

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

Pastor David Baker, of Bluff Springs Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Siquefield led in the pledge of the allegiance. Chairman Culver mentioned that Pastor Baker was also the previous chaplain at the Houston County Jail.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that in less than a month, on November 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a very important election for this nation, state and county. He asked that everyone get out and vote and if they are not able to, absentee balloting is available at this time and it is the citizens' duty to get out and vote. There are some very important amendments that will be on the ballot and they would be discussed shortly. Chairman Culver also mentioned that today would make his and Commissioner Siquefield's next to the last meeting as they have thirty-five days left in office. Their last meeting will be October 24<sup>th</sup> and there will be some special presentations at the meeting. At this time, Chairman Culver recognized Rickey Stokes and he came to the podium. Mr. Stokes began by thanking Chairman Culver and Commissioner Siquefield for all they have done. He thanked Commissioner Siquefield for supporting first responders and for responding to some difficult situations in the past to include suicide, deputy accidents and when a Florida lineman was killed in the line of duty. Mr. Stokes continued by stating that Chairman Culver was the first ever elected republican in this county. He said that the Chairman gets a lot of criticism as Chairman but he always kept his eye on the ball and he never lets the criticism deter him. Mr. Stokes thanked Chairman Culver for his service to the people whether they agreed or disagreed. He said he started when he was sixteen years old and he will soon be sixty-two and he won't be able to live his dream but that Chairman Culver gave him a chance for part of that dream. Mr. Stokes ended by thanking both Chairman Culver and Commissioner Siquefield and said that he knows that it is not easy doing what they do. He said that it is out of character for him to be doing this and that people will read into it what they want to read into it but he wanted to take the opportunity to thank both of them. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Stokes for his words and said that he is correct that they have had some difficult times but that they have also gotten a lot of things done for the county and he appreciated the comments.

Chairman Culver then asked that everyone keep the family of Don Parrish in their prayers during this time of Don's tragic death. Mr. Parrish was a paramedic with Pilcher's Ambulance and was involved in an accident. He also asked that they pray for the others in the accident as they heal. Chairman Culver also stated that October is "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and "Fall Farm Day" is this weekend at Landmark Park and it is hosted by the Peanut Festival and the Chamber of Commerce. He urged everyone to go and enjoy all the festivities of this popular event. Lastly, he mentioned that the Miss National Peanut Festival is this weekend and he wished all the ladies good luck. He commended the new Little Miss Peanut from Geneva County and he understands that her father is a county commissioner.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to participate in a one-time post-election audit conducted by the Secretary of State – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the request to participate in a one-time post-election audit conducted by the Secretary of State and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to adopt resolution in support of Amendment 2 and Amendment 7 to the Alabama Constitution

Commissioner Herring made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Chairman Culver reported that this was discussed in Thursday's meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve \$12,500 from ALDOT to include a \$2,500 in-kind match for computerized mapping project and appropriate budget amendment – Greg Holland, Chief Appraiser, Mapping and Reappraisal Department

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the \$12,500 from ALDOT to include \$2,500 in-kind match for computerized mapping project and appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution for the Adoption of Implementation Policies and Procedures for Providing Assistance to Non-Profits Using American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve to adopt the Resolution for the Adoption of Implementation Policies and Procedures for Providing Assistance to Non-Profits Using American Rescue Plan Act Funds and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded. Commissioner Shoupe asked if the funding notice is to be posted on the website and when will it be posted. Chairman Culver said that there were two options on the resolution and one is to create notice and another option that was chosen is through the commission. He also stated that all they are doing today is adopting a resolution to move forward with the policies and procedures and then the "how's

and what for's" and the actual applications will be turned in to the commission for approval for the entities. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to adopt Resolution for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Replacement Funds for Economic Development Project

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver stated that this is for the project on Napier Field Road. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to adopt Resolution Allocating American Rescue Plan Act Revenue Replacement Funds for Window Replacement and Envelope Sealing at the Administration Building and authorize Chairman to execute a contract

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve updated Sanitation Policies and Procedures – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the updated Sanitation Policies and Procedures and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Commissioner Siquefield commented that on page 5, #6 of the new policy, pertaining to the county not picking up batteries, tires or propane tanks, he asked if they will still have a round of tire pick up like they have had in the past. County Engineer Kirkland answered that they will as long as they have the ADEM grant in place, they pick up tires 2 – 3 times per year, as personnel allows. Tires are picked up off the right of way. Citizens are asked to call for pickup and they will be put on a schedule. Chairman Culver stated that these new policies will be sent out to all the customers this week so everyone will know the new enhancements that are being provided to them that is covered under the sanitation fee. Engineer Kirkland said he spoke with Jim (Nunley) concerning routes and they feel confident that they can make that round about every 2-3 weeks, depending on what is out there and that will speed things up. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report.

County Engineer – Two closed roads: Taylor and Roney

County Attorney – No report

Meeting adjourned.