

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
July 12, 2021

PRESENT: Chairman Mark 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 called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the July 12, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance

The invocation was given by Pastor Lyle Peluso of Vineyard Church and Commissioner Harvey led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver announced that this coming weekend is the “Back to School Tax Holiday” which begins at 12:00 a.m. on Friday and goes through Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. This includes all school supplies, clothing, shoes, some electronics and other school related items.. These are all tax free, in both state, county and city, and a list of items can be found on the internet.

#### AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

##### 1. Recognition – Ashford 8U State Champions

Chairman Culver reported that the Ashford 8U State Champions were not able to attend but Commissioner Siquefield will make comments regarding the team. Commissioner Siquefield began by stating how proud everyone is of these young boys and that they would have loved to be in attendance today but many are on vacation and some parents are working and could not attend. He hopes they can come as soon as the World Series is over. Commissioner Siquefield added that these young boys have shown courage and continue playing baseball like they have and they have never lost a game so they are now headed to Laurel, Mississippi to play in the World Series. In addition, Commissioner Siquefield congratulated the Cottonwood 12U team as they were runner-up in the district playoff recently and they did a great job.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve the 2020 insolvents, errors and taxes in litigation and uncollected insolvents and litigations for previous years for final settlement with the State of Alabama – Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver stated that this item is approved annually at the request of the state. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to sell the following items on GovDeals:

Revenue Dept: (2) File Cabinets, (3) Chairs and (1) Desk

Road & Bridge: (2) Ford F-150 Pickup trucks and (3) Chevrolet Pickup trucks

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

3. Request to approve pass through grant 9LLET from Homeland Security and accompanying budget amendment – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the pass through grant and Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated that it had been determined on Thursday that this item is strictly an administrative item that was in last year's budget and did not get funded and distributed in last year's budget and was moved forward to the current budget. With no further discussion or questions, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to establish county levies for new ABC license types

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to establish county levies for new ABC license types and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded. Chairman Culver stated that the commissioners have in the package what the license types and amounts are and the county basically went by the State License amounts and also a couple of other counties went by these amounts. He added that for explanation purposes the state created some new licenses, as the industry has changed, in the last legislative session and these licenses have state fees for them and the commission had a deadline to approve the county fees. Chairman Culver reported that there were a couple of the license fees that we, and some other counties, at the suggestion of the association (ACCA), chose not to assess fees for and that include the Wine Festival License and the In-State Winery Off-Site Tasting Permit.

Chairman acknowledged a citizen that raised their hand. He approached the podium and stated his name as Jerry Charles Dillard, long time Houston County tax payer. He asked for the amount of the fees and Chairman Culver read them as follows:

Wine Festival Participant License	\$15
Direct Wine Shipper License	\$150
Wine Fulfillment Center License	\$500
Additional Wine Fulfillment Center License	\$100
Delivery Service License	\$250

Chairman Culver added that this is an annual fee and all of the fees are the exact same amount as the state other than the Direct Wine Shipper License is \$50 less than the state. Mr. Dillard asked if they had any idea of how much annual revenue that would bring to the county and Chairman Culver answered that they had no idea as this is a brand new license.

After calling for the question and any additional comments, the motion carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Closed roads; intersection of Taylor & Campbellton, Pleasant Grove and Randall Wade

County Attorney – No Report

Chairman Culver asked Engineer Kirkland about the roundabout at Taylor & Campbellton and if it was still ahead of schedule and will it be done by end of August. Engineer Kirkland replied that they should be finished by the end of August or before if the rain holds off. Chairman Culver added that they appreciated all the work from the county staff, the state and the city and everyone involved as that project is way ahead of schedule.

Commissioner Sinquefield commented that there was a great article this morning in the Dothan Eagle about liter and trash in the state and he encouraged everyone to read it as there certainly is a problem and he would appreciate more people taking a little more pride and respect in keeping the county and the community clean. Commissioner Sinquefield added that the article talks about where we are and they do see some reduction as much as 50% in the state but they are actually seeing more of a reduction out in the rural area and in the streets, streams and waters. He stated that this is a growing problem and he wants people to come into Houston County to take pride in our county and keep liter under control. Commissioner Sinquefield praised the County Sanitation Dept. as they do a great job but at times they get overwhelmed with liter pickup and so many problems with items left out on the right-of-way. He stated that the county roads are not trash bins and people should take pride in the county and he mentioned again that the article is a great article and it states the fines for littering.

Chairman Culver also mentioned that over the weekend he had a friend that passed away due to complications of COVID and stated that COVID has not gone away and it is making somewhat of a comeback and he encouraged everyone to monitor what they are doing and not be too complacent and let this virus cause things to go back to where they were. He added that cases are increasing and he asked for everyone to continue to use hand sanitizer and, when appropriate, wear the mask and do the things you feel comfortable doing in your own personal life because the virus has not gone away and he knows a lot of people that currently have the disease. He asks everyone, as a community, to keep it in mind and not just think that the virus is gone as it is still out there and growing.

Meeting adjourned.