

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION

January 10, 2022

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Acting Chief Administrative Officer Nancy Bristow and Acting County Attorney Wes Bell.

Acting Chairman Harvey called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the January 10, 2022, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver and Commissioner Doug Sinuefield

Pastor Chase Faulk gave the invocation and Commissioner Shoupe led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Human Trafficking Awareness Month” – Gia Hughes, Dare to Hope, Inc., Founder

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Herring then read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Hughes. He asked her for comments. Ms. Hughes began by introducing herself and stated that the group is an advocacy, education and intervention agency in the Wiregrass area and they work throughout multiple states to assist victims. Their hope is that the community will be educated to understand what a victim really looks like so that they are not portrayed as those that are on TV as that is not the type of victims that we have in our community. Ms. Hughes added that she personally has been in this fight since the year 2013 as God called her in and the agency began in 2016 as a non-profit. She mentioned that due to COVID they have pushed education portions back just a little but they can be followed at daretohope.net and see when the next education classes will be. They teach on trauma, because most victims are results of trauma. Throughout the state they work on transport services and soon they will have a shelter house designated for human trafficking victims here in this area. She thanked the commission and thanked the general public for wanting to know what is going on in their communities and standing in the gaps for people to have freedom. (Applause by all)

2. Presentation – FY-2021 Houston County Rebuild Alabama Annual Report – Tyler Reeder, Asst. County Engineer

Asst. Engineer Reeder began by stating that in August of each year the Road and Bridge Dept., produces a plan of what they will do for the year and in January they come before the commission to show what has been done in the previous year. He pointed out that of the fourteen roads, twelve were completed and two will be rolled over into 2022. A total of 18.1 miles were resurfaced for a total of 2.2 million dollars. Engineer Reeder added that work on County Road 75 and County Road 8 have begun and they

are looking at projects to complete for next year's plan. Commissioner Shoupe asked when they might complete County Road 8 and 75 and Mr. Redder stated they should be completed by this summer. Engineer Barkley Kirkland stated that at the next meeting they will do a presentation on the cross drain work and shoulder work. Mr. Reeder reported that this report today just shows the Rebuild Alabama Fund and bond money for asphalt surface on roads and that it does not include shoulder work, cross drains or any other work. Commissioner Shoupe asked if County Road 8 and County Road 75 are paid with bond money and Engineer Kirkland answered yes. Mr. Reeder said that they were under budget by \$100,000. He also stated that this report is required by law and it will be posted in public buildings and on the website. (Report attached to original minutes)

Acting Chairman Harvey stated that Commissioner Sinquefield is absent due to attending a dedication at Landmark Park on behalf of the County and the Wiregrass RC & D.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt resolution for Peter Covert to submit application to the ACCA for designation as a Certified County Administrator

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to adopt resolution for Peter Covert to submit application to the ACCA for designation as a Certified County Administrator. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to re-appoint Velma Tribue to the Houston County Personnel Board

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to re-appoint Velma Tribue to the Houston County Personnel Board and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to move current part-time Community Outreach Coordinator position to full-time with benefits and approve accompanying budget amendment – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to award bid for herbicide to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the bid and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer- No Report

County Engineer- 2 Closed roads: County Rd. 75 and Jordan Ave.

County Attorney- No Report

Adjourned