

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
April 10, 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 April 10, 2023, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Clark Cornelius, from Grace Anglican Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Adams 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 Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by announcing that the next Administrative Meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, along with the regular meeting following at 10:00 a.m. The commission is consolidating the meetings due to the construction schedule.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Child Abuse Prevention Month” – Terri Dubose, Executive Director – Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center

Chairman Shoupe stepped down to the podium and asked Ms. Dubose to join him for the “Child Abuse Prevention Month” proclamation. Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Shoupe thanked Ms. Dubose for being present today and then he read the proclamation. He asked Ms. Dubose for any comments and she began by thanking the commission. Ms. Dubose stated that each April is “Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month” and things like proclamations and public events go a long way in encouraging the community members to get involved but also reduces stigma regarding child abuse. She reported that nationally, last year, they saw four million reports of child abuse and neglect in the United States. Locally, the center worked with law enforcement and child protective services on 350 new cases of abuse. She added that it is a community problem and the center relies on support from the commission and the community in forwarding their mission and working to end child abuse. Ms. Dubose then thanked the commission and Chairman Shoupe said that the commission appreciates what

Ms. Dubose and her staff does and it is unfortunate that they have to have the center but they are appreciated. (Applause was given by all)

2. Proclamation – “Community College Month” – Dr. Linda Young, President – Wallace Community College

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for “Community College Month” and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Chairman Shoupe then asked Dr. Linda Young to join him at the podium as he read the proclamation. He then presented the proclamation to Dr. Young and said that it is always nice to have Dr. Young at the commission meeting and asked her for comments. Dr. Young thanked Chairman Shoupe and members of the Commission and stated that it was an honor and privilege at Wallace Community College to have this proclamation which emphasizes the role that the college plays in making people’s lives better and in making the community better and certainly the state better. She added that as mentioned in the proclamation, Wallace College serves about 6,000 students each year, 4,000 credit students each term in academic transfer, career technical and career health programs. Dr. Young reported that they have quite an enrollment in the Fast Track Program, Workforce Development and Adult Education program. She recognized that many in the audience have attended Wallace Community College and they are proud of their alumni and their accomplishments. Dr. Young mentioned that the Alabama Community College system engaged a firm to do an economic impact study on the system as a whole and it revealed that the twenty-four community colleges in Alabama have an economic impact in the state of 6.6 billion dollars. In addition, they performed an economic impact study on each college and Wallace College’s annual impact was over 164 million dollars. Dr. Young stated that Wallace College certainly has a steady presence in the community and throughout the service area. She ended by stating that they appreciate the support from the citizens as well as the Commission.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Dr. Young for what she does for Wallace College. He then asked for a show of hands of those that attended Wallace College at any point and there were several in attendance, including the Sherriff of Houston County, Donald Valenza. A round of applause was given to Dr. Young.

3. Proclamation – “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week”

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation for “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week”. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously. At this time Commissioner James Ivey approached the podium and asked the telecommunicators present to come forward. He stated that it is an honor to read the proclamation and read it in it’s’ entirety. After the reading of the proclamation, Sheriff Donald

Valenza approached the podium. He stated that the 9-1-1 dispatchers were incredible. Sheriff Valenza gave a basic idea of what they do and stated that they may have three on duty at one time. He added that the dispatchers handle 17 volunteer fire departments, 5 rescue departments in the county, deputies on patrol, the CID Unit, the Vice Unit and the court security units. He said it is unbelievable at what they handle with just a few on duty at a given time and that they deserve a real round of applause and he thanked them. Commissioner Herring said that this past week he was in New Orleans with the Sheriff and the Major at a trauma and law enforcement class and LEAPS (Law Enforcement Alliance for Peer Support) which began in Alabama in 2016. Commissioner Herring stated that he wanted the 9-1-1 dispatchers to know that the job that they do does not go unrecognized as they are the first ones to get the call and they hear if shots are fired, they hear if somebody has been stabbed, they hear someone's last breath, and all those things. Commissioner Herring said that the dispatchers are not in the field, but the life line that they give the law enforcement officers is greatly appreciated because they know that they are there and it does not go unrecognized. He said that they are very important and vital to what law enforcement does. He thanked them for what they do and encouraged them to continue to do a great job. (Applause given by all)

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt Resolution for Municipal Water Pollution Prevention

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

2. Request to adopt Resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for Town Terrace Dothan, LLC – Colton Cureton, V. Pres Economic Development – Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for Town Terrace Dothan, LLC and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to adopt Resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for CareMed Clinic, LLC – Colton Cureton, V. Pres. Economic Development – Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for CareMed Clinic, LLC and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for Realo Properties, LLC – Colton Cureton, V. Pres. Economic Development – Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for Realo Properties, LLC and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to mutually agree with the City of Dothan to cancel the purchase agreement for the Houston County Farm Center property and authorize Chairman to negotiate and execute documents

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to mutually agree with the City of Dothan to cancel the purchase agreement for the Houston County Farm Center property and authorize Chairman to negotiate and execute documents and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe said that this was talked about on Thursday. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to adopt resolution authorizing notice of public hearing, the public hearing and meeting to address the vacating of James Lane – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution authorizing notice of public hearing, the public hearing and meeting to address the vacating of James Lane. Commissioner Ivey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to sell the following items on GovDeals:
(1) 2008 Chevrolet Colorado – Sheriff's Dept.
(1) 2019 Chevrolet Express Van – Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the items to sell on GovDeals and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 2 closed roads; West Cook Rd. and Roney Rd.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourn