

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
September 25, 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 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the September 25, 2023, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Kim Duren, from Victory Family Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Ricky Herring 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 Shoupe announced that “Farmers on Foster” will be held on Thursday from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., in the 100 block of N. Foster St. He added that there will be locals selling produce and other items as well as activities and that this is put on by the Houston County Farm City Committee. Chairman Shoupe said he will not be able to attend, as he will be attending a school related trip to Disney World, but encourages everyone to go downtown and enjoy this event.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Special Recognition – Chairman Brandon Shoupe

Chairman Shoupe stepped down to the podium to present a special recognition. He began by thanking Sheri Garner for being in attendance today and then asked Mr. Peter Covert (CAO) to join him at the podium for a Resolution of Accommodation in Recognition of Chief Administrative Officer Peter Cover. Mr. Covert was surprised as he was of the assumption that the recognition was for Sheri Garner. Chairman Shoupe asked for a motion for the resolution and Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Resolution and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Shoupe stated that this is a little bit of a surprise to Mr. Covert and he then read the resolution in its entirety. Upon conclusion of the reading of the resolution, Chairman Shoupe

said to Mr. Covert that he knew that this is a bit of a surprise to him, but the Commission wanted to congratulate him on a perfect year end audit. Chairman Shoupe continued by stating that he has been a member of the commission for nine years and he is sure there have been perfect audits in the past, but he does not remember them in his tenure. He added that they usually have some comments and a finding or two in the past, but this year they had zero comments and zero findings. Chairman Shoupe congratulated Mr. Covert and presented him with the resolution as a small token of appreciation from the commission. (A round of applause was given by all). Chairman Shoupe then asked for comments from Mr. Covert.

Mr. Covert began by thanking the commission and saying that he appreciates the resolution. He continued by stating that he would be remised if he was to say that this was not a group effort. He thanked all the employees, and especially those on the 6th Floor, as they worked tirelessly for this to happen and it is not one persons' effort. He thanked his team and he thanked the County for putting their trust in him for being a steward of their funds, which he takes personally. Mr. Covert thanked the commission for the opportunity as he works at the pleasure of the commission and he is grateful for that every day. Another round of applause was given.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to reappoint Frances Cook and Sam Crawford to the Houston County Department of Human Resources

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to make the stated appointments to the Houston County Department of Human Resources and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve the Alabama Dept. of Public Health Strategic National Stockpile Program Pass Through Grant and accompanying budget amendment – Mark Powell, EMA Director

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request and the accompanying budget amendment. Commissioner Ivey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve Resolution to Authorize the Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Eligible Water Infrastructure Project in the City of Ashford

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Request to approve budget amendment for County Buildings – Tommy Dixon, County Buildings Director

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment for County Buildings. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to appoint Dr. Debora Pettway to the Houston County Health Care Authority Board for District 1

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Debora Pettway to the HCHCA Board, District 1. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and when called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to appoint Dr. Bruce Wozow to the Houston County Health Care Authority Board for District 2

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Bruce Wozow to the HCHCA Board, District 2. Commissioner Ivey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Request to award bid for Crushed Limestone for ARPA Stormwater Projects to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to award the bid for Crushed Limestone for ARPA Stormwater Projects to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to award bid for Concrete Roadway Drainage Pipe and Reinforced Arch Concrete Pipe for ARPA Stormwater Projects to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to award the bid for Concrete Roadway Drainage Pipe and Reinforced Arch Concrete Pipe for ARPA Stormwater Projects to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to award bid for Aluminized Roadway Drainage Pipe (arched) for ARPA Stormwater Projects to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for Aluminized Roadway Drainage Pipe (arched) for ARPA Stormwater Projects to the lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Shoupe said that the commission may consider adding an item to the agenda. He then asked Major Rafferty if he would like to request that the item be added to today's agenda and asked him to come forward. Major Rafferty began by stating that the item

they are requesting is a budget amendment for the jail for medical software in the amount of \$52,800. They are requesting this software for assistance in medical record keeping at the jail. Chairman Shoupe added that this was not done in time to discuss it at Thursday's meeting and he was not sure if it would make it to this agenda, but counsel was able to work on this item and received the answer that was needed.

Chairman Shoupe reported that unanimous consent would be needed in order to add this item to the agenda and he asked if the commission would like to think about this more and it could be approved at the next meeting, but to get it in this year's budget it would need to be approved today. He asked for questions from the Commission. Commissioner Herring began by asking Mr. Covert if this budget amendment would affect anything in the budget and is it ok to do this. Mr. Covert answered that it is absolutely fine. He added that to clarify this particular item, that when an inmate is transferred in to the jail that they currently have boxes of documents that travel with the inmate and this particular software would allow more of a modern electronic transfer with proper information and in turn, the county would not have to find storage and space for all their documents. Major Rafferty also reported that the jail has a record room and a storage room that is full of medical records at this time and storage space for files is tight. Chairman Shoupe stated that there is no doubt that this software needs to be implemented, but the question is does the commission want to add it to today's agenda. Chairman Shoupe said that at this time he will entertain a motion to add the budget amend to the agenda. Commissioner Adams made a motion to add agenda item #10 as a "Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$52,800 for jail medical records software." Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and the motion to add the item to the agenda passed unanimously.

10. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$52,800 for jail medical records software

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request for budget amendment in the amount of \$52,800 for the jail medical records software. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – One closed road; Garrett Road for a cross drain project

County Attorney – No report

Adjourn