

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
April 27, 2021

PRESENT: Acting Chairman 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.

Acting Chairman Curtis Harvey welcomed everyone to the April 27, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: Chairman Mark Culver

The invocation was given by Pastor Vann Cooley and Commissioner Brandon Shoupe led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Siquefield began by reporting on the recent storm/tornado that came through the Ashford area on Saturday. He wanted to thank the first responders, citizens, electrical workers, road and bridge department and the EMA for working diligently in getting the limbs off the roadways and the power restored. He added that all the entities played an important part in keeping everyone going Saturday and Sunday.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Small Business Week” – Hayden Camp, Director of Membership, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Siquefield seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Herring read the proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Hayden Camp. She commented that since 1963 the US Small Business Association has set aside one week to honor the accomplishments of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, innovators and small business advocates. She added that the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Houston County, has declared May 10 – 14 as Small Business Week. Mrs. Camp added that according to recent data from the US Small Business Administration, Alabama’s small businesses employed over 800,000 people or 47.5% of the private workforce and the small businesses in Houston County cover almost half of the local business market. The Chamber recognizes that it is the effort of small business that has contributed to the

economic success of this area and they are proud to be a 102 year member of this community and serve the members of Houston County and the surrounding areas with 84% of the membership being small businesses. Mrs. Camp stated that last year was not easy on small businesses around the country and this community was no exception as many small businesses temporarily closed as many large businesses were deemed essential. However, the local business community rallied to figure out ways to stay open and thrive during so much negativity as they changed their ways of operation and succeeded and that it is the Chamber's job to look ahead and prepare business and advocate for their best interest. Mrs. Camp reported that the Chamber has a packed week of activities during Small Business Week to include a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of a local food truck, honoring the Small Business of the Year Honoree, celebrating Wiregrass Women in business, learning to become better leaders, networking over coffee and ending with a ribbon cutting to be held downtown Dothan. She invited everyone to join them as they celebrate the men, women, family and friends that make up the small businesses in the area.

Acting Chairman Curtis Harvey then stated that there was one item that has been asked to be added to the agenda, with unanimous consent of the Commission. This is a request from TCBC Development Company for a Special Retail License for Celebrity Station at the Crossing at Big Creek located at 307 Crossing Parkway, Cottonwood, AL. With unanimous consent, this item will be added as #6 to this agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to award ACCA Joint County Supplemental Metal Pipe Bid

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to award the ACCA Joint County Bid and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve emergency expenditure from the Capital Replacement Fund for repairs at Road & Bridge Shop – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Mgr.

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

3. Request to award bid to replace a tray washer and exit table at the jail to lowest bidder meeting specs – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Mgr.

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

4. Request to enter into an Agreement with Poly, Inc., for design of fiber loop to serve Houston County Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Agreement and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Commissioner Shoupe commented that he wanted to reiterate that he would like the County IT Department involved in this as well. When called for the vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to enter into an Agreement with Northstar Engineering to produce plans and estimate for TAP Grant Application

Commissioner Sinquefield made the motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with Northstar. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Request for 160 Special Retail License – TCBC Development Company, Inc., d/b/a Celebrity Station at The Crossing at Big Creek, located at 307 Crossing Parkway, Cottonwood, AL 36320

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the 160 Special Retail License. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Closed roads; Cecil Varnum, Gilmore and intersection of Taylor and Campbellton. Also, Macedonia Church Road received damage during the storm and is still closed. Engineer Barkley reported that the recent storm affected the east side of the county by County Road 95, Hunter Road, Cedar Springs Road, County Road 33 and Nuclear Plant Road. The R & B Dept. will be picking up debris from the storm and he urged citizens to put the debris by the road. He also stated that other parts of the county may have had some extensive limb damage and if citizens will put the debris by the road and call the R & B Dept., they will come out and look at it and determine if it is considered storm limb debris. If it is, they will pick it up as well. The only area that will be picked up for free is in the stated area on the east side of the county. Acting Chairman Harvey added that we cannot have a blanket pick-up covering the entire county because people take advantage of every situation and in the past we have had whole barns torn down, people cutting down personal trees and the county is in the business of taking care of the county and people being honest of real tornado/hurricane damage. Commissioner Shoupe asked Engineer Kirkland what is considered legitimate storm damage. Engineer Kirkland stated that big trees and/or limbs from straight line winds. Hedge bushes, grass clippings and small limbs are not considered storm damage. Commissioner Shoupe also commented that the R & B Dept. are behind on projects so patience needs to be warranted and if citizens can burn their debris, this would be preferred. Engineer Kirkland agreed that they are behind and staffing is a problem at this time so this could take months to get everything picked up.

County Attorney – No Report

Jokingly, Acting Chairman Harvey thanked everyone for attending this morning and noted that we are missing our Chairman today as he and Nick Saban are together today and that Chairman Culver has converted to a full Roll Tide Fan and we praise God for this. (laughter)

Meeting adjourned.