

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 24, 2025

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 24, 2025 Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Pastor Will Ceaser, from Dothan First Assembly 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 Ivey and seconded by Commissioner Adams. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Adams began by thanking everyone that attended the Blue Grass Festival at Dupree School in Ashford. He estimated that at one time there were 400-500 people in attendance. He added that the weather was perfect for this event.

Commissioner Adams then called Danny Jernigan and Mark Watson to come forward. Mr. Adams said he wanted to take the time to recognize them for their outstanding work at the Road & Bridge Department and for going over and above for the citizens of Houston County. Their work, and the work of all those at the Road & Bridge Dept., does not go unnoticed. A round of applause was given by all.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Anniversaries – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Ms. Garner came forward and asked everyone that was in attendance for their work anniversary to join her up front. She then recognized the following employees for their service to the county:

Jacqueline Dixon	Jail Dept.	5 years
Samuel Bell	Jail Dept.	10 years
Jason Grantham	Sheriff's Dept.	10 years

Heather Seawright	Comm. Corr. Dept.	15 years
Tony Murphy	Jail Dept.	15 years
James Watson	Jail Dept.	15 years
Curtis Harvey	Commission	20 years
Trent Blair	Sheriff's Dept.	20 years
Robert Hopkins	Sheriff's Dept.	20 years
Robert Johnson	Sheriff's Dept.	20 years
Danny Jernigan	Road & Bridge	25 years

Ms. Garner congratulated everyone for the milestone and a round of applause was given by all.

## 2. Proclamation – “Crimes Victims’ Rights Week” – Shelly Linderman, Director, Wiregrass Angel House

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

Commissioner Herring approached the podium and called those present from the Wiregrass Angel House to come forward. Commissioner Herring read the proclamation and upon completion he commented that he gets the opportunity to sit on the board of Wiregrass Angel House and he sees the hard work and passion that goes into their work in dealing with the victims. He added that they deserve a lot of appreciation, admiration and they are a huge part of law enforcement for them to be able to do their jobs and take care of the victims. Commissioner Herring ended by thanking them for all they do.

Ms. Linderman approached the podium and began by saying that Commissioner Herring said it all. She also stated that it is a great time to remember all the victims of violent crimes and it is very important as they have rights as it can easily be taken away. She thanked the commission for recognizing them during this time with the proclamation.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Request to adopt resolution in support of opposing Senate Bill 110

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe said this was discussed quite a bit on Thursday and it concerns the increased pavement wear caused by the increased weight load allowed by 18 wheelers, by 30 percent and would cause ALDOT to reduce the amount of funds they give out to local communities through the ATRIP-II Program. He added that not a lot of county roads are

designed for the weight that this bill would force upon the roads. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to authorize county to enter into agreements with municipalities and nonprofit regarding potential use of bond funds and authorize chairman to negotiate same

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to authorize the county to enter into agreements with municipalities and nonprofit regarding potential use of bond funds and authorize chairman to negotiate same and Commissioner Adams seconded.

Chairman Shoupe then called County Attorney Pres Register to come forward for comments. Mr. Register stated that there are two agreements that are being proposed and this is in relation to the potential bond warrant that they are going to issue related to the lodging tax. He added that the agreements have to work together and these agreements address these issues for the bond and the implementation of how to proceed. Commissioner Adams asked if the entities will be notified and Mr. Register said they are in the process of putting all this together as this is not as simple and straight forward like they had hoped so they are going to detail the process. Chairman Shoupe commented that it has been quite a bit more complicated than he thought it was going to be originally. He added that the CAO is working on some documents and then the contracts will be sent out. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to sell the following equipment on GovDeals – Road & Bridge

- a) Asphalt Distributor Truck
- b) Prime Tank

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to sell the items on GovDeals. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution to vacate all of Dee Clark Road owned by Houston County, Alabama

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to adopt the resolution to vacate all of Dee Clark Road and Commissioner Harvey seconded. County Attorney Pres Register came to the podium and stated that this is a unique situation. He continued by saying that this road runs into a partially maintained road by the Town of Taylor and that is why the verbiage states “owned by Houston County, Alabama”. Mr. Register also said that there is another item within the resolution itself that states that there are two partials at the north end of Dee Clark Road that would be cut off from access onto to Trawick Road and he is in the process of getting those easements finalized and signed but those are owned by abutting land owners to the north of

the two parcels and that is the last piece of the puzzle before it will be filed with the probate office to show that the property will be vacant.

Chairman Shoupe asked if anyone was present that wanted to speak for or against this item. With there being no further discussion, Chairman Shoupe asked for a vote and it passed unanimously.

5. Request to allow Chairman to negotiate and sign contract with Northstar Engineering to survey proposed DHR property and approve accompanying budget amendment in the amount of \$7,500

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to allow Chairman to negotiate and sign contract with Northstar Engineering to survey proposed DHR property and approve accompanying budget amendment in the amount of \$7,500. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – 4 closed roads: Crawford, Ben Ivey, Iris and Harper Joy. Engineer Barkley Kirkland then recognized Mr. Will Kirkland, Asst. County Engineer, and asked him to come forward. Mr. Barkley Kirkland stated that Will has been employed with the county for 3 ½ years and he recently took his PE Test last week and passed it. Congratulations and a round of applause was given by all. Mr. Barkley Kirkland stated that Will is an asset to the county and he is glad to have him on his team.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned