

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 13, 2026

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner James Ivey, Acting County Engineer Tyler Reeder, 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 April 13, 2026, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by world renowned author Adams Davis, from Houston County and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Ricky Herring

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

Commissioner Ivey presented a piece of artwork that was submitted in a contest at the Wiregrass Museum of Art. The winner is 6<sup>th</sup> grade student Mary Gaines Carter from Wicksburg Elementary. He just wanted to present this and announce that this piece will be hung on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor for the coming year.

At this time Commissioner Harvey called up Mr. Tanawah Downing, who is the Chief Legal Strategist for Justice Without Limits. Mr. Downing began by thanking the commission for allowing him to speak and he appreciates their time. He introduced himself as Tanawah Downing and stated that he was a civil rights advocate litigator out of Washington, DC. He added that he is a fellow oath taker and as a responsibility to support the constitution, he is equally obligated to support the institutions upon which the constitution created as much as he is to protect the rights of people. He shared his ethics and his role in his job and encouraged the commission to reach out for any questions or help. Information on his agency is available in the commission office.

#### AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “National Public Safety Tele-communicators Week”

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for “National Public Safety Tele-Communicators Week” and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Commissioner James Ivey came to the podium to read and present the proclamation to those telecommunicators that were in attendance. He said that the ladies present were outstanding telecommunicators that are behind the scenes. He also said that when people are having the worst day of their life, these ladies are the ones that get the phone call. These scenarios could range from a child missing to someone that just took their own life. They answer those calls and deal with the trauma on a day to day basis. Commissioner Ivey said that we are here this week to recognize them and recognize those that are at work or at home asleep from working the night before. He also said that one of the hardest things that he has had to do lately is to stand in front of these ladies to let them know that he is retiring from the Sheriff’s office on October 1. He is happy to say that they have supported him so much through the years and that one of the hardest things he had to do was to tell them. At this time, Commissioner Ivey read the proclamation in its entirety and asked everyone to recognize these individuals and give them a round of applause.

## 2. Proclamation – “Community College Month” – Dr. Chris Franklin, Wallace Community College

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation for “Community College Month” and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously. At this time, Commissioner Harvey joined Dr. Chris Franklin at the podium for the presentation. Commissioner Harvey read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Dr. Franklin. A round of applause was given and Commissioner Harvey said that it is always so great having community colleges, not only in our area, but in the entire world. He added that after serving in the military, he is also a product of Wallace Community College and he thanks them for that education. He asked Dr. Franklin for comments.

Dr. Franklin thanked the commission and commented that as a past alumnus, Commissioner Harvey knows what Wallace College means to this community and they appreciate the commission’s willingness to recognize this. He added that there is a reason that they have “community” in their name as they are part of the great community of Houston County as it counts for the largest number of students in the service area, largest number of dual enrollment and the work that they do, both with students and economic development, is surpassed by no one in this area and they appreciate the support that the commission gives them.

## 3. Proclamation – “Child Abuse Prevention Month” – Aline Mays-Easley, Child Advocacy Center

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve “Child Abuse Prevention Month” and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Shoupe asked Ms. Easley to come forward and join Commissioner Adams at the podium for the presentation. Commissioner

Adams read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Ms. Easley. She began by stating that she is a therapist for the Child Advocacy Center for the last 15 years and on behalf of the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center, she thanked the commission for recognizing the CAC as Child Prevention Month. She continued by saying that this proclamation is more than just words on a piece of paper as it is fully a reminder for all to protect the children and share the responsibility. She added that every child in this community deserves the right to feel safe, supported and valued. Ms. Easley said it takes everyone to work together to make this a reality. She said that at the CAC they have the privilege of walking alongside children and their families during some of the most difficult times that we also know that prevention begins long before the crisis. It starts with strong family, supportive communities with adults who are willing to step in, speak up and make the difference in the community. She reported that this year they choose a theme “Hope Grows Here” and they truly believe that hope takes root where communities like us come together to protect our children. Ms. Easley thanked everyone for their support, partnership and the commitment to the children and families in the community.

#### 4. Proclamation – “National Library Week” – Chris Warren, Director, Dothan Houston County Library System

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for “National Library Week” and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously. At this time, Chairman Shoupe made his way to the podium joined by Director Chris Warren of the Dothan Houston County Library System.

Chairman Shoupe began by stating that they appreciate all that the library does for the community and if you go back not that long ago, there was an old dilapidated building and now the library system here is as strong as it has ever been. He thanked Mr. Warren for his leadership and the board’s leadership. Chairman Shoupe then read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Mr. Warren and asked for any comments. Mr. Warren thanked the commission for their support for the library system and also thanked everyone that makes the work of the library possible including The Friends of the Library, wonderful board of trustees who demonstrate great leadership and also he thanked the entire staff of the library as they have about 30 people that work the library system that are very service minded, community oriented individuals who make the great work of the library possible. Mr. Warren also mentioned that the big book sale is going on right now at the Westgate Recreation Center Gym and he encouraged everyone to visit.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve resolution supporting Southeast Health Foundation’s expansion for the PulsePoint application into rural Houston County

