

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
August 11, 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 August 11, 2025, Houston County Commission Regular Session and declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Dr. David R. Saliba, from First United Methodist Church and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Tracy Adams

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by announcing that the next Administration Meeting and Commission Meeting will both be held on Monday, August 25th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the Admin. Meeting and the commission meeting at 10:00 a.m. due to the commission being at conference.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Dothan Regional Airport Update – Adam Hartzog, Executive Director

Chairman Shoupe asked Mr. Hartzog to come to the podium. Mr. Hartzog began by thanking the commission for allowing him to come and give a report on the airport and thanked them for the relationship that they share. He continued by thanking Engineer Barkley Kirkland, the Chairman and the Commissioners for always supporting their efforts and stated that the project that they had discussed about 12 months ago concerning the full airfield drainage rehab has just received funding from Senator Katie Britt in the amount of 12 million dollar. They will begin moving forward with the project in the next 6 months. Mr. Hartzog added that they are investing in a full LED lighting conversion for the entire airfield to reduce some of the delays and maintenance issues that they have during lightning and severe storm events. This project should begin within the next 12 months as well with completion in 14 months. They are also

developing a new fire station as they are upgrading from their 1963 fire station. Mr. Hartzog reported that they have about 19 million dollars they will be investing in the airport over the next 12 to 14 months and it is because of the partnership with Houston County, Dale County and the City of Dothan that they are able to match the money and plan those projects. Mr. Hartzog thanked Engineer Barkley Kirkland and the rest of the county engineers for what all they did on the front end of those projects. He said that the airline is expanding to run larger aircraft which expands passenger capacity through the summer and hopefully through the winter. Mr. Hartzog ended by saying that they have 30 million dollars invested in about 30 months and they are proud of that. He again thanked the commission for all they do.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Mr. Hartzog for always keeping the commission up to date on the airport and their progress.

2. Presentation – Southeast Intervention Group, Inc. – Eleson Tanton, Executive Director

At this time, Chairman Shoupe introduced Mr. Eleson Tanton and asked him to come forward to the podium. Mr. Tanton thanked the commission for allowing him to come today and then asked the audience how many of them ever heard of Southeast Intervention Group or the Herring Houses of Dothan. He answered, probably not many and that is why he is here today as he represents the Southeast Intervention Group and wants to bring awareness to their organization. He added that the facility is a level 3.01 substance abuse treatment program that is operated right here in downtown Dothan off Main Street. Mr. Tanton stated that they own 6 properties that they operate out of and those contain 30 beds. The organization is state funded primarily by state block grants from the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Mr. Tanton added that they are the only certified program like this within hundreds of miles and their main objective to provide substance abuse treatment to people that are wanting to change their lives. He reported that they have been operating for 18 years but most people don't know about them and they provide a very important community resource. Mr. Tanton reported that a lot of the clients that have gone through their program have found long term recovery and he said Dothan has a strong recovery community. He also stated a lot of the clients that located here for the rehab end up staying in the community. Mr. Tanton mentioned that Dr. Larry Kirkland, long time Dothan resident, started the program along with the help of his family and close friends as he built this program from the ground up over a matter of time. He did report that the program has always received high marks from the state but over time they have failed in informing the community of the good that they are doing. Mr. Tanton said it is no secret that mental health issues and substance abuse issues cross all boundaries as it does not matter where you come from or who your family is as it touches a lot of lives. The program is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that is board driven and they are currently going through a lot of transition as the founder, Mr. Larry Kirkland, passed away a few years ago and Joseph Johnson, the former

director, recently lost his battle with cancer. Mr. Tanton said now is the time to let people know they are here and they can be a resource to this community. They have goals to further their grants and expanding their program to allow outreach and resource for anyone that may want information. Mr. Tanton added that the program is very vested in helping people that want to help themselves as they do not just provide housing, if you pay your rent, but they hold people accountable. They provide licensed staff that works with the clients to hold them accountable so that they can hopefully complete the program in 3-18 months and help them to start their lives over as a sober member of the community. But in turn, the program needs support from the community as well as they need involved community members that want to see this vision through. Mr. Tanton thanked the commission for allowing him to come and speak and bring awareness to the program.

3. Presentation – 2025 Wicksburg 6U Baseball State Champions

At this time, Commissioner James Ivey spoke and said that he had received an email from the Wicksburg 6U Head Coach Aaron McDaniels and said that the team could not be present at the last meeting as they were at the World Series Tournament and now school has started back.

