

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 22, 2021

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, 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 March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Curtis Harvey and Commissioner Ricky Herring led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver mentioned the closed intersection at Taylor Road and Campbellton Hwy. He added that so far things are going well and the intersection will be closed for approximately six months and everyone is encouraged to follow the detour or find an alternate route. Chairman Culver also asked everyone to visit our local restaurants but most importantly to find your way to Hunt's Restaurant even though the intersection is closed there are other ways to get there.

Chairman Culver announced that if any residents were impacted by the tornado last week, storm debris will be picked up beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> at no charge if it was storm debris. The area that is being looked at is the Bay Springs Community between Hwy. 9 and the Dothan City Limits and then also in the town of Kinsey and west of Hwy. 431. He urged everyone to have the limbs by the road by April 1<sup>st</sup> as that is the day they will begin to pick up. If the limbs are not by the road when pick up begins, there will be a charge to come and pick them up afterwards. This is customary procedure after a storm comes through the area. Commissioner Shoupe mentioned that he has had a few calls concerning the debris and clean up so he is glad this will commence.

Commissioner Siquefield asked if the debris had to be separated from wood, metal, etc. and Engineer Kirkland answered that it is best if they try to separate the items as best as they can.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that there are five Monday's in the month of March so the next meeting will be held in three weeks on April 8<sup>th</sup> for the Administrative Meeting.

Commissioner Siquefield announced that Wiregrass RC & D has partnered with Landmark Park and they have started a veteran's garden project which is a community project for the local veterans. This is

open to all veterans that would like to participate in planting items they are welcome to come to Landmark Park as staff will be on hand to assist them.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Request to concur in amended Administration Building Policies

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve and Commissioner Siquefield seconded. Chairman Culver began by stating that the policies had to be amended during COVID over the last year. Both policies are in relation to access to the building, as it relates to the meeting procedures and other areas. He stated that the Personnel Director has done an excellent job in working with the department heads and employees in coming up with procedures to protect the employees but also protect the public that enters the building. He added that now that we are getting to a point that the governor appears to relaxing the Stay-A-Home Order, an amended policy has been drawn up. Chairman Culver stated that the main changes in the policy is that effective on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the use of mask will be optional but everyone will be encouraged to continue to use masks and social distancing will continue as well, along with checking temperatures at the door upon entrance. He also stated that infants will now be allowed into the building with their parents who are conducting county business as previously only one person was allowed. Chairman Culver continued by encouraging everyone to transact their county business online, through the mail system, and utilize the drop box located outside the building as this would minimize the number of people inside the building. The commission is still concerned with COVID as it is not going away and they want to continue to protect the public and the employees and the best way to do that is to not interface with everyone. The other issue he mentioned is the new meeting procedures that, beginning with the April meetings, will be opened back up to the public but will continue to social distance and spread people out in the room and masks will be optional. Public comments will begin to be allowed at the Administrative Meeting following the new procedures that were discussed at last Thursday's meeting. Those being that a form will need to be submitted before noon on the Wednesday prior to the Thursday meeting date and there are certain requirements to be met such as the Privileges of the Floor Form. Chairman Culver stated that it is good to get back to a position where the meetings are a little more open and allow the public to be able to come and not just have the ZOOM available. ZOOM will continue for those that wish to stay at home and we will continue to take comments from that as well even though we have only had one comment during the last year while utilizing ZOOM. Comments can also be sent through email if needed. Chairman Culver reiterated that beginning in April that the closer-to-normal procedures will commence and all this is pending if there is anything different from the Governors' orders that we have not heard of at this point. Commissioner Siquefield commented that the Chairman has covered this well and he wanted to mention that if an individual would like to come to the meetings to please come and observe and listen as it is an open meeting and they do not have to sign a form if they just want to come and listen.

Chairman Culver clarified that if anyone wants to come and speak on an agenda item, a form is not required. The form is strictly for the privileges of the floor on Thursday meetings but no form is required to speak on an agenda item either at the Thursday meeting or the Monday meeting. Everyone is welcome to come and attend meetings.

When called for the question and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to re-appoint Velma Tribue to the Dothan-Houston County Intellectual Disabilities Board

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to re-appoint Velma Tribue and Commissioner Harvey seconded. When called for the question, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to adopt a resolution applying for CARES Act CDBG COVID-19 Grant

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Resolution and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded.

Chairman Culver stated that Emily VanScyoc discussed this at Thursday's meeting and Rachel Armstrong is in attendance today to answer any questions. He reported that this is in essence of a \$400,000 grant for the county and they have met with the mayors of the community, have held a public hearing and the two items that are being considered is, one, a medical vehicle in partnership with the Houston County Health Dept. to manage and operate the vehicle, so that vaccines can be taken out to the community to those that cannot get to the clinics. This would include senior centers, housing communities and other areas so that as many people as possible can be vaccinated. The Health Dept. is working very close with the county and they are actually purchasing two new vehicles to serve the rest of their region as they serve ten counties. Chairman Culver mentioned that this vehicle can also be used for testing, flu clinics, health clinics, and a lot of other different things pertaining to the health of our citizens. The vehicle is part of the grant and the rest of the money will be used to construct a building to house COVID supplies along with the housing of the vehicle. This will be located on Columbia Hwy. between the volunteer fire building and the road and bridge building and will be approximately 4,000 square feet. He continued by stating that the next item on the agenda is asking for the county to cover any overage that may be encountered but there may also be other monies available that the county can qualify for.

When called for the question and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt a resolution committing funding for any overage expense of CDBG Grant Project

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Resolution and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Chairman Culver stated that this resolution is to cover any overages. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to adopt a resolution to amend the Certificate of Incorporation of the Houston County Water Authority – Russell Parrish, Attorney At Law

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the request to adopt a resolution to amend the Certificate of Incorporation of the Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver stated that each commissioner received the actual resolution on Friday morning and it is in their package with accompanying documents. He stated

that what is legally being done is adopting a resolution stating that the statements in their application are true. County Attorney Pres Register has reviewed the documents and he verified that the statements are in fact true. When called for the question and vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request for a 30' wide electrical easement for Wiregrass Electric Cooperative on property owned by Houston County Commission – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver reported that this is to run lighting out on county property located on Pea Market Road where the shooting range is located for the Sheriff's Dept. This will give them lighting to expand the use of the shooting range. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to award in-place ReflectORIZED Thermoplastic Pavement Marking Material bid to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to award the bid and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Request to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for reimbursement of construction costs on Ben Ivey Road for repairs made to damages incurred by Hurricane Sally – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the agreement and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for reimbursement of construction costs on County Road 95 for repairs made to damages incurred by Hurricane Sally – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Request to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for reimbursement of construction costs on County Road 22 for repairs made to damages incurred by Hurricane Sally – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11. Request to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for reimbursement of construction costs on S. Park Ave. (site #1) for repairs made to damages incurred by Hurricane Sally – Road & Bridge

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

12. Request to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for reimbursement of construction costs on S. Park Ave. (site #2) for repairs made to damages incurred by Hurricane Sally – Road & Bridge

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

13. Request to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for reimbursement of construction costs on S. Park Ave. (site #3) for repairs made to damages incurred by Hurricane Sally – Road & Bridge

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

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – 6 closed roads: Middleton, Omussee, Third Ave., Cecil Varnum, Gilmore and intersection of Taylor and Campbellton. Engineer Kirkland stated that debris clean up in the city limits will be picked up by the City and Houston County Sanitation customers will be picked up the county.

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.