

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
August 23rd, 2021

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Asst. County Engineer Tyler Reeder, Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert and County Attorney Pres Register.

Acting Chairman Harvey called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the August 23rd, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session. He declared a quorum as a majority was in attendance.

ABSENT: Chairman Mark Culver & Commissioner Doug Siquefield

The invocation was given by Pastor Chase Faulk from Ridgecrest Baptist Church and Commissioner Shoupe led in the pledge of allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Shoupe mentioned the sudden passing of Mr. Hugh Wheelless. He stated that he was a great person and was known by a lot of people in the community. He added that he was a great business man and was very well respected and his passing came as a shock to a lot of people and that is hard to fathom that he is actually gone. Commissioner Shoupe said that he had spoken with Mr. Wheelless wife on Thursday and things were going better but then all of a sudden, they made a turn for the worse. He asked everyone to pray for his family, his wife and that they get through the next few days. Commissioner Shoupe said that he will be sorely missed by not only his family but the entire community.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to reappoint Mr. Hayne Hollis to the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority on behalf of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to reappoint Mr. Hayne Hollis to the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority on behalf of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Request to approve budget amendment for ADECA grant revenue and expenditure for a Mobile Health Unit – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. CAO Peter Covert pointed out to the commission that as a result of the governor's proclamation, where she referenced to Alabama Code 41-16-53 and the State of Emergency that the proclamation covers, he wanted to let the commission know that if they so determined, that Alabama Code 41-16-51(a) applies such that this purchase of products relating to or having an impact upon, security plans, procedures, assessments, measures, or systems, or the security or safety of person, structures, facilities, or infrastructures, then they are able to make this acquisition of the mobile health unit for the citizens of Houston County without the full requirement of a competitive bid. Mr. Covert added that this has been from the advice of counsel and he wanted to make the commission aware of that when they are making such a determination. At this time County Attorney Pres Register approached the podium and stated that he wanted to reiterate what Mr. Covert said and that before the commission is a motion and they, as a commission, will have to make a determination that the exception that was just read exist for this purchase as the health and safety of citizens are at stake and since that's the case, the bid law does not technically apply to this purchase so can go and purchase the item. Acting Chairman Harvey said because of this they do not need to have a competitive bid. Commissioner Shoupe asked if the motion needed to be amended and Mr. Register answered no amendment to the motion, but that they just wanted to make sure that it is on the minutes and that that was the procedure we are following. With no further questions or discussion, the motion was approved unanimously as read.

3. Request to sell miscellaneous office equipment on GovDeals from the Revenue Dept. & Appraisal Dept. – Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to sell the miscellaneous office equipment on GovDeals and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to award ACCA Joint County Bids

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to award the ACCA Joint County Bids. Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve Rebuild Alabama FY 2022 County Transportation Plan – Road & Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the Rebuild Alabama FY 2022 County Transportation Plan and Commissioner Herring seconded.

At this time Acting County Engineer Tyler Reeder approached the podium for a presentation. He began by stating that this is the 2022 County Transportation Plan and this is the same plan that they have had on the three year bond that was implemented in 2020 and this will carry them through that bond. The five roads in this plan will be completed by the end of next year and this is a requirement by law to adopt this plan and this is part of the process. Mr. Reeder stated that they have started on a couple of the roads already. Mr. Shoupe asked if they are doing cross drains and Mr. Reeder answered that actually Coot Adams and Hopkins Road already had leveling put on them and the final surface is not on yet as that is a different contractor they are using. He stated that cross drains are being worked on Randall Wade and they started on County Rd. 8 this morning as they have 27 cross drains on County Rd. 8 to replace and 17 on County Rd. 75. Mr. Reeder said they have a lot of worked ahead of them but they hope to get it done as fast as possible. With no further discussion or questions, the motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Closed Roads Wallace Buie, Randall Wade, Ed Tolar Rd., County Rd. 8, Pleasant Grove Rd. (and they should start paving this week) and Hicks Road

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.