Mr. Ivey reported that the team competed in the state tournament in June and they beat Hartford 14-4 and became the league's first coach pitch state champion. They continued to the World Series in North Carolina, and they placed 5th, with most notably beating Tennessee 22-18 in extra innings. They then lost 2 tough games by one run, losing to Texas 14-13 after falling short from a comeback being down 14-6 in the top of the 6th. The boys fought hard and achieved some spectacular goals for Wicksburg Dixie Youth Softball and Baseball League. They look forward to what all they will do in the future. The players are listed as follows:

James Sullivan #5	Memphis Woodham #1
Parker McDaniels #6	Roman Perkins #2
Caleb Watson #8	Barett Rice #28
Lennon Dunnam #17	Grant Dye #4
Lucus Curry #15	Cooper Barrentine #12
Brooks Perkins #16	

COACHES: Rachel Perkins, Chris Barrentine, Cliff Woodham and Head Coach Aaron McDaniels.

The Commission congratulated the Wicksburg 6U Team along with all the other teams. Mr. Ivey updated everyone that the 10U placed 2nd in the World Series and the 12U won the World Series in the age group.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to re-appoint Jennifer Stanley to the E-911 Board of Directors

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve re-appointing Jennifer Stanley to the E-911 Board of Directors and Commissioner Adams seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to appoint Commissioner James Ivey to the ACCA Legislative Committee

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to appoint Commissioner James Ivey to the ACCA Legislative Committee. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Request to award bid to DivcoData, the lowest bidder meeting specs, for the outsourcing of mailing and printing for the Revenue Dept. – Greg Holland, Revenue Commissioner

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the awarding of the bid to DivcoData for the outsourcing of mailing and printing for the Revenue Dept. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$70,000 to correct the budget to reflect the cost of meals provided to individuals at Community Corrections – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$70,000 to correct the budget to reflect the cost of meals provided to individuals at Community Corrections and Commissioner Harvey seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve budget amendment to facilitate an emergency replacement in the Board of Registrars' Office for the August election in the amount of \$150 – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the budget amendment to facilitate an emergency replacement in the Board of Registrars' Office for the August election in the amount of \$150 and Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Commissioner Harvey asked what this was for and Mr. Covert said that this was a situation that arose because the individual that normally performs this job had a family emergency and they needed someone to step in to fill this role during the busy time of the elections. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to award bid for inmate transport to Homeland Protection & Transport, lowest bidder meeting specs and accept Blue Knight Corporation & Security Transport as backup/secondary as needed – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for inmate transport to Homeland Protection & Transport. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve the 2026 "Rebuild Alabama County Transportation Plan" – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Adams seconded. At this time, Assistant Engineer Tyler Reeder came forward for the presentation. Engineer Reeder began by reporting on the roads that they are proposing to pave along with the dollar amounts for the coming year. He stated that this is a yearly report that is required by the Rebuild Alabama Law that was passed years ago. A plan must be presented each year on how they are going to spend the money that is received. Engineer Redder reported that this year the first five roads are rollover roads from last year's plan that they did not get to due to working storm work. He did report that the roads they plan to surface are Bill Yance Rd., Furnie Folks, E. Cook, Rice and Judge Logue. In addition to these rollovers, new roads that they are proposing are N. Broad in Cowarts, Bluff Springs in Cowarts, section of County Rd 95 N, Decatur Rd. in Madrid and County Rd 9 South. Those 5 roads are what they are able to pave in a given year with the rebuild budget as long as the bond payment is still in effect. Engineer Reeder stated that the total mileage is 22.49 miles to pave, but if you take out the rollover roads that number drops to about 10 and wants to express the importance of county funds being used for paving roads as they need every dollar they can get to continue to try and make a dent in the 800+ paved miles that they have to maintain.

Commissioner Ivey asked what part of Judge Logue Rd. would be paved and Engineer Reeder stated that would be from Hilltop to Atkinson.

Engineer Barkley Kirkland said that the rollover roads are due to the tornado in Cottonwood and the pipes that had to be done.

Chairman Shoupe stated that the Rebuild Alabama was the gas tax that was passed in 2019 and the law stated that we have to use this money to resurfacing projects. He added that people are always asking where my tax dollars are going and he said here is the answer and as you can tell it does not go as far as you think it goes.

When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 3 closed roads; Furnie Folks, Womack and Cumbie. Currently paving on Ben Ivey and Prevatt, D Hodge and Cumbie will be paved in the next few weeks.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned