

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
May 27, 2025

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, Commissioner James Ivey, Asst. County Engineer Tyler Reeder, Accounting Manager Stacey Holland and County Attorney Pres Register.

Chairman Shoupe called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the May 27, 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 Lee Peters from Pilgrim Home Baptist Church and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner James Ivey.

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 Ricky Herring

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by stating that this is the best-looking group of people at a county commission meeting in a long time. He added that there is a lot of (the color) black and gold today and as a graduate of Wicksburg High School, he is proud to see all the young people and to see the sports programs excelling. He also stated that the commission's favorite meeting of the year is when the Houston County Queens come to visit and today is the day

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – Wicksburg High School Softball 3A State Championship Team

Commissioner Ivey and Chairman Shoupe stepped to the podium for the recognition of the Wicksburg High School Softball 3-A State Championship Team. He asked Coach Cox and the entire team to come forward.

Chairman Shoupe began by saying that it is an honor to have the team here today and he guesses that it is possible for someone to win a state title on a fluke, but when you win it two times in a row, it must be all about the coaching. Chairman Shoupe stated that the team's

record for the year was 49-7 and in the state tournament they were down 3 different times before coming back and winning a back-to-back state championship. Chairman Shoupe added that it was not too long ago that Wicksburg had not had a state title in any AHSAA sport and now there is a streak. He then invited Coach Cox to come forward for comments.

Coach Cox began by saying that this all started about 3 years ago when they made it to the state championship game and forced the “if” game out of a loser’s bracket and they lost the “if” game 12-10. Last year they won it in 2-A in a pretty dominate fashion by scoring 42 runs to 0 in the state tournament and they only gave up 2 runs in the start of regional’s and never gave up any runs after that. Coach Cox continued by saying that this year it was a little tighter as pitching was a little different. In the winner’s bracket, they won 2-1 against St. James and again they beat St. James 4-3 in the state championship.

Coach Cox stated that this is a resilient bunch of girls that work hard every day. They are a lot of fun to be around and they have a great winning attitude. He also said to win in 2-A and then win in 3-A, that is something special as it was only the second time for a state championship for the school until the the Ladies Golf won this year so now the school has three state championships. He said it is a special time and the streak will be hard to maintain but they do have a lot of young talent on this team and they have a lot of young players on the Junior Varsity team as well that are really good.

Coach Cox said that he has 16 players here to include 7 seniors. They are Sara Turvin, Ella Grace Kelly, Addison Kelly, Dahlia Ganz, Natalie Cole, Tylaya Lingo and Emalee Mathis. Coach Cox continued by introducing the Junior players to include Chloe Joyner, Ellie Cox and Abbie Ellenburg. The sophomore player is McKenzie McFarlane and the freshman are Anleigh Wood, Allie Potter, Malory Potter. The eighth-grade players include Madison Wilson, Kynlee Holland and Gracie Driskell, who is not in attendance. He added that Madelyn McVey is a junior who is also not in attendance. Coach Cox introduced the coaches to include Jackie Amos, Monica Purkey and Joan Marshall.

Commissioner Ivey congratulated the team for doing this two years in a row and that he is also a graduate of Wicksburg High School and it is nice to see his alma matter doing great things. A round of applause was given by all.

## 2. Recognition – Wicksburg High School Ladies Golf Team 1A – 3A State Championship Team

Chairman Shoupe began by introducing the next state championship team from Wicksburg and commented that maybe they should rename Wicksburg to “Title Town Alabama”. He invited the Wicksburg High School Ladies Golf Team to come forward. He congratulated them and

commented that this is the first time that any school from Houston County has won a state championship in golf. Chairman Shoupe stated that they also won that by a 64-stroke margin and every team member finished in the top 10 individual performance.

Coach Britton Hughes began by thanking the commission for having them today and stated that this is the first time that Wicksburg has won in golf and it is also the first time in Houston County that a golf team has won something at the state level. Coach Hughes said he did very little as it was all the players that did everything. He then stated that all the girls are seniors and they started playing golf their freshman year. Coach Hughes said that he recruited them and they were not good in the beginning but they are good now. He said that the state tournament is a two-day tournament and they beat 2<sup>nd</sup> place by 64 strokes, which is not small. Coach Hughes added that they beat 3<sup>rd</sup> place by 164 strokes and 4<sup>th</sup> place was beaten by 174 strokes. He said that this small group of girls looks sweet and innocent but they turned into the biggest bullies that you can imagine on that golf course. He added that the girls won because they did all the work to include hours on the range and determination and it was very rewarding seeing them win. Coach Hughes asked if he could challenge the commission that as today, they are recognizing the queens, softball and girls' golf. He said that all it takes is for girls to have an opportunity to do well and this is proof that they can do it and anytime there is an opportunity to give young women a chance to succeed, to please take it. Coach Hughes said he knows that there are always cost constraints and things get cut, but he said to please don't let it be girls' sports. He stated that anything that anybody can do to make the girls in our area successful, he is in hopes they can do that as these are the products of Houston County and he is proud of them and everybody else in the room and they all deserve the best. Coach Hughes then introduced the girls to include Elle Suen, Blakely Kassing, Katie Brannon and Kate King. He added that all four girls have free rides to go to college in state and Kate and Katie will be playing college golf and he is in hopes that they will all go on to do even big and better things than just a state title. A round of applause was given by all. Commissioner Ivey commented that it is an honor to be standing with them to represent his alma-matter and they have done something that he could never do and that is play golf. He congratulated them all.

### 3. Recognition – Houston County Queens

Chairman Shoupe asked the Houston County Queens to come forward. He added that the commission always love having the queens in attendance. The queens in attendance are:

Future Little Miss Houston County	Emery York
Little Miss Houston County	Emmie Akos
Young Jr. Miss Houston County	Ella Jane Ingle

Jr. Miss Houston County  
Teen Miss Houston County  
Miss Houston County

Macy Beth Falls  
Erin Devine  
Addison Claire Thomley

Chairman Shoupe began by asking Future Little Miss Houston County, Emery York, to come to the podium and asked her what school she attended, and she said Headland Elementary. He then asked who her favorite teacher was, and Emery said "Ms. Jones". Chairman Shoupe asked her what was her favorite snack and she said, "Mac n cheese". He asked if she had plans for the summer and she said she liked to swim in her pool and she had just got back from the lake and the beach and she saw lots of jelly fish.

At this time, Little Miss Houston County, Emmie Akos, approached the podium and Chairman Shoupe announced that Emmie attends Wicksburg. He then asked her what he favorite subject was, and she answered "music" and that she like to play the symbols. Chairman Shoupe asked if she had any plans for the summer and she answered that she is going to the beach at St. George Island. He asked if she liked seafood, and she said that she liked to eat crabs. Emmie added that she has an older sister named Lucy. She ended by reporting on her platform "Emmies Teacups" and said that she makes flower arrangements in teacups and delivers them to senior centers and other places for the elderly.

Next, Young Jr. Miss Houston County, Ella Jane Ingle, approached the podium and Chairman Shoupe asked her to tell a little about herself to everyone. She said she is going to the beach this summer and she likes to go eat at Pineapple Willy's and eat the fish. Chairman Shoupe stated that Ella attends Ashford Elementary School, and she will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year. He asked her favorite subject, and she said "math". He asked her what she would be when she grows up and she answered, "a doctor".

At this time, Jr. Miss Houston County, Macy Beth Falls, approached the podium and introduced herself. She said she attends Ashford Middle School and will be in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She said she is looking forward to the summer as they will be very busy. Macy added that she is a cheerleader and she also plays volleyball for her school.

Teen Miss Houston County, Erin Devine approached the podium and stated that she attends Slocomb High School and is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and she is excited that she recently made the varsity volleyball team. She added that she also made all-state volleyball and they will be playing in Birmingham real soon. Chairman Shoupe said he was told to ask her what her favorite thing about her Nana was and she laughed. He then asked her about her recent fishing trip and what she caught. She added that her favorite fish that she caught was the amberjack.

