

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 9, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Clint McBroom, Pastor, Highland Park United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commission

Chairman Culver reported the 8th Annual Media vs. Elected Officials Softball Game was held on Saturday at Wiregrass Park. He thanked everyone who participated, and he stated he thought everyone had a good time. The chairman stated it was quite competitive this year, and the Elected Officials did very well. Chairman Culver reported they raised 4,216 pounds of food; enough for 3,293 meals. He reported everyone seemed to enjoy playing at Wiregrass, and they would make the decision about next year's venue soon.

Commissioner Shoupe reported he had received several complaints about the intersection of Fortner Street and Bay Springs Road about trees off the right of way. He stated there would be a study done to see about tackling the complaints.

Awards and Presentations

1. Introduction of Houston County Queens – Mrs. Elizabeth H
2. all – Co-Director, Houston County Pageants.

Chairman Culver reported this is the commission's favorite meeting of the year when they get to recognize the queens who represent the county at festivals, ribbon cuttings, and other beauty pageants. He asked Mrs. Elizabeth Hall to come forward and bring the 6 Houston County Queens with her. Mrs. Hall reported this year's queens are a wonderful group of sweet, hard working girls who have already done service projects in the community. She pointed out community service is going to be their main focus this year.

Chairman Culver then introduced the queens as follows:

Ella Cope, Future Little Miss Houston County, attends Highland Elementary and is in kindergarten.
Kolbi Hall, Little Miss Houston County, attends Northside Methodist Academy, and is in 1st grade.
Anniston Harrison, Young Jr. Miss Houston County, attends Heard Magnet Elementary, and is in 2nd

grade.

Lucy Jeffcoat, Jr. Miss Houston County, attends Houston Academy and is in 7th grade.

Mary Katherine Chapman, Teen Miss Houston County, attends Northside Methodist Academy and is in the 10th grade.

Emily Carroll, Miss Houston County, attends Wallace Community College and will be transferring to Troy University, Troy in the fall.

Each of the queens made comments about their reign thus far, and they all stated they were enjoying participating in the various functions.

Chairman Culver complimented Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Lisa Peter, who serve as Co-Directors of the Houston County Pageant. He stated they do an outstanding job, and he thanked them for arranging to have the queens attend the meeting. He wished Ms. Houston County and Little Ms. Houston County good luck in the National Peanut Festival Pageant.

3. Proclamation – “Small Business Week” – Mrs. Hayden Camp, Membership Director, and Mr. Steve Turkoski, Project Manager, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Hayden Camp and Mr. Steve Turkoski to come forward. Mrs. Camp reported Mr. Turkoski was going to video the presentation. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 9th-13th, as “Small Business Week.” Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Camp. She reported each year the Chamber of Commerce sets aside a week to recognize small businesses. Mrs. Camp reported in March of this year, 68% of the business owners in the area had 10 employees or less and there were 80% with less than 20 employees. She pointed out 80% of the chamber membership are small business owners. Mrs. Camp reviewed the activities scheduled for Small Business Week. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Camp and Mr. Turkoski for bringing it to the commission’s attention. He reported having been a small business owner and Commissioner Shoupe owning a small business and others on the commission who have worked for small business owners, know it is so important to recognize them and the significant role they play in our community.

4. Proclamation – “National Police Week” – Sheriff Donald Valenza

Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Donald Valenza to come forward. Commissioner Siquelfield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 15th -21st, as “National Police Week.” Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Sheriff Valenza. He thanked the chairman and the commission for their recognition. The Sheriff reported Houston County will join with the City of Dothan on May 18th, and the families of the 4 fallen officers of the Houston County Sheriff’s Department will be recognized as they are remembered for their service. Chairman Culver thanked Sheriff Valenza for bringing this to the commission’s attention.

5. Proclamation – “National Corrections Officers Week” – Captain Keith Reed

Chairman Culver asked Captain Keith Reed to come forward. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 1st-7th, as "National Corrections Officers Week." Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Captain Reed. Captain Reed thanked the chairman and commission for recognizing "National Corrections Officers Week," and he stated he has 68 men and women who work as corrections officers. He pointed out there are currently 277 inmates in the Houston County Jail and his staff does an outstanding job. Captain Reed reported there are 9 CJO's in the State of Alabama and Houston County has 7 of them, and there are 5 CJMs in the State, and Houston County has 2 of them. The Captain reported he was very proud of these accomplishments by his staff. Captain Reed stated a lot of people do not know where the Jail is and they pass by it on a daily basis, and they do not realize it. Chairman Culver thanked Captain Reed for bringing this to the commission's attention.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to enter into a 35 month finance agreement with BancorpSouth for one Patch Truck valued at \$175,858.00.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to enter into a 35 month finance agreement with Synovus Bank for one Patch Truck valued at \$175,858.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported on Thursday, they discussed the difference in using a local bank as compared to one without a presence in Houston County. He pointed out the difference over a 3 year period would be \$400.00 on this particular item. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request to approve the emergency replacement of one condensing unit in the Personnel Office in the amount of \$8,144.00 with funding from the Capital Replacement budget – County Buildings.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the emergency replacement of one condensing unit in the Personnel Office in the amount of \$8,144.00 with funding from the Capital Replacement budget. Commissioner Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to authorize the acceptance of a Wiregrass Foundation Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to accept the Wiregrass Foundation Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported on Thursday, they discussed the grant being for the study and design of the Courthouse basement regarding the relocation of Juvenile Court Services. He stated Judge Lori Ingram wanted to make sure the Juvenile Court Room would be designed in an effort not to cause any issues between the children and juveniles. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Liquor License Request – 011 Lounge Retail – Class II (Package) – Pansey Package Store, LLC d/b/a Pansey Package Store – 13076 Highway 84 East, Suite 2, Ashford, AL 36312 – Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for a 011 Lounge Retail – Class II (Package) License for the Pansey Package Store, LLC d/b/a Pansey Package Store – 13076 Highway 84 East, Suite 2, Ashford, AL 36312. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if there was anyone present who had any comments or objections? There were none. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve a \$25,000.00 budget amendment transferring funds from the Commission to Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the \$25,000.00 budget amendment transferring funds from the Commission's budget to Road and Bridge. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, the purchase of a truck that he would use until December, 2018, and it would then be given to the Road and Bridge Department. He pointed out the new law that was just passed will no longer provide the chairman with a county vehicle. Chairman Culver reported it was felt the purchase of a truck instead of a car would be the best route because very few departments use cars, and it would automatically go to Road and Bridge. Commissioner Sinquefield reported it was agreed at budget time, that the \$25,000.00 would go toward a new vehicle for the Chairman before the bill was passed. He stated by purchasing the truck the county will only be buying one vehicle, and it will go to Road and Bridge. Commissioner Shoupe reported he would have to vote no because he felt a car would be the best purchase for the chairman. The chairman called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Sinquefield, Harvey and Battles NAYS: Commissioner Shoupe The motion passed.

6. Request to approve revised Sanitation Policy – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the revised Sanitation Policy. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the revision was due to changing the types of cans being used. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

7. Request to approve Gordon Boat Landing maintenance agreement with the State of Alabama – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Gordon Boat Landing maintenance agreement with the State of Alabama. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the county has been maintaining it for many years, but while all parties were in agreement, they decided it was a good time to do this. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals – Road and Bridge.

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

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported they were down to 10 roads and they were working on 2 of those this week. He stated the list is getting shorter.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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