

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
November 13, 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 November 13, 2023, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Clark Cornelius of Grace Anglican Church gave the invocation and Commissioner Harvey 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 began by announcing that the Peanut Festival is over and it was a well attended event as the media reported that there were a record number of people that attended this year. He added that after last year's concern about safety, the Peanut Festival Board initiated some safety and security measures this year. Chairman Shoupe stated that the parade was well attended even though the numbers were down a bit from last year.

Chairman Shoupe announced that the next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, November 27th, with the Administrative Meeting being held at 9:00 a.m. and the Regular Session being held at 10:00 a.m. This is due to the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday.

At this time Chairman Shoupe called EMA Director Mark Powell to the podium to give an update on the "No Burn Ban" for the state of Alabama. Director Powell reported that the Burn Ban is still in effect as it was issued last Thursday by Governor Ivey. He added that it is a little different than the normal burn ban as it is a "Dry Emergency Declaration" which is more serious than the normal burn ban. This declaration prohibits all outdoor burning to include camp fires, grass burning, bonfires and anything else other than grilling. Director Powell added that they are recommending that while you are grilling to have a water hose nearby. He stated that there has been a small amount of rain over the weekend but the declaration is still in effect and will be until it is resented by the state office. Director Powell is in hopes that this ban can be

resented within the next couple of weeks. He also reported that an individual could be fined up to \$500 and may also serve jail time if found guilty of charges for not observing this ban.

Commissioner Tracy Adams had a few comments and he began by reporting on the state park. He said that the park has already done their part and they are now waiting on the state to come and approve some things the county has in mind for the park. Commissioner Adams also recognized area football teams that are doing well in the state playoffs. Those include Ashford, Dothan High, Cottonwood and Wicksburg. He congratulated all the teams.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Fourth Quarter Service Anniversaries – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

At this time, Chairman Shoupe asked Ms. Garner to come forward to make her presentation. Ms. Garner asked all the service anniversaries attendees to come forward. She then began by recognizing the following employees: (some were not in attendance)
Ms. Garner also mentioned that Commissioner Harvey was sworn into office under a special election in January and this January he will have 19 years of service with the county.

1 year of service:	Tracy Adams and James Ivey
5 years of service:	Peter Covert, Ricky Herring, Melissa Thomley, Jeffrey Benton, Philip Dasinger, Joe North, Chris Trawick, Aaron Tindell, Stacie Hall and Josh Harper
10 years of service:	Brenden Morse, Virginia Lush, Scott Pilot,] and Billy Holden
15 years of service:	Catrina Murry and Josh Robertson
20 years of service:	Spencer Downs and Rick Clemmons

Ms. Garner stated that this group of employees represents 162 years of service. She thanked everyone and a round of applause was given by all.

County Engineer Barkley Kirkland approached the podium and began by stating that Buddy Moore has worked in the county Shop for 31 years and he is now ready to retire. Engineer Kirkland said that this will be a big loss for the Road & Bridge Department and he wanted to recognize Mr. Moore individually for his 31 years of service. He thanked Mr. Moore and told him how much he is appreciated for all his years of service and asked him for any comments. Mr. Moore thanked everyone and said he has enjoyed working and it has been fun and he has made a lot of friends over the years. He said he will miss it but sometimes it is time to go and enjoy other things in life. A round of applause was given by all.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt Resolution Approving One-Time Exemption of Debt Payment Prohibition for the Houston County EMS Association Regarding Wicksburg Rescue

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Herring seconded. There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution for Adjusted Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Government Services Due to Change Order – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

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

3. Request to adopt Resolution to Extend Funding Agreement for Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act Funds – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Resolution and Commissioner Harvey seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve capital replacement fund budget amendment for jail kitchen remodel – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve in-kind services for site work for the City of Dothan related to the regional laboratory for the Alabama Dept. of Forensic Sciences – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the in-kind services request and Commissioner Ivey seconded. County Engineer Barkley Kirkland stated that a rough estimate for this project totals around \$200,000 for labor and equipment with labor being \$60,000 and equipment being \$140,000. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for crushed limestone and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Administrative Officer – CAO Covert reported that the county has been issued an AA2 rating, once again.

County Engineer – One closed road; County Rd. 75; working on cross drains and there are a total of 10 cross drains for this road so it will be closed at various points during the next few months.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourn