

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
January 25, 2021

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

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the January 25th, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance. He also welcomed everyone that was watching the meeting via ZOOM.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Shoupe and Commissioner Herring led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver began by stating that with unanimous consent, there is a request from counsel that the commission add item #6 to the agenda and that would be a request to approve a lease with Dothan Pediatrics for the use of the Farm Center starting today and to continue for about eight weeks. There were no objections so that item will be added as #6.

Chairman Culver reported that former County Commissioner Terry Branton had passed away last Thursday. Commissioner Branton served in District 3 beginning in 1986 and served his community well. After leaving office, he continued to work in the community in different capacities. Chairman Culver sent sympathies to his family and friends and thanked him and his family for the time he spent serving the county years ago and that it was an honor to serve with him. Chairman Culver also mentioned Kenny Givens had passed away. Mr. Givens served the county in being instrumental in starting and working with the volunteer rescue and fire groups in Houston County to include the local volunteer firefighters association and the Houston County Rescue Squad. Chairman Culver stated that Mr. Givens was a very "service above self" individual that did a lot of good for others and his leadership in the volunteer fire and rescue would not be what it is today without him. On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Culver sends condolences to his family and friends.

Commissioner Sinquefield thanked Wallace Community College and what they are doing with their “Women in Welding” program and WRC&D for their contribution of grant money for the program. Chairman Culver added that Wallace College does a great job for our community and that they are a tremendous partner in our economic development efforts and they are appreciated.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to award ACCA Joint County Bid for Rubber Tire Roller

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver announced that Houston County is the awarding authority for the state of Alabama for the county joint bids and the bidder that won this particular bid is no longer a dealer for this particular piece of equipment so it is going to the next available lowest bidder. With no further comments or questions, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to authorize finance agreement for budgeted item at Road & Bridge – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to authorize finance agreement for budgeted item at Road & Bridge. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to award bid for (2) 2021 Chassis Crew Cab to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the bid for (2) 2021 Chassis Crew Cab trucks and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to award bid for Herbicide to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to award bid for herbicide and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to approve bid for signs, sign materials and sign faces to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve lease with Dothan Pediatrics for use of Farm Center for approximately 8 weeks

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the lease with Dothan Pediatrics for use of the Farm Center and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Chairman Culver stated that Dothan Pediatrics has obtained quite a few vaccines and are providing vaccines at the Farm Center beginning today. The clinic will be administering vaccines to those 75 years and older through a coordinated appointment system. He continued by saying that these are being done in the large metal building beginning at 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for at least the next five or six weeks. Chairman Culver reported that this is a coordinated effort through the City of Dothan, Dothan Pediatrics and Houston County. Traffic is to enter on the Cottonwood Road side of the Farm Center and there is assistance there to help those that need assistance with getting inside the building. He added that Chris Judah has been involved with this to ensure all protocols are being observed. Chairman Culver added that getting the vaccine out to the public has been an issue in the state and the commission will do all they can do to help in getting vaccines out to the community. Commissioner Siquefield stated that he was at the facility this morning and he was very impressed with the organization of the clinic and he thanked Dothan Pediatric Clinic for them providing the vaccine shots to those 75 years and older and working with local churches in facilitating this event along with Phyllis Helms and the staff of Dothan Pediatric Clinic for making all this possible. Chairman Culver stated that we need to do everything possible to get the vaccine out there to the public as soon as possible.

Commissioner Harvey added that people need to understand that the vaccine is not a cure and all precautionary measures still need to be taken. Chairman Culver reiterated that everyone needs to continue to wear masks and social distance after they receive the vaccine and limit their exposure to crowds and continue to sanitize. With no further questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – Mr. Covert commented that he would like to publically thank two individuals in the county that through their diligent efforts and conscientious monitoring, they have saved the county over one and a quarter million dollars. He stated that these two individuals have been working on making sure that the county is not overcharged for medical claims for inmates that are treated at local facilities or clinics. These individuals are Jason Smoak, Jail Clinic Director, and Stephanie Chandler, Asst. Chief Administrative Officer. Chairman Culver mentioned that over a year ago Commissioner Siquefield had an interest in getting all billings in place and the efforts of the employees to oversee this have really saved the county.

County Engineer – County Engineer Kirkland introduced Tyler Reeder, who is the new County Asst. Engineer, taking the place of Brittney Clayton. He added that there are 6 closed roads to include Pleasant Grove, S. Park, Middleton, Cecil Varnum, Coot Adams and Gilmore.

County Attorney – No Report

Commissioner Sinquefield asked if Pleasant Grove is a rebuild Alabama road for resurfacing and Engineer Kirkland stated that it is and there are 11 cross drains on that road that have to be replaced. Chairman Culver asked about S. Park as he has had several calls about that road and he wanted to publically say that it would be about 2 – 3 more weeks on this road. Engineer Kirkland stated that the pipes are in and the head walls are built and now they will bring in the dirt and pave.

Chairman Culver reported that he did not have any comments from the public and they continue to put the agenda and the Zoom link on Facebook and the County website for all to see. He encourages the public to send in questions and comments for the commission.

Meeting adjourned