

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 27, 2023

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, 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 February 27, 2023, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance with the exception of Commissioner Harvey.

ABESNT: Curtis Harvey

Commissioner Herring gave the invocation and Commissioner Ivey led in the pledge of the allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by welcoming CAO Peter Covert back from vacation. He added that some of the commission will be out of town later in the week as they travel to attend training to be better Commissioners and a better Chairman.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Re-appointment to the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging (SARCOA) – Donna West
2. Re-appointment to the Dothan-Houston County Library System Board – Gloria Jeffcoat

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the appointments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt resolution authorizing participation in the ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund for calendar years 2024-2026 and execute accompanying Participation Agreement – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the resolution and the accompanying agreement. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion.

Chairman Shoupe asked CAO Peter Covert for information on this item as he was out of town last Thursday. Mr. Covert stated that the County is entering into a participation agreement which is essentially a self-funded liability policy with all the participating counties in the state of Alabama. The counties share in the liability so as they can receive a better rate than going out individually. Also, this enables the ACCA to receive re-insurance with Lloyds of London to share the risks and get the lower rate. Chairman Shoupe said he had one question and that, from information he had received recently, some of the counties have left this and found better deals on the private market. He asked Mr. Covert if he had looked into that and Mr. Covert responded no but that he had heard that some of the larger counties, who have a significant insurance component on their own, might be able to get a better rate due to their claims experience, but Houston County is not of the size that would benefit from that but he will look into this. Chairman Shoupe asked if there was a time frame on this item and does it have to be approved at this meeting, as he does not know the process in looking into this. Mr. Covert stated that the ACCA has requested that this be approved by the Commission before the end of March and that is to allow them to be able to group the participants together to go the insurance market in time for the policy year, which is in the fall of 2023. Mr. Covert added that they have a limited amount of time but he will take every opportunity to see what he can determine from the county's standpoint. He also stated that the resolution does not commit the commission to the participation agreement but authorizes the Chairman to decide and he will investigate the best option for the county. Chairman Shoupe said that they can vote on this today but until it is signed it is not official. Mr. Covert said the resolution is authorizing the participation with the execution of the agreement.

Chairman Shoupe then asked the County Attorney Pres Register that the agenda item says "calendar years 2024 – 2026 and execute accompanying Participation Agreement" did they need to change it to state "authorize Chairman to execute". Mr. Register said "yes" that they need to have some condition on that if they do not want to make this a vote in. Chairman Shoupe then stated that if the Commission so desires, they need to amend the motion to give flexibility to the agreement. He added that if that is what the commission wants to do, they need to amend the motion to state "Request to adopt resolution authorizing participation in the ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund for calendar years 2024 – 2026 and authorize Chairman to execute accompanying Participation Agreement". Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve amending the motion as read and Commissioner Adams seconded and it carried unanimously. Chairman Shoupe then asked for a motion to approve the amended motion. Chairman Herring made a motion to approve the motion as "Request to adopt resolution authorizing participation in the ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund for calendar years 2024 –

2026 and authorize Chairman to execute accompanying Participation Agreement".  
Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## 2. Request to abolish the Houston County Farm Center Board

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to abolish the Houston County Farm Center Board and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## 3. Request to approve agreement with the Town of Ashford for conveyance of burial plots and maintenance of portion of Crawford Street

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the agreement and maintenance of portion of Crawford Street. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – One closed road: National Road. Started this week and should be there working for a month and a half. Road will be closed periodically during that time. He reported that they just finished Fortson Rd. last week. Resurfacing should begin in April.

County Attorney – No report

### Request to convene into executive session

At this time Chairman Shoupe stated that the commission, if they so moves, would go into Executive Session pursuant to Alabama Code Section 36-25-7 for the purpose of discussing the consideration the county commission willing to offer or accept with the considering the purchase, sell, exchange, lease for market value real property. At 10:13 a.m. and by voice vote, Commissioner Herring made a motion to convene into executive session and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Shoupe stated they would now go into executive session and will reconvene on or after 10:30 a.m. for the purpose of adjourning the regular session.

At 10:51 a.m., Commissioner Herring made a motion for the commission to come out of executive session and reconvene the regular session. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.