Chairman Shoupe then introduced Miss Houston County, Addison Claire Thomley and told her he was glad she was here and asked her to tell everybody about herself, her platform and her plans to win Miss Peanut. Addison began by saying that she will be a senior at Rehobeth High School and she is very grateful for the opportunity to be Miss Houston County. She said she competed last year but did not win any titles so to win this year has been a very humbling experience. Addison stated that her community service is called "Nurture Through the NICU" and it was inspired by hers and her brother's experience as they were both NICU babies. She added that as a baby she was in the NICU at a Montgomery hospital for 10 days and while she was there, her mom received a care basket full of items that gave her hope that she was going to be ok. Addison said that she collects donations and she puts them in bags and delivers to the NICU Units for the babies. Chairman Shoupe congratulated her on that and wished her well in the Miss Peanut pageant coming up.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve the 2024 insolvents, errors and taxes in litigation, and uncollected insolvents and litigations for previous years, for final settlement with the State of Alabama – Greg Holland, Revenue Commissioner

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the 2024 insolvents, errors and taxes in litigation, and uncollected insolvents and litigations for previous years, for final settlement with the State of Alabama and Commissioner Adams seconded. With their being no discussion or questions, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Houston County Personnel Board to approve Juneteenth as a county holiday, in conjunction with the State Holiday Schedule – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Personnel Board and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to approve Resolution to transfer real property to Industrial Development Board of City of Dothan

Commissioner Adams made the motion to approve the Resolution to transfer real property to the Industrial Development Board of City of Dothan and Commissioner Ivey seconded. Chairman Shoupe commented that this is dealing with the property at the distribution park. With there being no questions or comments, the motion passed unanimously. .

4. Request to approve service agreement with Service Express for hardware and software support for equipment to be located at the Emergency Operations Center – Del Hollis, IT Director

Commissioner Ivey made the motion to approve the service agreement with Service Express and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve payment of invoice in the amount of \$3,525 to Ramsey, Baxley & McDougle for the benefit of Cottonwood Rescue and approve accompanying budget amendment

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice in the amount of \$3,525 and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to appropriate \$958,382.50 from the Series 2025 Bond Proceeds to reimburse the County for allowable Economic Development expenditures – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request to appropriate \$958,382.50 from the Series 2025 Bond Proceeds to reimburse the County for allowable Economic Development Expenditures. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request from the City of Taylor to assist with dirt and grade work for the pavilion and playground pad – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request from the City of Taylor and Commissioner Ivey seconded. There being no questions or discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT for funding of MPO project STPSU-3523 (250) for resurfacing Ashford Rd. – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Adams made the motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT for funding of MPO project STPSU-3521 (256), for resurfacing Enon Rd – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made the motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 4 closed roads: Gene Terry, Iris, D Hodge & Horace Meadows. These are all cross-drain replacements.

County Attorney – No report

At this time, Chairman Shoupe stated that there was a privilege of the floor by Ms. Rachel and asked her to come forward. He added that she will be speaking about the Rehobeth High School Navy JROTC Program.

Ms. Rachel Reniva stepped to the podium and thanked the commission for allowing her to speak and said that she stands before the commission as a concerned parent and an advocate who has 78 voters behind her that are her supporters for this issue. Ms. Reniva asked the commission to please speak with Houston County Superintendent Brandy White and ask him to not cancel the Rehobeth High School Navy JROTC Program. She said that the reason that it matters to the commission is because there is \$500,000 that goes between the commission and the school board, as she saw this in the budget. Ms. Reniva added that another part that matters is that the Rehobeth Navy JROTC cadets participate in various programs around the county by cleaning various parks, help with parking at local events, help with various events at the VFW and volunteer at other local events. Ms. Reniva commented that Dothan City Schools is already saturated with Army JROTC programs and what is different is that the Houston County Career Academy is not funded and it is all taxpayer dollars. She stated that she has found out that there is no funding available for the Army programs.

Ms. Reniva said that she is aware that there have been some personnel issues with the staff at Rehobeth, but as parents they do not want to lose the program. She added that the area commander, Jonathan Shaw, said that he will wait to cancel to see if we as a community can change his mind. She reported that the students will not be able to attend the career academy year-round as they will have to go one semester at the time and having half a semester at the time will not benefit the kids.

Ms. Reniva reported that upcoming seniors were told that they could not participate as there is no room in their schedules and they have been in the program for three years already and they will have to give it up and not graduate on time. She added that band students will have to choose either ROTC or band because of the time constraints. She pleaded that as a community they would appreciate it if the commission would ask the superintendent to review this or at least put it off for a year. Ms. Reniva also stated that the Rehobeth ROTC has \$70,000 of army funds in their budget and if that money is not spent on their international trip to Washington,

DC, they have to return it to the department of the Navy. She thanked the commission and Chairman Shoupe thanked her for comments.

Adjourned