

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
March 10, 2025

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, 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 10, 2025, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Pastor Jay Joye, from First Presbyterian Church, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Ricky Herring

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by announcing that he and Commissioner Herring will be in the Town of Rehobeth to present a check for \$506,000 from the lodging tax that was recently approved by the voters during the last election. This will be the first of many check presentations that they will do as Ashford will be presented on Saturday.

Commissioner Tracy Adams announced that Cottonwood Recreation held their opening ceremonies last Saturday and said it was the most “little” people he had seen in a long time as it was an awesome turnout. He added that Ashford will have their opening day on Saturday as well. Commissioner Adams reminded everyone that the “Buddy Walk” will be held at the Fair Grounds this weekend.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – Providence Christian School Basketball Team

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Shoupe stepped to the podium and invited Providence Coach Mark Wright and his team to join him up front. He then proceeded to read the proclamation in its' entirety and presented it to Coach Wright and asked for comments.

Coach Wright began by thanking the commission for having them today. He said that it has been a blessing to coach this team, and he gives all the glory to God for the opportunities they are given to play the game and represent their school and represent their county and their city. Coach Wright stated that this has been building over the last several years with this team and he has had the opportunity to coach them for several years. He added that what has stuck out most about this team is their willingness to work in the off season and prepare themselves well for the season. Coach Wright said that they talk a lot about their culture, the culture of their team, the culture of selflessness and serving one another and sacrifice with the way they played. He said it has been a blessing and an opportunity to represent the area and he thanked the commission for having them.

Chairman Shoupe stated to the players that if they keep that mindset of selflessness, sacrifice and service they will go far in life. One of the players approached the podium and said that it has been a great ride and "Go Eagles".

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to fill vacancies for the Industrial Development Authority of Houston, Henry, Geneva and Dale Counties

Commission Herring made a motion to approve the request to fill the vacancies for the Industrial Development Authority. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried.

2. Request to adopt resolution approving a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Dothan-Houston County Intellectual Disabilities Board – Alan Livingston & Dana Strickland

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to adopt resolution approving a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Dothan-Houston County Intellectual Disabilities Board. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to adopt resolution authorizing the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act-Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds to serve a governmental purpose – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Adams seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution for Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund to approve funding agreement with the Town of Gordon – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request to adopt a Resolution for Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund to approve funding agreement with the Town of Gordon and Commissioner Herring seconded.

Chairman Shoupe stated that the Mayor of Gordon was present today and he invited him to come forward to update them on the Town of Gordon and how they are going to use this funding. Gordon Mayor Charles Dismuke approached the podium and began by thanking the commission. He stated that when he was first elected, he came to the commission to ask for funds to help them get an audit done as there had not been one in several years. Mayor Dismuke said first he wanted to thank them for helping them with that and he appreciates the commission coming to their rescue. He added that the Town had over a quarter of a million dollars due in payroll taxes and that amount is coming down as they used bonds and other resources for this. He also said that with the money they are receiving, which is taxpayer money, they will be using it wisely for a storage shed for the Senior Center and the town hall and they are also doing some work at the park to include some upgrades. Mayor Dismuke invited the commission to come anytime and visit.

Commissioner Adams told Mayor Dismuke that they appreciate his leadership in Gordon along with the counsel. Chairman Shoupe stated that the Town of Gordon has been wise in choosing their leadership and that the mayor has done an outstanding job, and he is a pleasure to work with. Mayor Dismuke thanked the commission again for their help with the audit. Commissioner Herring asked when the last time was the audit was done and are they caught up with audits. Mayor Dismuke stated that they are caught up and it is his responsibility to make sure those taxpayer dollars are used accordingly. Commissioner Herring commended Mayor Dismuke for standing up and looking out for the best interest in taxpayers' money as that is what their job is as elected officials.

When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve report for purchase of real property related to bike trail project pursuant to Ala. Code 9-15-100

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

6. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$6,050 for Smartfusion Personnel Module – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Adams seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$8,692.70 for automobile repairs reimbursable by the Liability Self-Insurance Fund – Maj. Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$8,692.70 for automobile repairs reimbursable by the Liability Self-Insurance Fund. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – Closed roads: Harper Joy and Crawford

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned