

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 11, 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 July 11, 2022, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: Commissioner Doug Sinquefield

Commissioner Ricky Herring gave the invocation and Commissioner Harvey 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 reported that there is potential for some bad weather today and he asked everyone to pay attention and monitor the weather. He also mentioned that due to a rise in COVID numbers, he asked everyone to be aware of the increased cases and take the necessary precautions. Chairman Culver did say that the cases do not seem to be as extreme as in the past, but the numbers are certainly up and everyone needs to be aware.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to appoint representative for the 2022-2023 ACCA Legislative Committee

Commissioner Herring made a motion to appoint Commissioner Brandon Shoupe to the ACCA Legislative Committee and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Chairman Culver stated that Commissioner Shoupe has served in this capacity for three years. He also stated that in the past it was a district election, but now each county in the state appoints a commissioner to this committee so that makes 67 members on the committee. He added that the committee work on both the legislative program for the association as well as things that commissions do not want to see passed in the legislation. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to establish county levies for new ABC license types

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Chairman Culver stated that these are new license's to include Hospitality Management Program License and Food or Beverage Truck License. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to reject bids for PPE building – Emily VanScyoc, SEARPD

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Harvey seconded.

Chairman Culver stated that Emily VanScyoc is in attendance if there are any questions. He reminded everyone that this was discussed on Thursday as this is a CBG grant that the county received and the majority was used for a mobile unit to help provide services to the citizens in the community. He added that there is about \$100,000 left to go towards a \$160,000 budgeted building but the bid for the building came in at \$520,000. Chairman Culver said that if they vote for the request to reject the bid, they will not be funding the additional \$400,000 for the building and will look into an alternative manner to provide a PPE building that will be less expensive. Chairman Culver added that they would like to reject these bids and work with Sean, Building Maintenance Director, to use the \$100,000 on items that were going to have to be spent from the general fund. He stated that they would have to make an amendment in the grant process and have a public hearing to do so. The motion carried unanimously to reject the bids.

4. Request to approve corrective re-plat of lots 6 & 7, Block "B" and lots 9-14, Block "C" of the First Addition to Pine Hills Estates Subdivision with certain exception to subdivision regulations – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Chairman Culver stated that this item was explained on Thursday and basically this subdivision was put in place in the 70's and the plat does not match what is actually on the ground where the roads are. This request is to correct this but they are not being required to meet the paving requirements since the subdivision has been there for so long. This is basically correcting the misplated subdivision. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve a preliminary plat for Mockingbird Hill Subdivision – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver stated that this is a new subdivision that was discussed last Thursday and they have addressed all the drainage issues that were brought up at the last meeting. He noted that this is a preliminary plat which means this is the first step and lots cannot be sold until the final plat is approved. This is the first step to make sure the subdivision is done correctly. The motion carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report.

County Engineer – Closed roads: County Rd. 95. Paving will begin on Walden Road, Suggs Rd. and Jordan Ave. two weeks from today. He added that Mr. Brad Kimbro, from the Ashford Downtown Redevelopment Assoc. and Ashford Mayor Carole Barfield were in attendance today and wanted to say a few words to the commission. At this time, Mr. Kimbro and Mayor Barfield approached the podium. Mr. Kimbro said that they are here basically to say THANK YOU! He said that they appreciate what each of the commissioners are doing to help this county improve, grow, prosper and be all that it can be. He stated that the City of Ashford appreciates the partnership they have with the county as there are things that the county is allowing or helping them to do that they could never do without their support. Mr. Kimbro said they are very grateful and appreciative the Town of Ashford is and specifically they would like to talk about a couple of things. First, the depot that was paved and the adjacent road to it they could not have done it with the county's support and secondly the property that was most visible to be condemned in Ashford, the county helped to tear it down and get that area paved. Mr. Kimbro said that they are here to let the commission know that this was not an easy project but with the work from the county road and bridge dept. it could not have been possible. He particularly wanted to recognize Barkley Kirkland, the county engineer, as he has been wonderful to work with as everyone else that has worked on the project. Mr. Kimbro stated that the entire staff (Road & Bridge Dept.) have all been professional and proficient and he wanted to specifically recognize Ashley Clements and Tyler Reeder. He told the commission that everyone went above and beyond as they caught specifics that maybe other contractors may not have caught. He said that they kept in communication with the Mayor and himself about issues and updates. Mr. Kimbro emphasized that it was a pleasure to work with these gentlemen and the town knows they have a first class area for the citizens of Ashford. Mr. Kimbro said that looking into the future, the help with the new fire department has already been approved and they look forward to that as well. He again said that he wanted to say thank you to the commission for allowing all this to happen. Mr. Kimbro thanked the Chairman for working as a partnership with all the communities and for helping everyone to have hope for the future. Mayor Barfield stepped to the podium and said that Mr. Kimbro said it all and she also wanted to thank the commission for all they have done for the city of Ashford over the years. She stated that Chairman Culver has been so helpful to work with Ashford and that he always has an open ear and would listen to their needs for as long as she has been Mayor and

on the counsel. She also stated that the parking lot is great and she appreciates Barkley, Ashley and Tyler and she also appreciates Brad and the ADRA for everything they do. Mayor Barfield stated that the R & B Dept. ran into a lot of problems, but Ashley, Tyler and Barkley kept them in the loop and they were always involved. She thanked the commission for everything and she looks forward to working with Chairman-elect Shoupe and the new incoming commissioners as well as they cannot do it without them.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Kimbro and Mayor Barfield for their kind comments and stated that they have always said that everyone is in this together as it is not just county, not just the city, but everyone together and by working together they can get a lot more done. He said that they partner with all the communities and also with the region. Chairman Culver appreciates them for recognizing the staff as they don't always get the recognition they deserve. He then thanked Barkley Kirkland, Tyler Reeder, Ashley Clements and the entire Road & Bridge Department for all they do.

County Attorney – No report

Meeting adjourned.