

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
October 13, 2020

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinuefield, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, County Attorney Pres Register and Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Harvey and Commissioner Sinuefield led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER

Chairman Culver reminded everyone to set their clocks back on November 1<sup>st</sup> and elections will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Farm City Week” – Randy Davis, Chairman, Farm City Week Committee

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Sinuefield read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Davis. Chairman Culver thanked the Farm City Committee Members that were in attendance and he stated that he was very sorry that the dinner is cancelled for this year due to COVID. He then called on Mr. Davis for comments. Mr. Davis thanked the commission for the proclamation and reported that the theme for this year is “Sweet Grown Alabama” and is a takeoff from the marketing promotion provided by the State Department of Agriculture. This provides an opportunity to promote Alabama grown products and it serves Alabama well. Mr. Davis stated that COVID has certainly changed the scenery and he has found some light in the darkness of this pandemic by the Farm City concept and everyone working together to keep our nation going. He also reported that Houston County

had two poster winners last year with those being Will and Sam Thornton and, for the second year in a row, the Service Award winner was Phillip Carter and Houston County also received a Special Events award from the state as well. Mr. Davis reported that the poster, essay, and video contest will still be going on and the annual awards will also continue. The awards presentation will be on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Dothan Opera House with the award winners and family members being present for that function. Chairman Culver commented that he was glad that some of the events will continue and he thanked Ms. Gloria Jeffcoat for her many years of service to Farm City.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Request from Home Oil Company to purchase property located at the corner of N. Oates and Powell Street

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the request from Home Oil Company and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver reported that the executed agreement is in place and included in the commission packages today. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Request to approve bid for crushed limestone to the lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the bid and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Chairman Culver asked for questions and comments and Mr. Bobby Bergeron approached the podium. Mr. Bergeron stated that he is the owner of Bergeron Materials, which submitted a bid for this project. He stated that the last two items listed were within the optional 5% “Buy Local” clause, which means they would give a local company a 5% advantage. Mr. Bergeron reported that he lives here, shops here, donates here, attends charity events and does everything here in the community. He stated that during COVID, everybody’s business is suffering, and he asked that if not now, the best chance to execute a 5% “Buy Local” clause then win. Mr. Bergeron mentioned that he would appreciate the business and they are the only local company that bid and he is not asking for all of it, but just two out of the five bid items. He reported that there was some question on whether they could supply this and he wanted the commission to know that they have done four or five different county supplies, I-10 projects, airport projects and that availability and delivery of the materials would not be an issue. Mr. Bergeron thanked the commission for their time and consideration on this. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Bergeron and stated that he is correct because the commission wants to support local vendors when possible and try to use them. He reported that the other vendor is considered a local vendor as well as the Attorney General’s office rule states that a

vendor qualifies as a local preference even if not maintain their principal office locally, by having a dully licensed business and their presence is not solely for the purpose of obtaining a preference. He added that this vendor has a location that is licensed in Houston County and they are considered a local business as well. Chairman Culver reiterated that Mr. Bergeron is correct with that being that the Commission does want to support and provide the advantage to local businesses whenever possible.

When called for the vote, the motion to approve the bid passed unanimously.

3. Request to sign supplemental agreement with ALDOT for last round of completed A-Trip projects – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Request to sell the following items on GovDeals: 2005 Dodge Pickup; 1999 Ford Pickup; Miscellaneous empty chemical containers

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to sell the items on GovDeals. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – Mr. Covert reminded the Commission that the county is now accepting quotes for the lease of the acreage located off State Line Road. He stated that this notification will go into the newspaper and hope to receive bids before November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Chairman Culver stated that this a yearly bid for the acreage at the industrial park. Chairman Culver noted that Mr. Covert is commended for his mask and bringing awareness to Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

County Engineer –Closed Roads: S. Park, Middleton, Gin, Gilmore, Gene Terry, Day, Coot Adams, Cecil Varnum, and Zachary. Engineer Kirkland stated they are still finding damage from the recent storm and FEMA is scheduled to be here in two weeks.

County Attorney – No report

Commissioner Shoupe asked Engineer Kirkland that since these road projects will be FEMA projects, the question is how long will Gilmore Road be closed. Engineer Kirkland stated that Gilmore is very similar to Atkinson Road, which contained deep and big pipes and Gilmore Road is the largest project going on and it will be closed for a while. Engineer Kirkland reported that they had put more dirt out since people were going around the barricade and the dirt pile.

Chairman Culver reported that a motion was needed at this time to recess this meeting until Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m., at which time he hopes to be able to award a bid. The bids were opened on the radio system and the deadline to award is October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to recess and reconvene on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and Commissioner seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to reconvene the recessed meeting of October 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinuefield, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, and Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert were in attendance.

Chairman Culver stated that the only item on the agenda is a request from the Sheriff's Dept. to award bid for radio project to the lowest bidder meeting specs. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to award the bid and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded. Chairman Culver asked for comments and questions and stated that this is a big day as this has been in the works for quite a while and the commission is looking forward to awarding this bid and moving forward and implementing the project. Chairman Culver publically thanked Mr. Covert, Major Bill Rafferty, particularly, and the Sheriff's Department for working on this difficult project. Commissioner Shoupe asked about the timeline before this is operational. Major Rafferty stated that it could be anywhere from six to nine months when this will be up and running. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.