

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
May 11, 2026

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Tracy Adams, 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 May 11, 2026, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICKY HERRING

Chairman Shoupe stated that they have a special presentation this morning but they are awaiting one of the presenters at this time.

The invocation was given by Major Linda Payton from the Salvation Army, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Curtis Harvey.

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

At this time Chairman Shoupe said that we have a very special presentation and he called up Matt Parker and Coleton Cureton from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce to give the county some good news with their presentation.

Mr. Cureton began by saying that it is always great to start off the county commission meeting with some good news. He then asked the local delegation to come forward and continued saying that we are fortunate in this part of the state to have a great group at the state level. Mr. Cureton also asked County Engineer Barkley Kirkland to join them as well as he is a big part of what the Road & Bridge Dept. are doing with these projects. Mr. Cureton reported that they were able to work with the delegation to secure some funding to go back to creating jobs and capital investment in the community. The project that is taking place is Cencora and the investment that they are doing here in the community is creating 66 jobs and investing over 80 million dollars with much needed chemotherapy drugs, flu vaccines and others. It is something to be proud of. At this time, Mr. Cureton turned it over to Senator Donnie Chesteen and the other legislators for their comments.

Senator Donnie Chesteen began by saying that they always enjoy it when the county commission invites them to a meeting as they normally have money and that is what they have today. He stated that this is another opportunity to bring state dollars back to Dothan and the Wiregrass area for industrial access as Cencora is creating over 66 jobs and investing 80 million dollars in their company right here in Houston County and that is always good to celebrate. He continued by giving a look back over the last 4 years as they have had over \$307 million dollars invested in businesses here in the Wiregrass area. With this they have created over 900 good paying jobs, have been able to bring over \$45 million dollars in state grants which included industrial access and the Hudson-Alpha building, and these are what the delegation worked for to bring back to the area that they represent. Senator Chesteen thanked everyone for having them here this morning and then introduced Representative Steve Clouse to say a few words.

Representative Clouse began by saying that it is a great pleasure for this delegation to be here today. He continued by saying that with the Houston County Commission and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, they all work so good together and, unfortunately, this does not work that way in most parts of the state. Representative Clouse stated that is a pleasure for them to work with the Chamber and the County Commission. The check they are presenting today is just a few cents short of \$420,000 for an industrial access road to bring more businesses and jobs into the Wiregrass area. He thanked everyone for what they do.

At this time, Matt Parker, from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, came forward and said that before they do the official check presentation, he just wanted to make a few comments with the delegation, the city and the county commission teams that we have. He reported that over the last 4 years they have helped the Chamber address infrastructure issues in the market, road access issues, brought down \$2.9 million dollars to help upgrade Sam Houston Industrial Park, Geneva County Industrial Park, the Smart Lam Industrial area and now the Horace Shepherd park as well. With "Growing Alabama" there were a lot of infrastructure deficits out there and the delegation was a leader in creating the "Growing Alabama" tax credit program to acquire properties. They not only saw the deficits in this area but statewide and they have brought \$4.6 million dollars that are helping with the Houston County Distribution Park, Napier Field Industrial Park, Geneva County Industrial Park and Sam Houston Industrial Park. Mr. Parker stated there is a lot of great stuff happening thanks to the delegation and their leadership and support. Mr. Parker then thanked Houston County Engineer Barkley Kirkland and his staff for all they do and City of Dothan Engineer Tommy Wright and his team as well.

At this time, they did the official check presentation, and a round of applause was given.

Chairman Shoupe commented that any time we get money from the State of Alabama it is a good day and he can't thank our local legislative delegation enough as they work very well with

the county and each other and we take that for granted sometimes as it is highly unusual that they work together in other counties. Chairman Shoupe said that beneath all of that there is another group of people that they need to thank and that is the citizens that elect them in office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Today is the last meeting before the primary election and he encouraged everyone to vote as local elections are important. Commissioner Adams reminded everyone that the Farmer's Market opens this Saturday. The ribbon cutting will be held at 8:00 a.m.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “National Police Week”

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for National Police Week. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

At this time Commissioner Ivey stepped down to the podium and asked his deputies that were present to come forward. He stated that it is hard to get deputies here as they are sleeping or on duty. Commissioner Ivey then read the proclamation in its entirety and applause was given by all.

2. Proclamation – “National Salvation Army Week” – Major Linda Payton, Corps Officer, The Salvation Army

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the proclamation for National Salvation Army Week and Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Shoupe asked Major Payton to join him at the podium. He began by announcing that this is Major Payton's last time with us as she is retiring in June. Chairman then read the proclamation in its entirety and asked Major Payton for comments.

Major Payton began by saying that her main comment is “thank you”. Thank you to the community because it is you that helps your own community and the Salvation Army is just a conduit as people can donate and they give to those that need. She continued that they cannot do anything without the support of the community and the fact that they have been around since 1912 shows that this community supports its' own and they are very grateful to be part of that. Major Payton said that there are a lot of different non-profits in this community and they try to work together to help the most people the best they can, but it all comes down to those that want to help and the ones that are most in need in the community.

Major Payton said that yes this is her last chance here at the commission meeting. She stated that she has been with the Salvation Army for 40 years and she is retiring and do this as a volunteer instead of an employee. She blessed the commission and Houston County.

3. "Freedom Ignited" - Charles McKinely

Mr. McKinely was not present today, so Commissioner Ivey spoke on this event. He began by stating this event will be held on Saturday, May 16th, at the National Peanut Festival. There are a lot of events scheduled throughout the day which will include an escorted motorcycle ride from the Harley Davidson Shop to the Peanut Festival. They are expecting a large crowd, and fireworks will end the event. This begins at 10:00 a.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt Resolution for Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Program

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Resolution for the MWPP Program. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request for 020 Restaurant Retail Liquor License – Agave Azul located at 14750 W. U.S. Hwy 84, Ste. A, Newton, AL 36352

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the 020 Restaurant Retail Liquor License for Agave Azul located at 14750 W. US Hwy 84, Ste. A in Newton AL. and Commissioner Adams seconded. Commissioner Ivey commented that he is glad to see another restaurant come to the Wicksburg community. Chairman Shoupe asked if anyone was present to speak in opposition of this item and there was no one present. When called for the question and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve contract for architectural services for concession stand project at Cottonwood Sports Complex

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the contract for architectural services for concession stand project at Cottonwood Sports Complex. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$75,000 for Gordon Boat Landing Road Repair – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$75,000 for Gordon Boat Landing and Commissioner Adams seconded. Chairman Shoupe said this is a reimbursement for work already completed. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to sell 16 dump trucks and purchase 16 new dump trucks with no additional money requested as current fiscal year funds will be utilized and approve accompanying budget amendment – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to sell the 16 dump trucks and purchase 16 new dump trucks with no additional money requested as current fiscal year funds will be utilized and approve accompanying budget amendment. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Request to sell 32 chemical totes on GovDeals – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request to sell 32 chemical totes on GovDeals. Commissioner Ivey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – Closed Roads: County Road 9 and George Road

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned