

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Pres Register, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and W. 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. Jeff Pettis, Associate Pastor, First Freewill Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver thanked Chief Larry Williams, Chris Etheredge, and everyone involved in the Service of Remembrance at the Dothan Civic Center on September 11th. He stated the City and County hosted the event encouraging people to never forget that day that changed our lives forever, and all of those people who lost their lives and their families.

He reported a lot of events are going on this month. The chairman pointed out on Wednesday, September 14th, at 6:30 P.M., a "Prayer for the Righteous" Service will be held at the Civic Center. He stated a lot of churches are involved, and he encouraged everyone to attend.

Commissioner Siquefield reported he attended the 911 Remembrance Service at First Baptist Church for the First Responders and he thanked them for hosting the service.

Chairman Culver asked Judge Davenport to come forward for a special presentation. The Judge asked Ms. Angie Christian, Elections Specialist, to come forward, and at that time he presented her with a special award, as a Certified Election Registration Administrator. He reported she is one of two certified Election Specialists in the State of Alabama. The Probate Judge congratulated Ms. Christian for this prestigious award, and he pointed out she had taken courses to achieve this designation. He reported Houston County is very fortunate to have someone of Ms. Christian's caliber in their employ. Ms. Christian thanked the Probate Judge and the commission for the opportunity to receive the award.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Hunger Action Month" – Mr. David Hanks, Executive Director, Wiregrass United Way Food Bank

Chairman Culver asked Mr. David Hanks, Executive Director, Wiregrass United Way Food Bank to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming September as "Hunger Action Month" in Houston County. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried

unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Hanks. He thanked Mr. Hanks for all the good the Food Bank does in the community. He pointed out the Food Bank was the vision of Mr. Tommy Ricketts and Mr. Frank Martin, Jr. 25 years ago, and it has continued to grow. Chairman Culver reported the commission is supportive of the Food Bank with its annual softball game between the elected and the media raising money and food for them and also helping in other areas as needed. Mr. Hanks thanked the commission for all of their support, and pointed out just recently they approved helping with weed control in their parking lot, and he stated they were so appreciative. He stated they have a great Board and he reported Judge Patrick Davenport has made a great addition to their Board.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to re-appoint Mr. Jimbo Loftin to the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Jimbo Loftin to the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

2. Request from Personnel to approve 2017 Holiday Schedule – Ms. Sherri Garner, Personnel Director.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the 2017 Holiday Schedule as requested by the Personnel Department. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the schedule had been approved by the Personnel Board. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Presentation of 2016-17 Budget and request to approve – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the 2016-17 Budget. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Bill Dempsey to come forward and make his presentation.

He covered the highlights regarding labor as follows:

- 3% step increase for both classified and unclassified employees.

- 1% COLA increase for both classified and unclassified employees

- \$0.25 per hour increase for part time employees

- Health insurance premium increased 4%. The increase has been distributed equally between the county and employees/retirees.

- Eliminated one Revenue Clerk position and added one Administrative Assistant position with the Revenue Department.

- Eliminated one Civil Document Server position, added one Certified Deputy, upgraded 9 Sheriff's Deputies to Corporals, removed two Dispatchers and added two Tech Support positions within the Sheriff's Department.

- Addition of 4 part time Probate Clerk positions.

The funding for capital and major spending includes a training expense, remodeling of storage buildings on West Main Street, and \$750,000 for General Maintenance, and \$150,000 for capital replacement in the Maintenance Department.

Included in the Sheriff's Department is 8 refurbished vehicles, 8 in-car cameras, vehicle emergency equipment, various computer equipment, miscellaneous special request items, and \$1.7 million investment in communication equipment.

The Jail will receive 3 dryers, 3 washers, metal detector, 20 body cameras, Morpho Trust software and PALS Software.

The Road and Bridge Department will receive 2 pick-up trucks, four tractors, rubber tire excavator, miscellaneous construction equipment, plasma cutter, tire balancer, and brake lay machine.