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe called Mr. Sean Gibson to come forward to tell everyone about this app. He began by thanking the Chairman and the Commission for the opportunity to discuss this final phase of the Houston County Heart Safe initiative. He continued to say that they are aware of the efforts they have made in educating the citizens in all the communities in Houston County on the defense of sudden cardiac arrest, severe bleeding and Opioid overdoses as these are very important missions for them. Mr. Gibson reported that Pulse Point, the final piece, that the goal is to unveil what they do not know and what he means is that a lot of times during sudden cardiac arrest, or an injury or possibly even an overdose could happen right next door. The question is how we can get those trained people there to help those in need. Mr. Gibson also stated that for every one minute that they do not act, they lose 10% survivability. He added that Pulse Point, once integrated into the CAD system, the telecommunicators will key that in and it will send out a signal to the Pulse Point app. This will alert all that have downloaded the app that are within 15 minutes of that location and will sound similar to an amber alert. This will send the alert that help is needed and you have a choice to accept or not accept the alert. If you do accept, it will map you to the patient and also to the closest bleeding control kit, closest AED, closest NARCAN dose that can be obtained if needed. This software is super important to the Heart Safe Initiative and it is the final piece to tie the whole picture together. He again thanked the commission.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Mr. Gibson for the information. He added that it is amazing the things that they come up with and to do something like this to save lives. It takes leadership, commitment and a lot of hours from a lot of people. Chairman Shoupe thanked everyone that was involved with this from the hospital administration, the foundation, SEAEMS and every person that has worked on this to make it happen.

With no further questions or comments, the resolution was approved unanimously.

## 2. Request to approve Facility Management Agreement with the National Peanut Festival regarding the Houston County Farm Center

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Agreement with the National Peanut Festival regarding the Houston County Farm Center and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe commented that they have spoken about this a couple of times and have put it off till this meeting as they have clarified a few things. He then asked for any questions and Commissioner Adams asked if the rates would be placed on the website and Chairman answered that they can be, but not necessarily. Chairman said that they would speak with IT on putting a page on the website for the Farm Center as we do not have one right now. He asked Mrs. Holland to make sure that happens along with the listing of the rates.

With no further questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Request to approve position for Grant Writer for Houston County

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the position of Grant Writer for Houston County. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Request to accept transferring of property in Cottonwood from the Houston County Board of Education

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request to accept transferring of property in Cottonwood from the Houston County Board of Education. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 5. Request to approve policy changes to the Road & Bridge Subdivision Regulations – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the policy changes and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe began by stating that he had received some conversations over the weekend from some of the homebuilder's expressing concerns and one commissioner reached out about the possibility of backing the regulation from 125 feet to 110 feet. In order to do this, a substitute motion would be needed to make a change to the policy from 125 feet to 110. At this time, County Attorney Pres Register came to the podium and began by stating that the changes needed for the road frontage, we would have to conduct another public hearing to approve what you have told everyone that you are doing. This would be his recommendation if you do not want to consider the proposed changes as provided then you need to go back to a public hearing and another meeting for approval. Mr. Register added that previously they had discussed a "sunset provision" or grandfathering sunset provision related to the road frontage exceptions. Again, the question would be what would be exempted or an exception to the current subdivision regulations which control road frontage, the curbing and guttering relating to developing a subdivision. Mr. Register said that the exception is found in Item 1-8-1 of the subdivision regulations that states that if you meet certain conditions of a existing county road being divided up, you would be allowed to continue forward with developing the properties without having to comply with the other requirements of subdivision regulations such as curving, guttering and all those things. He continued by saying that we have provided for the commission's approval the provision that would allow for people that have already, as of the acceptance of these regulations today, then any owner of property as today would be allowed 6 months to be in a "grandfathered" provision state which would be under the old provisions of road frontage of 60'. So if you owned property as of today, then within the next 6 months had that property that you owned today cut up into the necessary pieces, you would need to have this recorded in probate court and put on record that you are wanting to move your property into these parcels. Within those 6 months, it is eventually "sun-setted" going forward and you will under the current regulations. So, if someone owns property today

and then within 6 months deeded the property back to themselves, with those cut up parcels, then they would be allowed as much time as they would like to come back and actually develop the property. So, there is no requirement that the individual break ground, start putting in plans and that sort of things. It is just that they would need to know within a certain amount of time. Mr. Register stated that he spoke with Road & Bridge and this would be the easiest because it would be a very clear line if there is a deeded record as of today and if there is clear record in 6 months whether or not they have come back and simply deeded the property. In short, we are not asking them to come back and develop the property in a certain of time. Chairman Shoupe said that way we do not catch people off guard in what they had planned to do with their property.

Chairman Shoupe stated that by listening to Mr. Register, they are really two options; one is to approve the changes as presented today or they can entertain a substitute motion to table it. At this time, Commissioner Herring made a substitute motion that we table this motion at this time and Commissioner Ivey seconded. The substitute motion carried unanimously to table this item to a later date. At this time the motion to table this item was given by Commissioner Ivey and seconded by Commissioner Adams. The motion passed unanimously to table to a later date.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – closed roads: Womack, Broadway Ct. Road 95 N

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned