

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
March 23, 2026

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner James Ivey, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer Stacey Holland and County Attorney Pres Register.

Chairman Shoupe called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the March 23, 2026, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Mark Pickett, from the Houston County Jail 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 Herring. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by stating that a Public Involvement Meeting and Online Public Involvement for AL-605, Brannon Stand Road Corridor, study for AL Hwy 52 to US Hwy 231 will be held at the Rehobeth Community Center, 221 Malvern Road. The date is April 9th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. He encouraged those with any concerns to be present for input.

Chairman Shoupe also announced that tomorrow Construction Partners, Inc., will have their groundbreaking for their new data center in Houston County. This will be held at 1700 Whatley Drive at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Adams commented that he received a text message yesterday in reference to the new boat ramp. He said that the individual said that he went to the new boat ramp and it looks great. The individual also said that the parking lot had 30+ boat trailers today and it was the most he had ever seen. He thanked the Road & Bridge Dept. for their hard work on this project.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – 1st Quarter Anniversaries – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Ms. Garner came forward and asked all in attendance that were to be recognized to come forward.

Ms. Garner announced that the following employees are celebrating their service anniversary during this first quarter of the year:

Jimmy Murphree (Sanitation)	5 years
Tyler Reeder (Road & Bridge)	5 years
Patrick Proctor (Road & Bridge)	5 years
Steve Dixon (Sanitation)	5 years
Will Seaborn (Road & Bridge)	5 years
Andrea Udvardi Ward (Sheriff)	5 years
Jeremy Davis (Water Lab)	5 years
Nona Bodish (Jail)	5 years
Denise Bankston (Sheriff)	5 years
Brandi Langley (Sheriff)	5 years
Jason McWhirter (Sheriff)	5 years
Tres Weeks (Sheriff)	5 years
Tammie Spurlock (Jail)	10 years
Martha Walker (Accounting)	10 years
Allan Smith (Road & Bridge)	10 years
Renaldo Young (Sanitation)	20 years
Chad Searcy (Reappraisal)	25 years
James Ivey (Sheriff)	25 years
Robert Jenkins (Sheriff)	25 years
Bill Rafferty (Sheriff)	25 years

Ms. Garner stated that these employees represent a combined total of 210 years of dedication and service to the county. A round of applause was given by all.

2. "Visit Dothan" Update – Hannah Shiver, Executive Director

Ms. Shiver began by thanking the commission the opportunity to come and provide an update on tourism performance for 2025. She stated that today she will focus on what the data shows and what it means for Houston County and added that Houston County lodging market remains stable and showed minus growth as the market grew about 1% for the year. In turn, this attributed to more than 9,100 additional room nights and contributing approximately \$52.2 million dollars in hotel revenue across the county. Ms. Shiver said that what is important about this number is the context behind it as this growth occurred without any new hotels entering the market and while navigating the loss of a corporate driver in the market. She did say that

sports tourism continues to play a consistent role in the performance as in 2025, Dothan and Houston County both hosted more than 80 tournaments in sporting events which generated over 66,000 room nights and nearly \$20 million dollars in direct economic impact. Ms. Shiver reported that these visitors are staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants and supporting our local businesses throughout the county. In addition, on the market side Visit Dothan generated over 3 million digital views with increased traffic to planning pages and much was from outside of Alabama. Ms. Shiver stated that in 2026 they will continue to refine that approach to make sure they are reaching visitors in the same ways that they are planning travel, including reaching through new forms emerging with AI. She also reported that in 2026 industry projections suggest that overall growth will remain measured nationwide and markets like those in our area with accessible pricing, strong event infrastructure, and regional drawbacks are expected to remain stable and competitive. Ms. Shiver ended by saying that these are highlights of the past year and the coming year.

Chairman Shoupe asked about the new pickle ball courts opening soon and asked what the estimates are on how this will impact the area. Ms. Shiver stated that based on average and other markets, if our area could host 3-4 tournaments a year, it would be about a \$4 million dollar impact in the community to begin with. She does feel that this is a conservative estimate as they need to build partnerships with other tournament partners. At this time, they have 3 tournaments on the calendar so far and they are excited about this as it will bring tremendous impact to the area.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve permission to demolish the horse barn at the Houston County Farm Center – Tommy Dixon, Buildings Maintenance Manager

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to demolish the horse barn at the Farm Center. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

2. Request to approve auction sale of the 2021 Chevrolet Silverado Trail Boss and authorize purchase of 2026 F250 Super Crew using existing EMA budget funds as needed – Mark Powell, EMA Director

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the auction sale of the existing vehicle and authorize purchase of 2026 F250 Super Crew using existing EMA budget funds as needed. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$230,000 to provide 50% of SSUT excess per quarter to school systems – Stacey Holland, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Harvey made the motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$230,000 to provide 50% SSUT excess per quarter to school systems and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe reminded everyone that they spoke about this item on Thursday and after seeing some comments on social media, he stated that the county does not have excess tax revenue but the commission is choosing to use the money to invest in education. With there being no further questions or comments, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Request to approve Radio Tower Project for \$321,065 using county funds in the amount of \$76,065 and USDA grant funds in the amount of \$245,000 – Stacey Holland, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the Radio Tower Project in the amount stated. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Request to award Sheriff's Dept. and Jail uniform bid to SCI-2-Way, lowest bidder meeting specs – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Adams made the motion to award the Sheriff's Dept. and Jail Uniform bid to SCI-2-Way, lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to approve Interlocal Agreement and MOU between the City of Dothan and Houston County for the FY2025 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the JAG Program Award Agreement and MOU between the City and the County. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Request to award bid for Herbicides to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to award bid for Herbicides to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Ivey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$81,829.98 for Sanitation Truck repairs and renovation rollover – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$81,829.98 for Sanitation Truck repairs and renovation rollover. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$28,900 for road building materials – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$28,900 for road building materials. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Request to purchase the following items utilizing existing funds – Road & Bridge

- a. Broom \$20,000
- b. Dump Truck \$41,000
- c. Trench Rollers (2) \$39,500 each
- d. Saw Head \$76,500

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve purchasing the stated items utilizing existing funds. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – closed roads: Cedar Springs, Womack, Broadway. Since last meeting paving has been done on Sweetie Smith, County Rd 95N and Old Webb Road.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned