

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
May 12, 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 May 12, 2025, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Major Linda Payton, Corps Officer of the Salvation Army, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Tracy Adams.

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 the Poplar Head Farmer's Market will kick-off this Saturday, May 17th, and the weather should be perfect. He added that it is always a good time, and it is always good to support our local area farmers. Chairman Shoupe urged everyone to get their early as they usually sell out of everything by 10:00 a.m. The market opens at 8:00 a.m. and is held at the Houston County Farm Center parking lot.

Commissioner Herring commended the Road & Bridge Dept. for all they do and added that W. Smithville Road, which was just recently paved, looks fantastic and Commissioner Herring has had a lot of compliments on this paving job.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – "National Salvation Army Week" – Major Linda Payton, Corps Officer, The Salvation Army

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

Chairman Shoupe stepped to the podium and asked Major Payton to join him. He commented that he has always been impressed with the leaders that the Salvation Army has blessed our community with. Chairman Shoupe then read the proclamation in its entirety and congratulated them on 140 years of the Salvation Army. He then presented it to Major Payton and asked her for comments.

Major Payton began by reporting that the Salvation Army had been in the United States for 140 years, but they had been in Dothan for 113 years. She continued by giving thanks for the recognition, but also, she wanted to thank the community. Major Payton announced that one of their big events will be held this Thursday as they will be serving a spaghetti lunch for free at the Doug Tew Community Center, for anyone as their “Thank You Thursday”, which is a part of the Salvation Army Week events. Major Payton stated that they have been given an opportunity to make change and help people in the community, but it is only because the community has worked through the Salvation Army. Again, she thanked the commission and said they are very grateful. At this time Blake Seymour, Advisory Board Chair, approached the podium and said that on behalf of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, that the community brings a lot to the Salvation Army, and they ask a lot from the community as well to be able to redistribute. They have done many things to help to include the catastrophic Tornado that hit the Cottonwood area last year and other things that are going on. He asked everyone to keep them in mind and in your prayers as they tackle these things.

2. Proclamation – “National Police Week”

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for “National Police Week” and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time Commissioner Ivey stepped to the podium and asked Captain Turner and others to come forward for the proclamation. Commissioner Ivey then proceeded to read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Captain Turner and asked for comments.

Captain Turner began by thanking the commission for recognizing Police Week as it is a time for them to get together with different groups to include a retirement group that they are thankful to gather with. He added that various events are held during this week to honor law enforcement.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chairman Shoupe began by reporting that there are four items on the regular agenda today. He continued by stating that they had received some paperwork last Thursday, after the Administrative Meeting, from Wicksburg, requesting appropriation of funds from the lodging tax funds. The paperwork for this item is included in the commissioner's package. He stated that he is in hopes that someone will make a motion to add this item to the agenda. The motion that he would entertain states "Request to appropriate \$25,048.00 of the series 2025 Bond Proceeds to the Wicksburg Youth Athletic Association for the construction of back stops and dugouts".

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to add the item as stated to the agenda as item number 5. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. When called for the vote to add the item to the agenda, the motion carried unanimously.

1. Request to approve Resolution for the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Program

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve budget amendments to reflect the FY2025 impact of ACT 2025-132 regarding the Houston County Sheriff and the Houston County Coroner salary changes – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the above-mentioned budget amendments and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request for reimbursement from the Town of Kinsey for pickle ball court improvements from the Series 2025 Bond Proceeds in the amount of \$32,803.75

Commissioner Adams made the motion to approve the request for reimbursement from the Town of Kinsey for pickle ball court improvements from the Series 2025 Bond Proceeds in the amount of \$32,803.7 and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Shoupe commented that this is the second appropriation that has been approved for the Town of Kinsey from the lodging tax funds. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to sell miscellaneous office items (desk, computer equipment, etc) on GovDeals for the Probate Dept.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve selling the stated items on GovDeals for the Probate Dept. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Request to appropriate \$25,048.00 of the series 2025 Bond Proceeds to the Wicksburg Youth Athletic Association for the construction of back stops and dugouts

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the appropriation for Wicksburg in the amount of \$25,048.00 and Commissioner Adams seconded. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 3 closed roads: Ben Ivey, Iris, D Hodge. He added that so far this year they have paved County Road 75, Garrett Road, Crawford Road, Smithville Road and Enon. The next three on the list to pave are County Line, Power Dam and Ashford Road.

County Attorney – No report

Commissioner Herring said that during the storms over the weekend, it was nice for the alerts to come through near the state line. He thanked EMA Director Mark Powell for what he does to help make this happen. Also, with the new app that the Sheriff's Dept. has for these emergency alerts, it is great to have and to be able to make people aware of weather conditions and other emergency items.

Adjourned