms. Tracy Melvin, the current Vice-President and President-Elect of the Houston County Bar Association. She thanked the chairman and the commission for acknowledging the contribution the local attorneys make to help with the unmet needs of the low income families. Mrs. Sawyer reported 35% of the Houston County Bar Association are members of the program and they regularly sign up to take civil cases at no charge for people who cannot afford to hire an attorney in such cases as divorces, consumer problems, etc. Ms. Sawyer reported on November 13th, as part of “Pro Bono Week,” and in conjunction with the Alabama Bar Association, the local bar association is sponsoring “Wills for Heroes.” She stated this program involves local attorneys preparing wills for law enforcement and fire department personnel. Mrs. Sawyer reported the information will be handed out to the appropriate agencies. She stated this is a national program that Hamp Baxley should be credited with in bringing it down to the local level a few years ago. Mrs. Sawyer thanked the commission, and she also thanked Ms. Linda McGhee for helping her coordinate this for the county. Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Sawyer if there was a local contact number for “Wills for Heroes?” Mrs. Sawyer gave the following contact number: 792-5157. She stated

when they hand out the information to law enforcement, her name and contact number will be on there, and they will need to call and set up an appointment.

4. Proclamation – “Best Robotics Day” – Mrs. Megan Yarbrough, Wicksburg High School, and Mrs. Sonja Crutchfield, Montana Street Magnet School

Chairman Culver asked all of the students from Wicksburg High School and Carver Magnet School to come forward. He asked Mrs. Megan Yarbrough and Mrs. Sonja Crutchfield to come forward. Ms. Mary Hudson came forward and stated she was representing Wicksburg High School and Mr. Steve Hudson came forward and stated he was representing Carver Magnet School. Chairman Culver reported the commission has been blessed over the last few years to have some of the students to attend the commission meeting regarding the Best Robotics competition. He pointed out in the past, students attending were representing the city schools and he stated the commission was very glad to have Wicksburg representing the county also. Chairman Culver reported a lot of people do not know about the “Best Robotics” Program and it gives the county an opportunity to let the students tell their story in an effort to help promote what they do. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 27th as “Best Robotics Day.” Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Hudson. Chairman Culver reported those who have never been to one of the competitions should go if given the opportunity. He stated it is incredible that young people can get into and excited about what is really a learning experience. Ms. Hudson reported she was not going to speak much because they turn it over to their student leaders. She stated this was her second year in “Best Robotics”, and it is an incredible experience to watch the students problem solve, think through and determine how they can reach the public, how to sell their organization and how they can sell their product. She stated it is a challenge that most adults would step back and would be in fear of. At that time, Ms. Hudson called on Bradley Probert, Vice-President of Administration, and his brother, Brian Probert, CEO. Brian thanked the commission for allowing them to come. He stated “Best Robotics” was a really great program that had taught them a lot; not just building robots, but managing a team, and some great lessons in life. Bradley Probert, Assistant Vice-President of Administration, and Vice-President of their Public Relations Department, reported through the Public Relations Department they have tried to get out and get as much community support and involvement as they possibly could in an effort to spread the word about the “Best Robotics” Program and get more people involved. Seth White then told about their project. Chairman Culver thanked the following students from Wicksburg: Broc Collins, Justin Jahnke, Bradley Probert, Brian Porbert, Hope Watkins, Jackson Wewers, Seth White, and Ms. Hudson.

