

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
December 8, 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 December 8, 2025, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Elder Steve "Hammer" Cunningham from Dothan Community 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 Herring and seconded by Commissioner Ivey. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe announced that this is the last meeting of the year for the commission unless an emergency arises and they must meet. He feels that it has been a good year and they have made a lot of progress and they still have a lot of progress left to go. Lastly, Chairman Shoupe stated that this is CAO Peter Covert's last meeting. He added that he appreciates Peter's friendship and dedication that he has shown the county for several years and his service to the people.

Commissioner Ivey stated that this Saturday is the Wicksburg Christmas Parade starting at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Adams announced that tomorrow night is the Dupree School Christmas Carols beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Dupree School. Also, he announced that Friday night is the Cowarts Christmas Parade and Saturday night is the Ashford Parade. He encourages everyone to attend these events.

Commissioner Herring announced that the Rehobeth Christmas Parade was postponed and has been rescheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve FY 2024-2025 departmental over/under spending summary report – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the over/under spending summary report and Commissioner Harvey seconded.

Mr. Covert reported that, again, the county's department heads and elected officials were very conscious of their spending and overall, the county was under and less than budgeted. He also pointed out that on the revenue side it came in just under \$6 million more than what was budgeted and with those two things you can see that the county has been very careful in their spending, conservative with their estimates in revenue and with this they are adding to the fund balance so large capital items can be afforded in the near future. Mr. Covert pointed out that some individual departments there were some overages and they would like for the commission to consider ratifying those totals. Primarily, the overage was in the commission department and that was due to the timing of the farm center work. Originally there was \$1.4 million in the budget for this project and the Series 2025 money was being used to cover those expenses. Prior to the funding, there was \$450,000 worth of expenses for the Farm Center work but that money was covered retroactively with the Series 2025 Warrant Money. In addition, some land acquisitions were acquired during this year pertaining to the Walking Trail project, and other things that are being considered. The Fiber Loop Project was this year and with a lot of these moving parts legal expenses were higher than anticipated. Mr. Covert also stated that another area was exiting employee cost as each year they try to estimate the cost of employee transition due to their retirement and another area was a post-budget salary increase due to duties being re-aligned and that caused a slight overage. He continued by reporting that there was a situation where there was a redemption of tax lien property that came up during the year that was unanticipated and that must be refunded according to the courts. Finally, Juvenile Services has been an ongoing issue and they came in above the budgeted amount due to the number of juveniles in the diversion centers. This is a hard thing to budget as it has to do with ongoing behavior by the juveniles. Mr. Covert then said that the last item pertains to Community Corrections. He stated that Director Tony Weber is extremely careful and judicious with his budget money and his item is a separate budgeted fund and not a general fund item. But there was a transition this year with both county software and payroll software and this overage is for 4 days of payroll that were budgeted incorrectly due to the way the year ended. Mr. Covert stated that technically, Mr. Weber is not over budget as this is a timing issue. With this being the end of his report, he asked that the commission consider ratifying those departments that did go over budget and close for the year.

Chairman asked for questions and comments and with their being none, Chairman asked for a vote and the report was approved unanimously.

2. Request to publish the Houston County Year-End Unaudited Financial Report to include County, Fiduciary, other Special Trust Funds along with the outstanding amounts and retirement schedule of its debts – Peter B. Covert, CAO

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve publishing the Report and Commissioner Adams seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$93,835.36 in revenue for insurance proceeds for damage to roof at Sheriff's Dept. – Tommy Dixon, Building Maintenance

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$93,835.36. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$300,000 in revenue for storm water projects from the Alabama Department of Environment Management – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$300,000 in revenue and Commissioner Adams seconded. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously,

5. Request from the Town of Rehobeth to assist with site grading and preparation for an area within the Rehobeth Town Center Project – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Rehobeth. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report today but the CAO wanted to make a statement. He stated that this is his last meeting of the year and of his career here in public service and he wanted to thank the commission for the opportunity for providing him the time and ability to take some of his experience and knowledge and to give back to his community that has given so much to him and his family over the years. He added that he is grateful for the experience and thankful for the opportunity. Mr. Covert said that he is glad to say that the county will be left in very capable and confident hands with Stacey Holland taking over in this role. He looks forward to great things for the county in the future.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Mr. Covert again and stated that there is a lot changing in county government and they have certainly had their fair share of challenges and battles and he appreciates Mr. Covert for his friendship and his wisdom and guidance of the past few years. Commissioner Tracy Adams commented that he would like to thank Mr. Covert from District 2 for what he has done for the county and since he has been in this position he has never failed to answer the phone or help him the best he could when he called. He wished Mr. Covert the best in the future.

County Engineer – 2 closed roads: Old Webb Road and Womack

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned