

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
January 9, 2023

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner James Ivey, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert and County Attorney Pres Register.

Chairman Shoupe called the 10 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the January 9, 2023, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Lance Griffin, from Ridgecrest Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Harvey led in the pledge of the 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 Shoupe announced that today is “National Law Enforcement Day” and he recognized Commissioner Herring and Commissioner Ivey as they serve as Deputy’s with the Houston County Sheriff’s Department and he thanked them and the entire Sheriff’s Department for what they do as it is an extremely tough job. Commissioner Herring commented that it is an honor to serve and that you must have a servant’s heart to be in law enforcement and he praises God each day for his protection and for his brothers and sisters that serve as well and they appreciate the support from the citizens.

Chairman Shoupe also announced that next Monday is Martin Luther King Day and the county will be closed for this state holiday. He added that on February 9th, the Administrative Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. as the Commissioners will be in Troy for a meeting. He also mentioned that on Wednesday, January 18th, the Sheriff will be sworn in at the new Sheriff’s Dept. building at 11:30 a.m., on the second floor. Lastly, Chairman Shoupe announced that today is Commissioner Herring and Commissioner Ivey’s birthday and he wished them a Happy Birthday.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – FY-2022 Houston County Rebuild Alabama Annual Report – Tyler Reeder, Asst. County Engineer

Mr. Reeder began by stating that the Road & Bridge Dept. is required, by law, to give an annual report each January showing how the money from the “Rebuild Alabama” fund was spent. Two roads were left to be paved which included County Road 75 north and County Road 8. The report shows that 22.34 miles were resurfaced and both roads received a leveling surface and

triple surface treatment. He added that the dollar figures on the report only county for contractor pricing as the county does a lot of the work ahead of time by prepping the roads for paving. Mr. Reeder stated that the county, at this time, uses all "Rebuild Alabama" funds strictly for paving and not prepping the roads. He reported that the total amount spent on County Road 75 was \$779,408.47 and the total for County Road 8 was \$1,998,235.00. Mr. Reeder said that is required by law to post this report in the appropriate posting areas. He reported that they originally had agreements with four towns to help with these projects and three paid within the year and the last one is scheduled to pay in this fiscal year.

Mr. Reeder stated that at the next commission meeting the Road and Bridge will give their end of the year report showing all work that has been completed in the last fiscal year.

Upon completion, Chairman Shoupe commented that the Road & Bridge Dept. does an outstanding job of stretching what dollars the county receives and he is thankful for the gas tax as the roads that Mr. Reeder mentioned would be in much worse shape. He appreciated them for doing such a good job in stretching the dollars and that is the way local government should work. Engineer Kirkland did remind the commission that in going forward they will only have about \$800,000 per year to spend on roads. Chairman Shoupe asked if the gas tax adjusts was based on CPI's or is it based on the index for construction and Engineer Kirkland stated that he believes it is based on CPI. Engineer Kirkland also stated that half of the bond money is being repaid over ten years and they are now into the third year of that repayment.

The CRAAR shall be entered into the minutes of the County Commission and shall be made available for public inspection including posting on the county's website.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Appointment to the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission – Michael Dean Smith
2. Re-appointment to the Dothan-Houston County Intellectual Disabilities Board, Inc. – Peter Covert and Hank Vaughn

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve both consent agenda items and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to rebid #CB-0847 for F250 4x2 XL w/Body due to no bids submitted – Building Maintenance

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

2. Request for consent and permission of the City Council of the Board of City Commissioners of the City of Dothan to establish, construct, and maintain a road within the corporate limits of the city

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Adams seconded. County Attorney Pres Register approached the podium and commented that items #2 and #3 on the agenda go together. The county is anticipating performing work to create a road within the city limits of the City of Dothan off Hodgesville Road and in order to do this the law requires that in order for this work to be performed by the county permission will have to be granted by the City of Dothan since it is in the city limits. Mr. Register clarified that agenda item #2 is requesting the consent to proceed with this project and this is common procedure as it was done previously at Sam Houston Industrial Park about a year and a half ago. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve acceptance of interest in real property and authorization to construct public road thereon

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request for the acceptance of interest in real property and authorization to construct a public road thereon and Commissioner Ivey seconded. County Attorney Pres Register commented that Exhibit A is included with the Resolution and that lays out where the proposed road is going to be located. He added that it sits on two adjoining pieces of property that are owned separately by different entities and interest from both entities will be received. Mr. Register stated that the City of Dothan plans to install their utilities along the right-of-way and all documentation is being obtained not only for the construction of the road and acceptance of that for the county but ultimately the plan would be for that road to go to the City of Dothan so they are getting assurance that they are in agreement with everything. He said that is why the language is “acceptance of real property interest” as they have to obtain that in order to perform the work and then the commission would need to approve the creation of the public road. With no further questions, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve resolution to convey right-of-way located at Sam Houston Industrial Park to City of Dothan – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the resolution to convey right-of-way located at Sam Houston Industrial Park to the City of Dothan. Commissioner Adams seconded the

motion. At this time County Attorney Pres Register commented on this item and stated that the property (the road) along with the easements at Sam Houston Boulevard, about a year and a half ago, the county accepted the approval of the city to maintain and improve that road for the purpose of an industrial development project. He added that all of the work for the county has been done and the item that comes next (agenda item #5) is a replat of one of the lots within Sam Houston Boulevard Industrial Park. Mr. Register said that when item #5 is approved then they will convey the right-of-way along with the easements back to the city so that they can maintain the industrial road. The resolution that is in front of the commission is to convey the right-of-way along with any interests that the county may have in any of the drainage or easements along those two roads that are located in Sam Houston Industrial Park and this clears the county from maintaining that road and it will now be the city's responsibility.

There being no further questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve replat of Lot 1 Block "A" of Sam Houston Industrial Park Subdivision – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the replat. Commissioner Ivey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to award bid for Herbicide to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award bid for Herbicide to lowest bidder meeting specs and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$1,780.00 due to price increase for the purchase of (2) vehicles – Reappraisal Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$1,780.00 due to price increase for the purchase of (2) vehicles for the Reappraisal Dept. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Shoupe recognized State Representative Rick Rehm who is present at today's commission meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 1 closed road; Campbellton for cross drain replacement and Southeast Gas is closing it for gas line. Should re-open by Wednesday.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourn