

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
March 28, 2022

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. 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 March 28, 2022, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Donna Cumbie, of Denton Road United Methodist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Herring led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Siquefield announced that today is National Vietnam War Veterans Day and he commended the Vietnam Veterans for their service to this nation and welcomed them all back home.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Community College Month” – Dr. Ashli Wilkins, Vice President and Dean, Institutional Services and Community Development

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Culver read the proclamation and presented it to Dr. Wilkins. He commented that Wallace Community College is such an integral part of, not just the community, but of the economic development efforts and if Matt Parker were in attendance, he would talk for several minutes about Wallace College and the things they do to help to recruit industry and create opportunities for the citizens of the area. Chairman Culver thanked Dr. Wilkins for allowing the commission to recognize them and this event.

Dr. Wilkins thanked Chairman Culver and the Commission and stated that this is a wonderful day in recognizing the college. She reported that they serve about 5,000 credit students each semester and additionally another 3,000 non-credit and business industry training students. She states that 40.6% of the student population comes from Houston County and they also have a high dual enrollment program participation with local high schools to include Dothan, Rehobeth, Ashford, Cottonwood, and Wicksburg. Dr. Wilkins said that the college is excited to be part of Houston County and she appreciates the pastor’s comment when she said that what the commission does is transforms the lives of Houston County

citizens and she feels that Wallace Community College does the same. She thanked the commission for their support and their advocacy and for their friendship. Chairman Culver asked Dr. Wilkins to be sure and tell Dr. Young that the commission appreciates her and all the good things she has done for the college and the community.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to enter into a finance agreement with SmartBank for (6) Motor Graters – Peter B. Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commission Herring made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. At this time Chairman Culver recognized citizen George Trotter and he approached the podium. Mr. Trotter stated his name and said that he resides at 4218 County Road 203, Dothan, AL. Mr. Trotter asked about SmartBank and how does that benefit and why are they going through SmartBank. Chairman Culver stated that bids were taken on the best rate for the financing of the motor graters and SmartBank had the best rate. He added that SmartBank is a new bank in the community and they have been here for about eight months or more. Mr. Trotter asked if they received the low bid for the financing and Chairman Culver responded yes. Mr. Trotter asked if there will be bids put out for the motor graters and Chairman Culver responded that they had already been bid out and purchased and this is the paperwork to pay for them.

When called for the question and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer- Mr. Covert stated that is with great sadness and a heavy heart that he let the Commission know that this Thursday will be Stephanie Chandler (Asst. Chief Administrative Officer) last day with the County as she has had an opportunity presented to her that she could not pass down. He added that she has been with the county for a little over five years and she has proved herself, not only technically capable, but worthy of the title of Asst. Chief Administrative Officer and that she has been an integral in his transition into his role as well as the aid and assistance that she has provided to all departments in the county. Mr. Covert said that he just wanted to take a moment to tell Mrs. Chandler how much he appreciates all her efforts and what all she has done and for putting up with him and helping him to grow into his role. Chairman Culver added that officially on behalf of the commission they want her to know how much they appreciate her putting up with Peter (laughter from all) and doing the job she has done. He wished her the best of luck and that this is an opportunity that she would remiss if not accepted in moving her career forward. Chairman Culver said that she will be missed and they thanked her for her service. A round of applause was given by all.

County Engineer- Closed Roads: Third Ave., Pate Road, Suggs Road and Provence Road. Also, paving begins on Hodgesville Road today and they will be there all week. They will proceed to First Ave. in Ashford after Hodgesville is completed.

County Attorney- No Report

Meeting adjourned.