

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
March 11, 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 March 11, 2024, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Clark Cornelius, from Grace Anglican Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Harvey led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by announcing that he will be out of town beginning Wednesday, March 20th and will miss the next two meetings. During this time, Commissioner Harvey will be the acting Chairman.

Commissioner Adams thanked everyone that came out Saturday and supported the fundraiser for the Town of Cottonwood. He said they raised a lot of funds for Cottonwood and that the music was very good. Commissioner Adams also added that on March 23rd there will be bluegrass and gospel music at the Dupree School and he encouraged everyone to attend.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – First Quarter Service Anniversaries – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Ms. Garner came forward and asked the employees to come forward as well. She began by stating that this is one of their favorite things to do and this quarter they have nine employees to be recognized. The employees recognized are as follows:

Tiffany Davis	Sheriff's Dept.	5 years
Christina Edmondson	Probate	5 years
Michael Holt	Road & Bridge	5 years
Tyler Larsen	Road & Bridge	5 years

Camille Farmer	Revenue	5 years
Shane Jackson	Sanitation	5 years
Chris Cannon	Road & Bridge	10 years
Stanley Dawsey	Road & Bridge	10 years
Michelle Parker	Revenue	10 years.

Ms. Garner commented that these nine employees represent 60 years of service with Houston County. A round of applause was given by all.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve manpower adjustments – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request from the Personnel Dept. for the manpower adjustments. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion.

Chairman Shoupe commented that Ms. Garner had sent out an update concerning the question that was asked on Thursday by Commissioner Adams. Chairman Shoupe reported that with losing the two positions in Sanitation billing and then absorbing those duties in the Sanitation Dept., which is under Road & Bridge, there will be a savings of \$104,852.80 per year. He also stated that there will be some other adjustments to be made in a future commission meeting. Ms. Garner commented that the IT Director was on this request as well as it was approved at the last personnel board meeting. But, the actual projections were not included as the question was what cost impact would it have in Sanitation. She added that they are in search of a new IT Director and they will have to add that position back. With their being no further questions, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to approve and advertise local legislation to further provide for the compensation of the sheriff – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Adams seconded.

Commissioner Ivey stated that he spoke with the county attorney this morning in reference as to what part of the bill has to be advertised. The attorney is going to look into this and see what legally needs to be advertised. Chairman Shoupe asked county attorney Pres Register to come to the podium for questions. Chairman Shoupe then stated that the wording in the proposed bill mentions the compensation for the chairman and for the commissioners. Chairman Shoupe wants it to be clear that they are not changing the commission or the chairman's compensation. Mr. Register answered that he will get an answer by tomorrow as to what portion of the bill must be published for advertisement.

With there being no further questions, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment for purchase of pickup truck – Road & Bridge Dept.

Commissioner Herring made the motion to approve the budget amendment for the purchase of a pickup truck for the Sanitation Dept. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 10 closed roads: Strong, Hodgesville, New Hope, Sigma Pit, Lamp Brothers, Prevatt, Jack Bruner, Old Webb, Pansey and Ebenezer.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned