

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 12, 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 August 12, 2024, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Jacob MacFadden from Selma Baptist Church gave the invocation and Commissioner Tracy Adams led in the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Harvey and seconded by Commissioner Ivey. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by reporting that work on the Houston County Farm Center has begun and he is in hopes that at the next meeting, in two weeks, they will be approving the bid for the remainder of the work. Chairman Shoupe also announced that the next Administrative and Commission meeting will both be held on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> with the Administrative at 9:00 a.m. and the commission at 10:00 a.m., as the commissioners will all be in Perdido at the ACCA annual conference.

#### AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

##### 1. Proclamation – “Healing Hearts Day” – Emerson Trotter, Founder

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for “Healing Hearts Day” and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Shoupe stepped to the podium and asked Miss Emerson Trotter to join him to accept her proclamation. Chairman Shoupe then read the proclamation in it’s’ entirety, presented it to Miss Trotter and asked her for any comments.

Miss Trotter began by introducing herself and stating that she has an amazing opportunity to serve as Miss Houston County this year and with that title you must have a service project platform. She then said that a few months before she actually did the pageant, she created

Healing Hearts Ministry as she wanted to create an organization that represented who she was but also to make a major impact in the community. Miss Trotter also said that there are two things that she takes very seriously, and that is her faith, and she is passionate about going into the medical field in the future. Her vision was to put those two things together and create something that she was really passionate about, which is healing hearts. Miss Trotter continued by saying that she came up with the name "Healing Hearts" because it represents two things and that is that nurses heal people physically, but the lord above heals us spiritually. She said that when she goes into the medical field and loves others and cares for them, she also must love the one that first loved us. Miss Trotter said it is very important to just spread awareness about that and encourage health care workers to keep their faith and stay strong. She also stated that she has had amazing opportunities to visit area facilities such as Dothan Pediatrics, Southeastern Pediatrics and other places. In addition, she reported that she has had the opportunity to speak at Rehobeth Town Hall and present goodie baskets to the fireman and she also went to the Town of Taylor last week. She announced that today she brought a goodie basket for the Houston County Sheriff's Department for all they do. Miss Trotter ended by saying that she is very thankful, and she is especially thankful to the commission for their help and she thanked them for all they do.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Miss Trotter for what she is doing in the community and a round of applause was given by all. Commissioner Herring told Miss Trotter that he is very proud of her for her standing up for her faith as a lot of people do not do that this day and time. He said that people do not stand up for what is right or what is wrong. He added that he really respects her for doing that and he will be praying for her and her ministry and he encouraged her to stay steadfast and let the Lord lead and direct her.

## 2. Presentation – Dothan Airport Update – Adam Hartzog, Director

Chairman Shoupe asked Adam Hartzog to come to the podium and Mr. Hartzog began by saying that it has been about twelve months since he has reported an update on the airport, and he thinks it is very important to keep the commission updated. Mr. Hartzog reported that they just completed a disaster exercise training and he thanked the Sheriff's Dept. for coming and participating. This training was not only for the airport staff, but it is important for the surrounding first responders to be trained to access the airfield, which is a 1,000-acre facility, and this gives the airport a force multiplier in what they do every day. Mr. Hartzog added that they have just completed a two-million-dollar investment at the airfield which gives them another capability to have larger business type aircraft which would bring more investment in the community. He also reported that they received notice last week that Delta Airlines will be adding a third flight per day beginning November 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hartzog stated that this will be a mid-day arrival and mid-day departure and it will give them three per day arriving and departing. Lastly, he mentioned that they have been working for the last six months at possibly developing another hanger that will be larger and will house the larger aircraft. This project will cost approximately ten million dollars and it will help to provide growth for our community. He ended by saying that he sees that one of their agenda items is the re-appointment of their Authority members and that this member has done a great job for the Airport Authority. He thanked the commission for having him today and for all they do.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Mr. Hartzog and his team for doing an outstanding job and added that the airport is a vital asset to our entire region.

Mr. Hartzog also thanked Mr. Barkley Kirkland and the entire commission for always being willing to take a look at things for them, He said they have a very large drainage project which they started about three months ago and it will take years to complete due to cost. He said that Mr. Kirkland looked at the project and gave input and he thanked him for that.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to appoint Lt. Bobby Hopkins to the (334) Prevention Project Board of Directors

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the appointment of Lt. Hopkins and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to re-appoint Jim Loftin to the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Loftin and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request for 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License – Super Station 19, LLC, d/b/a Super Station 19 located at 4541 S. County Rd. 75, Pansey, AL 36370

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request for the Retail Beer and Retail Table Wine licenses for Super Station 19, located in Pansey, AL and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request for 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) and 070 Retail Table Wine (Off Premises Only) License – Dolgencorp, LLC d/b/a Dollar General Store 25664 located at 227 S. State Hwy. 109, Dothan, AL 36301

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request for the off-premises Retail Beer and Retail Table Wine licenses for the Dollar General located on Hwy. 109, and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously

5. Request to approve bank qualified general obligation debt with Synovus, not to exceed \$1,400,000 for the purchase of (4) garbage trucks and authorize Chairman to execute financial documents – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the bank qualified general obligation debt with Synovus for the purchase of (4) garbage trucks and authorize Chairman to execute financial documents and Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to purchase and install generator for the Sheriff's Department building in the amount of \$65,000 utilizing Emergency Capital Replacement Funds – Tommy Dixon, Maintenance Manager

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to purchase and install a generator the Sheriff's Department building utilizing Emergency Capital Replacement Funds and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe said there was a question that needed answering concerning the warranty. Mr. Tommy Dixon came forward and stated that in the price of the generator, there is a standard two-year warranty included. He did say that an additional warranty could be purchased for an additional 5 years and 2,500 hours, for \$1,660 or a ten-year 5,000 hour warranty for the cost of \$7,090. He said they could explore the additional extended warranties and they can purchase that in the agreement. Commissioner Herring asked what the standard warranty covered and Mr. Dixon replied that it covers everything, parts and labor, for two years. Commissioner Adams asked what the extended warranty covered and Mr. Dixon said the same thing but for 5 years or 10 years, depending on what is purchased. Commissioner Herring then asked about the act of mother nature and is that included in the warranty. Mr. Dixon said that is not included but would fall under our insurance. Chairman Shoupe asked if the warranty had to be decided today and Mr. Covert said that he feels personally that with the \$1,660, five-year extended warranty, they would still be under the \$65,00 budget for this item. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to enter into an agreement with Donofro Architecture & Planning for the renovations to the barn facilities at the Houston County Farm Center

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to enter into an agreement with Donofro Architecture and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously

8. Request from the Dothan Downtown Redevelopment Authority to assist with securing and hauling 450 yards of dirt for demolition project – Pat Thomas, DDRA Chairman

Commissioner Herring made the motion to approve the request from the DDRA to assist with securing and hauling 450 yards of dirt for a demolition project. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Office – No report

County Engineer – 2 closed roads: County Road 75 S and Sealy Wells Road. They are currently now working at the Homeland Security Building facility to get things completed.

County Attorney – No report

Commissioner Adams announced that the last road has re-opened that was closed from the February 12<sup>th</sup> flooding event, which is Prevatt Road, as it has been closed for about six months.