

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
October 12, 2021

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert and County Attorney Pres Register.

Chairman Culver called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the October 12, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

The invocation was given by Commissioner Siquefield and Commissioner Herring led in the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Siquefield and seconded by Commissioner Herring. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman mentioned that the Miss National Peanut Festival Pageant was held over the weekend and he wanted to congratulate Ms. Wicksburg, Lydia Paulson and he looks forward to working with her during the coming year. Commissioner Shoupe commented that it is fitting today that along with the proclamation for Farm City Week, that today is National Farmer's Day and he congratulates all the farmers and honors them for what they do to feed this country. He also asked that, with harvest season upon us, that people take caution on the county roads with the farmers coming out of the fields on their farm equipment.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – "Farm City Week" – Glenn Maloy & Gloria Jeffcoat

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the proclamation for "Farm City Week" and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Siquefield read the proclamation and CAO Peter Covert presented it to Mr. Glenn Maloy. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Maloy for comments and asked why Gloria did not want to come forward. Mr. Maloy thanked the commission for the opportunity to be here and said he is not sure why Gloria did not want to come up but that everybody knows that she is the one that is behind Farm City that makes it run and they appreciate what she does every year. Mr. Maloy then held up a crystal trophy and stated that it was a 1st Place Award for last year for Farm City, state wide, and it is the first year that Houston County actually won the award and it is for counties with a larger population. He added that because of the efforts of people

like Gloria, Doug, Jackie and everybody else on the Farm City Committee, they are able to do things that help promote agriculture here in Houston County and the county was recognized for that last year. Mr. Maloy shared that the Farm City Committee plans activities year round in education, outreach and promotion of agriculture. The combination of the year's activities ends with Farm City Week and this year it is November 19-25 and the theme for 2021 is "Down to Earth – Agriculture Sustains Alabama". Mr. Maloy reported that 97% of Alabama's farms are family owned. The farmers use four thinking practices that reduce input, protect the land, produce healthy and sustainable products and insure that the next generation of their families has resources available to farm. Mr. Maloy stated that he thinks it is more important every year for them to do Farm City because every year so many get further and further away from what farming means to our communities. He thanked the commission again for allowing them to talk about Farm City and recognizing the importance of farmers and agriculture here in Houston County and they want to continue to do that so everyone understands how important it is not only for food but for the economy.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Maloy and the committee for all they do each year and he thanked Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat for all she has done all through the years and what she continues to do.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to award revised ACCA joint county bid for concrete pipe

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to award the revised ACCA joint county bid for concrete pipe. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Personnel Board to concur in the 2022 County Holiday Schedule – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request from the Personnel Board and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to approve necessary appraisal work for Trails Grant Application and authorize Chairman to take actions necessary with approved appraisers and authorize documents – Kim Meeker

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for necessary appraisal work for Trails Grant Application and authorize Chairman to take actions necessary with approved appraisers and authorize documents. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve survey and environmental work for Trails Grant Application – Kim Meeker

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for survey and environmental work for Trails Grant Application. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Appointments to the SE Alabama Health Care Authority

Chairman Culver stated that these appointments will be done one at a time and as Commissioner Harvey is not present he stated that he will count on one of the other commissioners to make a motion to appoint from District 1, Mr. James Kelly to the Houston County Health Care Authority. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the District 1 appointee, but with there being no second the motion did not carry and Commissioner Harvey did not have an appointment.

From District 2, Mr. Tony Strickland would be the appointment and Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to appoint Mr. Tony Strickland. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

From District 3, Commissioner Herring stated that at this time he would not be making an appointment and he asked that the Health Board go back to the Board and hopefully they can go back and communicate and work together on this appointment. Commissioner Herring added that his goal is to appoint Steve Hicks to the Board when the time comes. No motion was made at this time for the District 3 appointment.

From District 4, Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to re-appoint Don Owens to District 4 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Herring. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. George Trotter of 4218 County Road 203, Dothan, AL approached the podium and stated that probably the most enlightening administrative meeting in the last four years that he attended was last Thursday and it was relevant to this board appointments. He added that in all due respect to Mr. Herring and Mr. Shoupe and Mr. Sinquefield, he appreciated them bringing out these points and he appreciates their position that they have taken. He said that we really need to consider changing the name to appointments to the Southeast Alabama Health Care Non-Authority because with what he understands this board is basically useless as far as input that goes into the policies and management of our healthcare facility. Mr. Trotter added that for Mr. Shoupe he wants to commend him for seconding Commissioner Herring's motion but going ahead and appointing his appointee today that was picked for him and to Mr. Sinquefield he did not even hear him speak up. Mr. Trotter stated that we are in an election year and people across this county know that and the best way is to just don't say anything, right? He commended them and closed noting that it is too little, too late and the public knows what is going on and there is going to be some changes in the next year.

Chairman Culver then stated that to re-hash, what he believes they just did. They appointed two members (District 2 and District 4) of the four so the other two members will continue to serve until action is taken on those two members. He added that he believed that Commissioner Harvey wanted his appointee reappointed but the Commissioners stated that they had not spoken to Commissioner Harvey.

6. Request to award bid for crushed limestone to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for crushed limestone to lowest bidder meeting specs and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to sell the following items on GovDeals from the I.T. Dept.; 2005 Chevrolet Blazer and 2007 Chevrolet HHR

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to sell the 2005 Chevrolet Blazer and the 2007 Chevrolet HHR on GovDeals. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – County Rd. 8, Spring Hill and County Rd. 85

County Attorney – No Report

Commissioner Sinquefield stated that it is the time of year for a lot of activities with farmers and they have not gotten into cotton season so there will be a lot more traffic and County Road 8 is the main line actually between County Road 55 and State Line Road. He asked Engineer Kirkland if they could ask the media to note where those closed sections are so they can plan ahead and possibly just call the Road & Bridge Dept. The more info that is put out to the public is a lot better for the farmers, especially this time of year. He thanked Engineer Kirkland for what they are doing as they are making a lot of progress in a short time on County Road 8 with 20+ cross drains being replaced as that is 14 ½ miles that is going to be resurfaced and it will be a benefit to our citizens for safe travel.

Chairman Culver stated that County Road 8 cuts across half the county and it is a long road to repair. He also thanked the Farm City Committee for coming and welcomed them anytime to meetings in the future.

Meeting adjourned.