

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
April 14, 2025

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, 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 April 14, 2025, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Curtis Harvey and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Ricky Herring

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Tracy Adams

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by announcing that Circuit Clerk, Carla Woodall, father passed away and the commission is sending prayers to Mrs. Woodall and her family at this time. He also reported that it was a beautiful weekend, and the Music and Art Festival held downtown Dothan was extremely well attended as was the Taylor Made Festival in Taylor.

Commissioner Ivey said that he would like to send a shout out to the Wicksburg High School Softball Team as they won the 2025 Diamond Classic Tournament held at James Oates Park over the weekend.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week"

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

At this time Commissioner Ivey stepped to the podium and asked all telecommunicators that were in attendance to come forward. He said that the faces that are before us today are the voices that are heard and the faces that are rarely seen and they are the telecommunicators for the Houston County Sheriff's Office. He then read the "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week" Proclamation in its entirety and presented it to those in attendance. A round of applause was given by all.

2. Proclamation – “Community College Month” – Dr. Ashli Wilkins, Vice President Wallace Community College

Chairman Shoupe stepped to the podium and asked Dr. Wilkins to join him. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Shoupe then proceeded to read the proclamation and presented it to Dr. Wilkins. He added that he attended Wallace College after high school and now his daughter is doing dual enrollment classes at Wallace. He then asked Dr. Wilkins for comments, and she began by thanking the Chairman and the Commissioners. She stated that Wallace Community College is proud to be the community’s college, and they appreciated the support they receive from Houston County and the surrounding areas, and they are grateful to be able to be the education and training provider for this region. She ended by thanking the Commission again.

3. Proclamation – “Child Abuse Prevention Month” – Terri Dubose, Executive Director, Southeast Child Advocacy Center

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Shoupe then began by reading the proclamation for “Child Abuse Prevention Month” and upon completion he presented it to Ms. Dubose and said that he is very thankful that people like this organization exist because most people could not do what they do. He asked for comments. Ms. Dubose thanked the commission for the proclamation and for their continued support and the support from the community. They are thankful to provide the services that they do. A round of applause was given by all.

4. Proclamation – “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” – Angela Underwood, Executive Director – The House of Ruth, Inc.

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

At this time Commissioner Harvey stepped to the podium to read and present the proclamation. He asked Ms. Underwood to come forward and thanked her for her honorable service to our community as she retired in 2016 as a probation officer and then took on the responsibility of the Executive Director of the House of Ruth. Commissioner Harvey said that the commission is very thankful for everything that she does for the community. He then read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Underwood. Ms. Underwood began by thanking the Chairman and the Commissioners for the recognition with this proclamation. She stated that they are unfortunate to have to have a full-time sexual assault advocate for the past three years and this past year alone they have had 47 victims of sexual assault or rape here in this area. Ms. Underwood added that all are atrocious, but to have a 95-year-old that is a victim of rape, is even more atrocious. She said that you could not imagine living for 95 years and now must testify against someone that raped her. Ms. Underwood said they are grateful to have the support from the advocates that are there to work with this victim and they are in hopes that one day they will not have to stand and recognize sexual assault and rape in our county.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt Resolution and enter into contract negotiations, with assistance from the ACCA, with Appriss Insights to provide automated victim notification software and delegate authority to the Chairman to execute contract

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

2. Request to adopt Resolution and Order Authorizing the issuance and making provision for the payment of \$7,660,000 General Obligation Warrants, Series 2025, of the County

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve adopting the Resolution and Order Authorizing the issuance making provision for the payment of \$7,660,000 General Obligation Warrants, Series 2025, of the County. Commissioner Harvey seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$560,000 decrease in revenue, for the sale of fixed assets – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to sell the following item on GovDeals:
a. 2004 BMW from the Sheriff's Department

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the selling of the item on GovDeals. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – Closed roads: Ben Ivey, D. Hodge, and Iris. They are also in the process of paving Crawford, Enon, Smithville, Ashford and County Line Road. This should be completed within the next few weeks. Chairman Shoupe stated that they greatly appreciate the efforts of the Road & Bridge Dept.
County Attorney – No report

Adjourned