The Houston County Courthouse Basement will be renovated in the amount of \$375,000, and EMA will receive \$150,000 investment in equipment and relocation.

Mr. Dempsey pointed out the 2016-17 Projected Beginning Fund Balance would be \$9,491,822 as of October 1, 2016, with Revenues of \$37,509,470 and Expenses of \$41,941,247.00, with a projected ending fund balance of \$ 5,060,045 as of September 30, 2017.

The Chief Administrative Officer made presentations on Total Revenue and Revenue for all departments.

Presentations were made on expenses with a focus on Labor and Benefits, Departmental Operations, Lease Spending, Capital Spending, Agency Donations, Long Term Debt, Bond and Lease Payments.

Other topics were Safety, Liability and Workers Compensation, as well as Recordable Medical Cases.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Dempsey. He stated this is a good budget, but there are areas that the commission was unable to fund such as road improvements. He pointed out that Houston County is growing and the cost of services continues to increase, and they had talked at length about meeting the county's needs. He thanked the commission for their work on the budget, Mr. Dempsey and his staff, as well as the department heads for the outstanding job they do.

Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve expenditures from the Capital Replacement Fund – Mr. Sean Curtis, Houston County Maintenance Manager.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the expenditures from the Capital Replacement Fund as requested by the Maintenance Department. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Mr. Curtis reported as requested in the Administrative Meeting he had received the quote and it was \$19,844.00. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request for a 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License for Granger's Country Market, LLC d/b/a Granger's Country Market, 17153 Cottonwood Road, Cottonwood, AL 36320.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request for a 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License for Granger's Country Market, LLC d/b/a Granger's Country Market, 17153 Cottonwood Road, Cottonwood, AL 36320. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if there was any one in attendance in opposition to the license? There was no opposition. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request for a 050 Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) for Granger's Country Market, LLC d/b/a Granger's Country Market, 17153 Cottonwood Road, Cottonwood, AL 36320

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request for a 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) License for granger's Country Market, LLC d/b/a Granger's Country Market, 17153 Cottonwood Road, Cottonwood, AL 36320. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if there was any one in attendance in opposition to the license? There was no opposition. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to purchase property at the county yard from CSX Railroad – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to purchase property at the county yard from CSX Railroad. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is property that the Road and Bridge Department is sitting on and the county has been paying rent on for several years. Mr. Kirkland reported the purchase price is \$10,800.00. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Malvern Road from Geneva County Line to County Road 203 – Approximately 2.106 miles – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Malvern Road from the Geneva County Line to County Road 203 – approximately 2.106 miles. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. It was pointed out this is an MPO Project. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

9. Request to approve Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Eddins Road from Hodgesville Road to Cottonwood Highway – Approximately 2.679 miles – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Eddins Road from Hodgesville Road to Cottonwood Highway – approximately 2.679 miles. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. It was pointed out this is an MPO Project. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

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

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to sell items on GovDeals. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

11. Request to award bids for guardrail and concrete junction boxes w/concrete pipe – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bids for guardrail to H & L Construction, Inc., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$6,173.00 for installation only or \$11,890.00 to furnish and install, and award the bid for concrete junction boxes w/concrete pipe to Forterra Pipe, the only bidder, in the amount of \$28,703.80. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

12. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing a Public Hearing to vacate a public road.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing a Public Hearing to vacate a public road. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Attorney Pres Register reported a 30 day notice to all land owners on Parmer Road has to be given, and then they anticipate the Public Hearing to be around the end of October. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported there were 5 road closed as follows: Blackman Road, Cobb Road, S. Bay Springs, Fortson Road, and Folsom Road. He reported Fortson Road would be done in about 2 weeks, and County Road #55 began paving earlier in the day, and would be down to 1 lane of traffic for the next 2 weeks.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver reported the Governor would be in town on September 13th, for the Job Fair that would be held at the Dothan Civic Center from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. He pointed out there were 80 employers that would be participating. The chairman also reported that the Governor would be in Ashford at 10:30 A.M., for the Next Level Open House.

Adjourn

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

