

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
October 25, 2021

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert and Acting County Attorney Wes Bell.

Chairman Culver called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the October 25, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver began by speaking about the mask policy in the county buildings. He said that the policy has been, and continues to be, to ask the public to mask up before entering the buildings. He reported that the numbers have declined of those infected with the COVID Virus in our community, and the state, and most entities and establishments have relaxed their mask requirement as well as the school systems have done away with theirs also. Chairman Culver stated that effective, unless major objection, November 1st, the mask order requirement will be dropped for entering the county buildings. He added that it is certainly still encouraged should someone feel more comfortable with a mask and they will not be discouraged but as of November 1st, it will not be mandatory to wear a mask to enter the buildings. Chairman Culver also stated that the Personnel Dept. will be issuing something to the employees at the appropriate time but as it relates to the public, as of November 1st they will no longer require masks to enter the county buildings.

Chairman Culver mentioned that, regarding law enforcement, there has been a lot of opportunity for law enforcement to exercise their abilities lately, in our community. He stated that this Commission certainly appreciates those that serve in the law enforcement environment to include county employees that are in the Sheriff's Dept., those with City of Dothan and other municipal police departments who work hand in glove together on many occasions. Those employees do so in an unselfish manner and put their lives out there every day for all citizens and at this time the commission recognizes that there is a lot lately that is going on and they appreciate those that serve in that capacity. Chairman Culver stated publically that this Commission absolutely 100% supports law enforcement and will continue to do so. He ended by thanking those law enforcement employees that are in attendance for their service and what they do.

Commissioner Sinquefield announced that he wanted to commend the Town of Columbia as the Harvest Day that they recently had was a great event and great turn out with people and vendors. The weather was great and the people came out and enjoyed one another and it was a great day.

Chairman Culver stated that fall festivals are always fun and exciting and important to those towns and he is glad that it was good. He encouraged the citizens to get out and support these events.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Red Ribbon Week” – Dana Bonney, (334) Prevention Project Executive Director

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Bonney’s and thanked her for bringing this to the commission. He continued by stating that “Red Ribbon Week” comes every year and it is important that we recognize it and make the citizens aware of the fight that continues with the organization and getting the word out.

Ms. Bonney thanked the commission and stated that the “Red Ribbon” Campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign that reaches million of young people in the United States. The 334 Prevention Project are grateful for the city and county that have taken a unified and visible stand against substance abuse and have supported this partnership since 1991. She added that “Red Ribbon Week” serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities and education youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. Ms. Bonney said that they have 100% participation in “Red Ribbon Week” in city and county schools this year including private and home schools. She then introduced two members of the 334 Prevention Youth Council, which are seniors at Dothan High School, Kazani Snell and Ty Torbert. Ms. Snell and Mr. Torbert both approached the podium and gave some alarming statistics concerning substance abuse and crime among young people in the United States and right here in Houston County. Mr. Torbert commented that with these statistics, it brings on fear among young people.

Chairman Culver thanked them for bringing that extremely powerful message and for coming today.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to award ACCA Region 2 Debris Removal Services Bid

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the ACCA Region 2 Debris Removal Services Bid and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Chairman Culver stated that Houston County is the awarding authority for the ACCA state bids and this is part of that. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to award ACCA Region 2 Debris Monitoring Services Bid

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to award the ACCA Region 2 Debris Monitoring Services Bid. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to adopt Worker's Compensation Fund Longevity Commitment Resolution – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve bid for jail meals – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the bid for jail meals. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Appointment to Southeast Alabama Healthcare Authority

Chairman Culver stated that this is for Dr. James Kelly, District 1 appointment position. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve Dr. James Kelly as an appointment to the Southeast Alabama Healthcare Authority. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – County Rd. 8, Peterman Road and Moffet Road

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.