

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 26, 2022

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, 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 April 26, 2022, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: Commissioner Doug Sinquefield

Pastor Stacy Stafford, of Southside Baptist Church, 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 Harvey and seconded by Commissioner Herring. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver began by congratulating all those involved with the LOOP Art event on Saturday in Downtown Dothan as it was a very well attended and a good event. He said that they continue to commend those that are doing things downtown to attract the public and create activity for families. Commissioner Harvey stated that the first annual "Rock the Vote" bipartisan forum that will be held at the old Montana Street School building, which is now called the Our Community Inc. Housing and Enrichment Center and will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and will be exclusive to the Houston County Commissioners seeking election. He added that present is the Director of the Dothan Housing Authority, Mr. Sam Crawford. Commissioner Harvey asked Mr. Crawford to come forward to speak of the event. Chairman Culver asked if it was a political forum for county commissioners and Mr. Harvey answered that it is for county commissioners only. At this time, Mr. Crawford came forward and stated that he brought with him a little help and he appreciates the commission giving them a few moments to speak of the event. He also congratulated Chairman Culver on his induction to the Hall of Fame recently. Mr. Crawford introduced Ms. Leah Gunn and she began by thanking the commission for their time this morning and she wanted to formally invite them to their first annual Dothan Housing Community Forum and she encouraged not only the commissioner candidates to attend, but also the Dothan Housing Commission will be there as well. Ms. Gunn stated that this will be a great opportunity for there to be some networking to take place as

well as candidates that are running for other offices will be present. However, this specific forum is reserved only for Houston County Commissioner candidates and they want to make it fair and not convolute with additional offices. She added that this is an opportunity for the candidates to address some affordable housing concerns as well as some of the needs that are taking place in rural areas as well as the city limits. This will be a one hour forum and will also be a 15-20 minute period where questions can be asked and she hopes that all will be in attendance.

At this time, Chairman Culver took a moment for privileges of the Chair and he asked Mr. Glenn Maloy to come forward. As he was coming forward, Chairman Culver mentioned that Mrs. Jackie Culpepper celebrated her birthday on Monday and he congratulated her.

Mr. Maloy began by thanking the commission and for the opportunity to speak about the Houston County Farm City Program. He stated that the group consists of about 15-20 volunteers to promote agriculture and to bring agriculture and the city together by hosting events throughout the year such as a banquet in November for the local farmers. Mr. Maloy added that the state event is in Birmingham and was held in April. He is happy to report that Houston County Farm City was awarded the "Best Media Coverage" award in Division I and was also awarded the "Best Civic Activities" in the state. Other nominations from the Houston County committee that received awards were Wicksburg High School for their video that was submitted and they also had the winning "Volunteer of the Year" who was Jackie Culpepper. Mr. Maloy asked Mrs. Culpepper to come forward and he mentioned that she was the local winner and now the state winner. She does an awesome job in helping to support agriculture with the local Farm City Committee and she is a big part of what is done in Houston County. Mr. Maloy ended by congratulating Mrs. Culpepper for her award.

Chairman Culver congratulated Mrs. Culpepper and said that she does a great job for the commission and for Farm City and that is good when our own people get recognition and he congratulated the Farm City Committee for all they do.

## AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Proclamation – "Child Abuse Prevention Month" – Terry Dubose, Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center

Chairman Culver announced that Grace Geisler was here in place of Terry Dubose to accept the proclamation. Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Harvey read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Geisler. She thanked the commission for supporting them and proclamation "Child Abuse Prevention Month" for the month of April as it is a

national campaign and they are unique in the four counties in which they serve as they provide the interviews after reports of abuse. She added that the children can come to their facility which is a warm and inviting place that looks like a home and they can talk to people that are trained to get their stories of abuse and to help them. They also provide services to the families and the children.

## 2. Proclamation – “Crime Victims’ Right’s Week” – Shelly Linderman and Katy Lewis, Wiregrass Angel House

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. At this time, Commissioner Herring read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Katy Lewis. He thanked Ms. Lewis and asked for comments. Ms. Lewis began by thanking the commission for the proclamation and stated that this is all about the awareness of the rights of victims of violent crimes and for the commission proclaiming this week as “Crime Victims’ Right’s Week” in Houston County, that it brings awareness to the rights of all victims of violent crimes and they appreciate for all they do for the rights of victims in Houston County. She added that what all the commission does for the organization is appreciated and for letting them have Commissioner Herring in times of need. Chairman Culver stated that the commission appreciates all that they do as people do not realize all that they do for the victims and their families.

## 3. Proclamation – “Small Business Week” – Hayden Camp, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Shoupe read the proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Camp. She thanked the commission for having them here today and celebrating “Small Business Week”. She continued by stating that as a member organization, the Chamber’s goal is to grow Dothan and the surrounding counties with collaborative economic development efforts, to advocate for their members on the federal, state, and local levels and assist their members in forming connections and partnerships to grow and strengthen their small business. Mrs. Camp reported that 85% of the memberships are businesses with fewer than twenty-five full time employees and the best part of her job is celebrating alongside the family or new business owner as they open a new business or celebrate a milestone with a ribbon cutting with their loved ones. As an organization, their minority owned small business numbers rose from 8% to 12% during the pandemic. She stated that during the past two years the members have been put in some difficult situations but from hardships, losing jobs and employees being home with children and dealing with health issues, came great strides with entrepreneurship as those running a small business have learned to adapt in an ever changing world. Mrs. Camp said that business owners have learned to be flexible to offer more opportunity for family life and learn to do communicate more digitally.

She ended by thanking the commission for supporting local businesses, showing up to celebrate the milestones and believing in the growth of the community. She invites everyone to join them during Small Business Week, May 9 – 13. Monday they have three separate ribbon cuttings celebrating some small businesses and on Tuesday they are announcing their small business person of the year at a luncheon. Mrs. Camp also added that on Wednesday they have a full day of surprise visits to their members and on Thursday they will partner with Auburn University for entrepreneurs pop up workshop and then followed by a Women' Networking After Hours at the Untrained Edit and then on Friday they will conclude with a business round table at the Chamber office.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to appoint Mayor Joseph Haddock to fill vacancy on the Houston County Port Authority

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the appointment of Mayor Haddock and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to appoint Tommy Starling to fill vacancy on the Southeast Alabama Emergency Medical Systems Board

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the appointment of Tommy Starling and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to appoint Dwight Deal to the Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the appointment of Dwight Deal and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve resolution to Adopt Policies and Procedures for Non-Infrastructure Projects to be carried out by Sub Recipients – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to award bid for drainage pipes to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to award bid for drainage pipes and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to award bid for Hot Plant Mix to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award bid for Hot Plant Mix and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to sell the following on GovDeals; (1) 2007 Chevrolet Impala (Sheriff's Dept.) – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to sell the items on GovDeals. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 2 closed roads; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Providence Road

County Attorney – No report

Commissioner Shoupe asked Engineer Kirkland about the reinforced pipes that went up 300% in cost and he asked when they use metal pipes versus the concrete pipe. Engineer Kirkland stated that metal pipe is used under driveways and dirt roads and concrete pipes are used under the roads. Metals pipes begin rusting after about 10-12 years as concrete pipes can last up to 60-70 years.

Meeting adjourned