Mr. Steve Hudson, Carver Magnet School, reported this is his first experience with “Best Robotics.” He thanked Wicksburg for allowing his students to come in with them to this meeting and be able to present their project. Mr. Hudson introduced Grant Brannon, CEO of Spot, Inc. Mr. Brannon stated “Best Robotics” is a difficult project, because you have to build a robot from materials you are given. He then reported the team has to build a company, and theirs is Spot, Inc. (Special Purchase out of Space Transport). He then introduced Elizabeth Martin, Vice-President of Engineering, who explained the robot. She stated they have to have a vertical climbing robot and it has to be able to grab items, be

ambidextrous, reach over itself, and have an arm that will extend and retract. She explained the many phases they went through to design the robot. She stated they did not bring their real robot because they knew their competition would be present. Ms. Horton then introduced Edward Ortego, IT Director. Mr. Ortego reported he was responsible for designing their web page, facebook, and twitter, and other things. He reported their web page has a teaser trailer, and it shows their leaders. He pointed out their facebook has 300 likes and twitter has 20 followers. They received a round of applause. Chairman Culver thanked all of the students for attending, and wished them the best in the competition.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from Revenue Commissioner to award bid for 2013 Ford Escape for Reappraisal as budgeted.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Revenue Commissioner's request to award the bid for a 2013 Ford Escape for Reappraisal as budgeted to the low bidder meeting specs, Bondy's Ford, in the amount of \$19,358.50. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Sheet in Minute Book)

2. Request from EMA to approve a (2LEL) Law Enforcement Teams Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve EMA's request for a (2LEL) Law Enforcement Teams Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver reported Items #2-#5 were discussed at length on Thursday, and they all are annual grants the county gets due to being the regional provider of Homeland Security equipment and services. He stated Mr. Matthews was available to answer any questions if needed.

3. Request from EMA to approve a 2FIL (Water 8) Alabama Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$19,539.50.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve EMA's request for a 2FIL (Water 8) Alabama Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$19,539.50. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from EMA to approve a 2FIL (Hazmat 8) Alabama Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$6,233.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve EMA's request for a 2FIL (Heavy 8) Alabama Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$6,233.00. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

5. Request from EMA to approve 2FIL (Heavy 8) Alabama Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$6,233.00.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve EMA's request for a 2FIL (Heavy 8) Alabama Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$6,233.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

6. Request to concur with the bid for resurfacing and widening of Prevatt Road from Ross Clark Circle to Forrester Road.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request to concur with the bid to APAC Mid-South, Inc., Birmingham, AL for the project to resurface and widen Prevatt Road from Ross Clark Circle to Forrester Road. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a resurfacing project the county is doing using regular funds and will also include some intersection improvements to handle traffic and the location of a new business. Mr. Pool reported it was the regular annual federal funds. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary in Minute Book)

7. Request to enter into agreement with ALDOT on the revised utility agreement for Brannon Stand Road and Fortner Street intersection improvements.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to enter into an agreement with ALDOT on the revised utility agreement for Brannon Stand Road and Fortner Street intersection improvements. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

8. Request to sell batwing mower, serial #06T180-0639-57004 to the State of Alabama Conservation Department for \$3,500.00.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request to sell a batwing mower, serial #06T180-0639-57004 to the State of Alabama Conservation Department for \$3,500.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. It was reported that the county paid \$6,800.00 for it new. Mr. Pool pointed out they have used it for 5 years, and he felt the county would be getting a pretty good return. Commissioner Siquefield asked how he would handle the disposal of the other mowers? Mr. Pool reported he thought they would put some on GovDeals and put some at the farm sale in Headland. Mr. Pool reported there was a total of 7 and he did not want them all in one spot. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

10. Request to award bid on oil, grease, and ATF fluids.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid on oil, grease, and ATF fluids to Davis Oil Company, low bidder meeting specs in each category, for a total bid price of \$18,372.20. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

11. Request to approve the extension of hot asphalt mix 424 bid for an additional three months.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to extend the hot asphalt mix 424 bid for an additional three months with APAC-Midsouth, Inc. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Mr. Pool reported they used to do an annual bid but with the price changes, they are going this route. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Chairman Culver reported he failed to mention that the commission appreciates everyone who has recognized October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He thanked Commissioners Battles and Harvey, Bill Dempsey, and the reporter from WTVY for wearing pink to the meeting.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported they have a lot of work going on in his department. He reported on November 5th, another round of ATRIP monies will be awarded.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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

