

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
January 13, 2025

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, 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 January 13, 2025, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as a majority of commissioners were in attendance.

Commissioner Curtis Harvey gave the invocation, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Tracy Adams.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Ricky Herring

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by reporting that they have “Eggs and Issues” event tomorrow morning. This is where local and state delegation comes together and talks about issues facing the state and things they need to be working on when the legislation goes back into session in February. He added that on Thursday, the 23rd, they will have the State of the County/City to be presented at the Chamber of Commerce office.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Resolution – “Sammy Bagwell Memorial Boulevard”

Commissioner Adams made the motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Commissioner Tracy Adams approached the podium and asked Mrs. Bagwell to come forward to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Adams read the resolution in its entirety and presented it to Mrs. Bagwell and asked for comments. Mrs. Bagwell thanked the commission and said it was an honor and that Mr. Bagwell will be greatly missed, and she

appreciates this very much. Commissioner Adams that it was the Town of Cowarts that uninitiated this and he thanked the Mayor and said it was a great idea.

Chairman Shoupe said that Mr. Bagwell always had a smile on his face and was a good person to be around. Commissioner Adams added that there was never a dull moment with Sammy Bagwell.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to authorize Chairman to execute contract for the Dothan City Jail Inmate Food Service

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request authorizing the Chairman to execute contract for the Dothan City Jail Inmate Food Service. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Request to authorize (2) dispatch positions for the Sheriff's Dept. and approve accompanying budget amendment

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to authorize (2) dispatch positions for the Sheriff's Dept. and approve accompanying budget amendment. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Chairman Shoupe stated that the budget amendment was for \$116,523.48. He added that this was to staff up the dispatch position. He also said that they had been requesting this for a year or two and the commission had some money come available through reimbursement from E911 Communication District and this help to make this a reality. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve jail needs assessment contract and authorize accompanying budget amendment

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the jail needs assessment contract and authorize accompanying budget amendment and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe said this is the first of many steps and a long process of expanding the jail. Commissioner Ivey stated that they received an email this weekend concerning the lock situation, and they should be starting on that project this week. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Shoupe added that the budget amendment is for \$7,500 and the total cost of the assessment is \$82,500 and they had budgets \$75,000 but there was a price increase since the budget.

4. Request to approve Agency Agreement for the Secretary of State to serve as the agent in the voter file maintenance process as required by Act 95-769 – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Agency Agreement for the Secretary of State to serve as the agent in the voter file maintenance process as required by Act 95-769. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve the 2024 FY Rebuild Alabama Annual Report – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the 2024 FY Rebuild Alabama Annual Report and Commissioner Harvey seconded. At this time, Will Kirkland, Asst. County Engineer, approached the podium to give the 2024 FY Rebuild Alabama Annual Report. He began by stating that this is the fiscal year 2024 Rebuild Alabama Annual Report, and it is from October 1, 2023, until September 30, 2024. He reported that the following roads were completed with the Rebuild funds: West Cook Rd. included 3 miles of resurfacing and it was a little over 3 miles from S. Park to Rice Rd. for a total of \$511,000; Skipper Rd, which was 1.7 miles for a total of \$270,000; Enterprise Church from Silcox Road to 55 S., which was 2 miles, for a total of \$250,000; Lynn Jarvis Road for a total of \$65,089.26; Enon Road was about a half a mile, and it was from Bluff Springs to Ashford Road with a total of \$27,000.

Mr. Kirkland stated that the total for 2024 was a little over 1.1 million dollars in resurfacing.

Chairman Shoupe commented that part of this rebuild Alabama program is from the gas tax that was passed several years ago, and part of the law requires the county to give this report yearly.

At this time, Chairman Shoupe stated that there is one more item that needs to be added, if there is unanimous consent. This item would read as “Request to engage Frazer Lanier to seek bond funding on behalf of the commission for the purposes of funding recreational improvements and economic development throughout Houston County”.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion and Commissioner Adams seconded to add the item to the agenda. Chairman Shoupe reported that this item came in after the Thursday Administration meeting. He said that if they do not vote on this item at this meeting, there will be a 60-day delay between this and the commission actually receiving the funds and getting it to the entities that will be using the funds. Chairman Shoupe added that if they do not act on this item today, they would have to call a special called meeting or they will have to wait another two weeks to the delay. It is his strong recommendation that they add this to the agenda, and they approve it today to get the ball rolling for the facilities that need the money. He was in hopes to get the funds in February but now it will be the first of March. Commissioner Harvey asked who the mediator was and what do they actually do. Chairman Shoupe responded that

they are a bond finance company. Quotes were received from local banks and from Frazer Lanier and Stiefel. When called for the vote, it was unanimous to add the item to the agenda.

6. Request to engage Frazer Lanier to seek bond funding on behalf of the commission for the purposes of funding recreational improvements and economic development throughout Houston County.

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

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – Closed roads: Crawford Ford and Leo Pynes

County Attorney – No report

Commissioner Adams commented on the Farm Center stating that they have started replacing the roof and are about 40% in.

Adjourned