

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
November 22, 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 County Attorney Pres Register.

Chairman Culver called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the November 22, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Pastor Clark Cornelius from Grace Anglican Church 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 Harvey. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that Thursday is Thanksgiving and he encouraged everyone to be thankful for the many things that they have and have been blessed with in our community. He continued by saying that sometimes we take things for granted and don't realize how very fortunate we are as we look around the country with the many struggles and different things that they are dealing with. Chairman Culver reiterated that we have it really good here in Dothan and Houston County and that to him Thanksgiving is one of the best holidays because it gives us a chance to stop and be thankful for the things that we have. He added that we live in a community where people reach out and help each other especially during this time of year. He asked everyone to take time to pause and realize the blessings that we have in our lives and to give thanks for them.

Commissioner Siquefield reported that a celebrity was here today and he would like to congratulate Jackie Culpepper for being honored with the Farm City Volunteer of the Year for 2021. Chairman Culver stated that the bell ringing for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive will be December 1<sup>st</sup> in conjunction and competition with the City of Dothan. They will be at the Northside Wal-Mart and he encouraged everyone to come and help with this event. Chairman Culver commented that the Salvation Army does a great job in partnering with the County and City with several things to include helping during a crisis and he is thankful that they are a part of this community.

RECOGNITION

1. WOOF-FM RADIO – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Chris Judah came forward and thanked the commission for allowing him to recognize this group. He stated that the WOOF-FM is very special and great partners with EMA. He stated that he had been dealing with John Daniels and Deborah Pearson for the last five years with all the news and things like that as they talk quite a bit and they are very good at what they do. Mr. Judah said that then he met Amy Dee, Julie and Derek and they allowed him to be on his show several times and he said that a lot goes into putting on a radio show or a news show. He added that the greatest thing these people at WOOF-FM do is they keep the residents informed with news and events in the surrounding area twenty-four hours a day. Mr. Judah stated that he wanted to recognize them as they do a great job for Houston County, the City of Dothan and the Wiregrass Area as well as the EMA as they are always there when needed. Deborah Pearson approached the podium and thanked the Commission and Chris Judah for the partnership with the news department and stated that she has been with WOOF for twenty-nine years coming December 1<sup>st</sup> and that Mr. Judah is a great EMA Director and they thanked the Commission for Mr. Judah and what he does for the county.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to present the 2020-2021 departmental over/under spending summary report – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the departmental over/under summary report and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion.

Mr. Covert began by stating that this was a very unique year as they have tried to navigate through some of the difficulties during the last year. His opinion is that department managers and department heads have done an outstanding job in being good stewards with the citizens money and entrusting them to bring value, services and benefits to the county. Mr. Covert stated that there are a few items that he wanted to point out that are over budget but are completely understandable and explainable. The first one you will notice in the county commission expenditure line there is 2.2 million dollars and that is the Five Star building purchase and there was not a budget amendment for that as there was not a cash expenditure for that item but had to be recorded as an expenditure even though it was funded through debt. The next item Mr. Covert pointed out that was over budget was for elections. This was for new voting machines that were purchase during the last year using state funds and as expenditures are expenditures and revenues are revenues, they cannot be netted together so that looks like an overage in that department, it is covered by a HAVA Grant through the state. Mr. Covert added that the Houston County EMS Association also shows an overage but that was for \$583,00 in purchases for COVID related expenses and it covered by state funding through the CARES Act. In addition the VFFA had an overage that was entirely COVID related expenses and it is completely covered by CARES Act reimbursements from the state. Also, the wastewater treatment plant was over due to commission approved expenditure and no budget amendment was made. This expense was for repairs and updates at the wastewater treatment plant. (Copy of report attached to original minutes) Chairman Culver stated that the items which were over had understandable explanations. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to award ACCA Joint County Bids for Heavy Equipment, Corrugated Metal Pipe, Herbicides and Road Signs

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the joint county bids and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Chairman Culver made note that as explained on Thursday, the county is the awarding authority for the ACCA statewide county bids and they have broken the bids up instead of approving all at once. When called for vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve resolution authorizing a refund of tax sale overage for certain tax parcels and accompanying budget amendment – Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver reminded everyone that County Attorney Pres Register explained on Thursday that this was a property that was sold at the tax sale and later had to be unsold and this is a refund that is being approved. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to pre-approve all overtime reimbursable grants for the budget year – Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to pre-approve all overtime reimbursable grants for the Sheriff's Dept. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Request to renew Sanitation Collection Contract with Wiregrass Electric – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to renew the Sanitation Collection Contract with Wiregrass Electric and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to authorize Chairman to execute the addendum to the contract for the Dothan City Jail food service – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Chairman Culver stated that this is an increase in cost and there is an accompanying increase in charge to the City of Dothan for their inmates.

7. Request to adopt resolution accepting and approving transfer of cable franchise from Troy Cablevision, Inc. to Telepak Network, Inc.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution accepting and approving transfer of cable franchise from Troy Cablevision to Telepak Network, Inc. Commission Shoupe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve budget amendment for FEMA funds received – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request for the budget amendment for FEMA Funds received for Road & Bridge and Commissioner Siquiefield seconded. Commissioner Siquiefield commented that he wanted to commend and thank the County Engineer and the Road & Bridge Dept. for their work and for making sure that the FEMA funds are done in the proper manner and following the guidelines which are necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Request to award bid for motor grader blades to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for motor grader blades to the lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Shoupe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – Closed Road: County Rd. 75. Mr. Kirkland recognized Kalie Glass, who has been interning at the Road & Bridge Dept. Asst. County Engineer Tyler Reeder approached the podium and stated that Ms. Glass had been with R & B since July and next week is her last week. She is enrolled at Troy University to start her basics. Ms. Glass recently served in the Air Force for six years and she is starting her “out of the Air Force” career. Mr. Reeder said that she has been a tremendous help to the R & B Dept. He thanked Ms. Glass for the tremendous job she has done. Chairman Culver began telling Ms. Glass that they appreciate her for her service to her country and secondly for her service to the county and that he has nothing but good things about her work and he wished her success as she moves forward. Ms. Glass said that she appreciated the opportunity as it was a little hectic to get the paperwork done with the military. She thanked the commission and stated that they have a great team at the R & B Dept.

County Attorney – No Report

Commissioner Shoupe asked Engineer Kirkland where they were on cutting (roadsides) as he is starting to get some complaints. Engineer Kirkland reported that they had started about two weeks ago with one crew and they have the second crew equipment ready to go and they should get them started around Christmas.

Meeting adjourned.