

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
May 26, 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 May 26, 2026, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance. He acknowledged the beautiful guests at the meeting today as the Houston County Queens are in attendance.

The invocation was given by Pastor Daryl Wynne from New Beginning Ministries International 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 Adams. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe announced that EMA Director Powell will be speaking shortly on the recent weather we experienced and he will speak on the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan. He also expressed his appreciation to the officers, the Road & Bridge crews, and the volunteer fire and rescue units that were out during the recent storm helping in any capacity.

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Check Presentation to Wiregrass Hope Group – Commissioner James Ivey

At this time, Commissioner Ivey approached the podium for the check presentation and reminded everyone that the commission has a small amount of discretionary funds that they are able to contribute to a non-profit of their choice. Commissioner Ivey chose Wiregrass Hope Group. He reported that it is a free pregnancy center in Dothan that offers support, education and resources for individuals facing unplanned pregnancies. This would include free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and parenting classes. Commissioner Ivey then introduced Amy Grisham from the Wiregrass Hope Group organization and asked her for comments.

Ms. Grisham began thanking the commission for their support. She added that when she speaks to other groups across the country, they are amazed at the support that the local chapter here gets from the community. Ms. Grisham stated that they are a pregnancy center, but they do more than that. They offer services all the way up to the second year of the life of the child. She reported that their services include pregnancy testing, free ultrasound, helping moms that need help navigating services and assistance and they also offer parenting classes to both moms and dads. Amy stated that all these services are free due to generous donations to the center. She thanked the commission again and a round of applause was given by all.

2. Recognition – Houston County Queens

Chairman Shoupe stepped down to the podium to begin the introduction of all the beautiful Houston County Queens. He introduced each one individually and had a quick question and answer that included questions such as what is their favorite subject in school, any summer plans, their favorite food and their favorite teacher were some of the questions.

The Houston County Queens are as follows:

Future Little Miss Houston County	Ella Thomas
Little Miss Houston County	Marshall Reid
Young Jr. Miss Houston County	Ansley Seale
Junior Miss Houston County	Lucy Akos
Teen Miss Houston County	Anna Beth Bratcher
Miss Houston County	Sophia Contin

Chairman Shoupe thanked all the queens for attending today and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

3. Presentation – “2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update” – Mark Powell, EMA Director

Director Powell began by stating that he is here to speak about the 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. He continued by reporting that every five years EMA is required by FEMA to update this plan and this year it is contracted in a divisional plan, which includes ten counties in the southeast corner of Alabama. Mr. Powell added that the term “mitigation” means “the act of reducing or minimizing the severity impact or intensity of something harmful”. He stated that sometimes we cannot prevent things that happen, but they can mitigate those things. Mr. Powell reported that all this comes from the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 that requires that each local government prepare and adopt a multi-hazard mitigation plan. This plan must be adopted in order to be eligible for disaster recovery funds in the event of a natural disaster, and it must be obtained and updated every five years. Today you will find some displays with information on what the plan is, updates on our area and comment forms to include online surveys. He encouraged everyone to participate in these surveys.

Director Powell then spoke on last evening’s weather that was in our area. He stated that last night was a great example of how things are unexpected no matter how much you plan as things popped up quickly. Mr. Powell reported that we were under a special weather statement which is right under a severe thunderstorm warning as a special weather statement is not quite a severe warning, which they consider anything 58 mph wind gust, and they were predicting 40 mph gusts. After WDHN was hit by a tornado around 7 p.m., they contacted the Weather Service, and they issued the warning which alerted everyone. Mr. Powell said they went into action at the EMA office and the dispatchers did a wonderful job by setting off the sirens. He also said that this was an example of how these alerts apps help to get notifications to the public as preparing the community is the best way for prevention.

Chairman Shoupe thanked Mr. Powell for his comments this morning and said that one of his concerns he has is when they had the tornado recently that his Dothan Prep Academy and now this tornado and with absolutely no warning. Chairman Shoupe asked Mr. Powell to check into this and ask what is going on as these should have been warnings. Mr. Powell said they will follow up on this with the Weather Service.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt Resolution Consenting to and Supporting Brownfield Development Tax Abatement for SmartBank

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$42,738.00 for the expenditure and reimbursement from the City of Dothan for Fiber Optic Relocation Project – Stacey Holland, CAO

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$42,738.00 and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Shoupe stated that is an in and out of funds. With there being no further questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$75,000 for countywide water and sewer study.

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$15,700 for enhanced Pre-Trial Offender Monitoring – Tony Weber, Community Corrections Director

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the budget amendment for \$15,700 for enhanced Pre-Trial Offender Monitoring and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Shoupe added that this would be a net budget impact of \$700 in expenses and \$15,000 in additional income. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to place the following vehicles on GovDeals from Community Corrections
a. 2010 Ford Crown Victoria
b. 2011 Ford Fusion

Commissioner Herring made a motion to place the vehicles on GovDeals and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$48,715.99 for the purchase and installation of a generator for the Administration building utilizing Emergency Capital Replacement Funds – Tommy Dixon, Maintenance Manager

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Request to award bid for concrete drainage pipe to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the awarding of the bid for concrete drainage pipe to lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Request to approve final plat for Crooked Creek Development – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the final plat for Crooked Creek Development. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – Closed Roads: Hilltop Road and George Road. Finishing paving Avon and Broadway this week and starting Womack Road.

Commissioner Adams asked how much damage they had caused by the storm. Mr. Reeder said they had 3 calls last night with a large tree down on Hydraulic Rd. in Webb.

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned