

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

PRESENT: Chairman Brandon Shoupe, 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 October 13, 2026, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as most of the commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Herring, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Adams.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Shoupe began by announcing that he was able to see the rocket launch this morning while driving into Dothan and that was an awesome thing to see. He then stated that they would like to address the limb pick-up from the recent storm. In the past, the county has always picked up limbs/debris pick up at no charge. He asked citizens to put the limbs and debris on the right-of-way, not in the road, and do not mix other items with the limbs as the Road and Bridge department can only pick up limbs and debris from the storm. Chairman Shoupe added that it might be a little while before the crews can get to that as priority at this time is to get the roads open and the major things cleared out. As of this morning, all roads are open.

At this time, Engineer Kirkland reported that there is good chance that our area could be declared as a local emergency by FHWA & FEMA. In timing to pick up debris, they must give the citizens time to get the debris by the roadways. Also, the engineers will have to get estimates, and FEMA will have to come and look at the damage, and this takes time. He encouraged citizens to get their debris by the road so the authorities can get a good estimate of the damage. Mr. Kirkland also stated that contractors must clean up after themselves as the county cannot haul off the debris from contractors.

Commissioner Herring stated that the importance of this comes with the reimbursements that the county could see as it gets very expensive hauling debris from these types of storms. Engineer Kirkland reported if the county is declared, we could see 75% - 80% reimbursement of the cost of cleanup. Commissioner Ivey reiterated that this past weekend was definitely a busy weekend with the storm and he wanted to commend the Road & Bridge Dept. for all they did to get the roads cleared as soon as possible. In addition, he thanked all the volunteers with the local fire and EMS as they were helping and responding to calls and a thank you to the power companies that were working diligently to get the power back up and running as they worked as quickly as they could. Again, he thanked everyone that was involved as they had to leave their families to go out and protect everyone else. Chairman Shoupe thanked Commissioner Ivey for keeping the commission informed as he was at the EOC call center during this time. Commissioner Adams thanked everyone as well, especially all the volunteers.

At this time, Chairman Shoupe asked EMA Director Mark Powell to come and update everyone. He began by stating that Hurricane Isaias was as advertised, even though there were things that did not come to fruition to include the tornado threat. Rain calculated at 3 – 4 inches over a 12-hour period and the winds were the worst threat. He continued by giving a complete run down of the activities of the EOC as they began at 8:00 a.m. on Friday monitoring this storm. Mr. Powell reported that the storm landfall was near Destin, FL at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and they had 105 mph winds. In Houston County there were 40 mph sustained winds and 50-60 mph gusts, and this went on for 6-7 hours, which is the issue why there are so many downed trees.

Mr. Powell went on to say that he feels, personally, that they had the best communication and coordination they have ever had at the EOC as things went as good as he has ever seen it and all the players were stepping up and doing what they needed to do. The City and County communications included Debra from the City, Haley from County Communications, Will Kirkland, Tyler Reeder, and Barkley Kirkland from Road & Bridge, Chief Deputy Carlisle from the Sheriff's Office, amongst others. Mr. Powell said that he felt the support from all the various departments and he thanked the County IT Dept, as Ami and Bryan were present, as well as IT Director Del Hollis. He also stated that it helps to have everyone in one room so things can move rapidly with emergency issues. Mr. Powell reported on the requirements that must be met to receive assistance from FEMA, and the two areas are public assistance and individual assistance. Public assistance pertains to city, state and county government that would get reimbursed for debris cleanup, overtime, etc. Those numbers are twofold and it is per capita for every county and it's an overall number for the state. Both must happen before they get to the federal level. For Houston County the total is \$539,226, which must be met first. For the state, the total is \$10,098,800.79. Both must be met to receive public federal assistance. For the individual assistance, which this was dealt with during the Cottonwood tornado, the numbers have to be 25 uninsured homes or businesses affected, and it has to be a loss

of 40% of previous disaster value. He added that these assessments will take some time to gather.

Mr. Powell continued with other details and statistics about the storm in detail and the EMA's part with the recovery to include damage assessments which could take a few weeks to get to. Overall, Mr. Powell was extremely pleased with the joint efforts of all involved.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Request from the ACCA to approve the revised joint county bid for herbicides

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request from the ACCA (Alabama County Commission Association) to approve the revised joint county bid for herbicides. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### 2. Request to reject all bids related to Cottonwood ballpark concession stand project due to funding restrictions

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request to reject all bids related to Cottonwood ballpark concession stand project due to funding restrictions and Commissioner Ivey seconded. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Request to approve final plat for Martin Farms Subdivision – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Ivey made a motion to approve the final plat for Martin Farms Subdivision. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Request to add Houston County Rescue Squad appropriation in the amount of \$20,000.00 and approve accompanying budget amendment

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the request to add Houston County Rescue Squad appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 and approve accompanying budget amendment. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### 5. Request to approve \$1,750.00 payment of Genesse & Wyoming Application Fee to Northstar Engineering.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the \$1,750 payment of Genesse & Wyoming Application Fee to Northstar Engineering. Commissioner Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No report

County Engineer – 1 closed road; Liberty Road

County Attorney – No report

Adjourned