

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
February 26, 2024

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 February 26, 2024, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all were in attendance.

Pastor Mike Grimes, from Grandview Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Ivey led in the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meetings 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 stating that it was a nice weekend. He added that the commission went through a strategic planning session on Friday and Saturday and he wanted to thank the commission for being present as well as several department heads that attended as that is normally their days off. He felt that it was extremely valuable time spent together as they are not able to meet and have discussion together as legally they cannot without the public being invited. Chairman Shoupe added that it was a great meeting with good presentations and he appreciates the department heads going through the process along with the commission. He also thanked Dr. Barbara Alford for leading the efforts of the strategic planning. Chairman Shoupe stated that they made a lot of progress and they have a lot of work to do but he is excited about what is ahead. He said that he loves what he does and he thinks that the passion from the rest of the commission is obvious to him and he is thankful to serve along side of them.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Flash Flood Damage Update – Road & Bridge

County Engineer Barkley Kirkland began with presenting a map of the damage from the recent flash flood. He said that the red and blue dots on the map represent cross drains and large sites and the other tracking is the recent tornado that came through Cottonwood. Engineer Kirkland reported that they started out with 20 sites which included 15 cross drains and 5 heavily damaged roads. The Road & Bridge Dept. began with repairs, have completed two cross drains

and are in the process of repairing the other three. They also have three roads that were badly damaged. They have closed those roads and are watching them closely. Those roads include Ashford, Cureton and Cosby. Engineer Kirkland said they are checking those roads daily as they could fail at any time. Chairman Shoupe asked what the nature of the damage is and Engineer Kirkland responded that it's pipes that are rusted out and they fell. He said that they are able to use pipes from other projects for all these sites with the exception of two, and that includes Prevatt Rd. and Sigma Pit Rd. He added that five of the sites are actually ARPA Projects that were set up to replace cross drains anyway. Engineer Kirkland said that on a timeline they are looking at anywhere from six to nine months, depending on material availability, as these are big pipes. He said that Ashford Rd. is a big site and the cost will be about \$260,000. He reported that there are 141 smaller locations, and they are getting about 15 completed each day. He said that it was heavy damage and will be very expensive to fix.

Commissioner Ivey commented that this was something that could not be predicted as it was disastrous. Engineer Kirkland stated that of the 20 closed roads, there are still 12 closed as of today. Chairman Shoupe reported that the county will have to make some hard decisions because these roads have to be completed in a timely manner. With funds being an issue, manpower is also an issue to get this done in a timely manner. He thanked Engineer Kirkland and the entire Road & Bridge Department as they have done a great job during these last few weeks. Chairman Shoupe stated that he has heard nothing but great comments about the work that Road & Bridge has done in the Cottonwood area after the tornado. Engineer Kirkland reported that they had 33 cross drains to replace this year and this was before the flood damage.

Commissioner Adams thanked the entire Road & Bridge Dept. for all their hard work in the Cottonwood area and the people are very grateful.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to appoint Commissioner David Crutchfield to the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the appointment of David Crutchfield to the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to reappoint James Etheredge to the Dothan Houston County Library System Board

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the reappointment of James Etheredge to the Dothan Houston County Library System Board. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment to purchase timekeeping software and authorize Chairman to negotiate and execute all necessary documents – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment to purchase timekeeping software and authorize Chairman to negotiate and execute all necessary documents. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt resolution in support of Amendment 1

Commissioner Herring made a motion to adopt the resolution in support of Amendment 1 and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve mortgage refinancing for 411 N. Foster St. and authorize Chairman to execute all necessary documents – Peter B. Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the mortgage refinancing and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe stated this was for the Sheriff's building. When called for the vote, the motion passed 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 the bid for Herbicide to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to sell the following items on GovDeals:

- a. Misc. office supplies (Revenue)
- b. Canon Copier (Revenue)

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

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 12 closed roads: Hodgesville, New Hope, Old Webb, Pansey, Battles, Prevatt, Jack Bruner, Ebenezer, Sigma Pit, Cureton, Lamp Brothers and Woodham

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned