

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JUNE 13, 2011

Present: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, Acting County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Chairman Culver reported the invocation today was very special in that it was going to be led by Rev. Curtis Harvey, Sr., father of Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Jr. Prior to giving the invocation, Rev. Harvey stated when he sees the commission on television, he does not see democrats or republicans, but commissioners representing Houston County. He reported they do an excellent job of working together and his prayer is that the spirit will always be with them and that they will always represent Houston County to the best of their ability for all citizens. Rev. Harvey then gave the invocation. Commissioner Phil Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported he and Commissioner Doug Siquefield attended Ashford's 120<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, and he congratulated them on moving onward and upward. He pointed out they read a Resolution where they were incorporated and it was signed by the Henry County Probate Judge because there was no Houston County at that time. The chairman reported the City of Ashford is older than Houston County.

Chairman Culver reported the commission would begin the budget process after the commission meeting with their first budget hearing related to capital and manpower. He stated that process would take them from now until the first meeting in September when they hoped to have the budget ready to be adopted.

### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County Department of Human Resources

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, Houston County Department of Human Resources, and her guests to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring June 15<sup>th</sup> as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day." Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Paulk. He thanked Mrs. Paulk for bringing this matter to the commission, and stated he hoped they could create some awareness of this issue. He reported the public does not hear as much about elder abuse as they do about child abuse, but it is just as traumatic, and the public needs to hear more about it. Mrs. Paulk thanked the commission for their support of the various programs in her department. She introduced Ms. Michelle Watford, a caseworker, Ms. Summers Bell, Supervisor, Adult Services Unit, and Ms. Julie Lindsey, Program Supervisor. Mrs. Paulk reported they are very active and committed to elder abuse. She said it is unfortunate that people who have contributed so much to society and led the way for many sometimes find themselves in situations where they are not taken care of very well, where someone abuses them and takes advantage of them. Mrs. Paulk requested if someone runs into a situation, to please call their department and they will go out and investigate, and make an assessment. She stated it is very important that those who have led the way for so many be protected. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Paulk and her staff.

### Consent Agenda

1. Appointment to the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership – Mrs. Ashton Ott.

2. Appointments to The Cooperative District of Houston County.
3. Appointments to The Improvement District of Houston County.
4. Request to award bids on seed and MC70 Prime.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Appointment of Mrs. Ashton Ott to the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, the appointment of Tim Hawkins, Rochester Johnson, Jr., and Molly Dulac to The Cooperative District of Houston County, and the appointment of Dr. Henry Barnard, Chase Givens, and Alan Clark to The Improvement District of Houston County, and to award bids for seed to Kelly Ag, low bidder meeting specs, in each category, and MC-70 Prime to Hunt Refining Company, the only bidder, at \$3.5586 per gallon. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution approving the Houston County Commission Redistricting Plan and authorize its submission to the Department of Justice for preclearance.

Chairman Culver reported he had just been advised by Attorney Sherrer there is a small issue with publishing this in the newspaper and he asked for it to be tabled until that issue is corrected. Commissioner Battles made a motion to table this item as requested. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. The chairman reported the reason for tabling has nothing to do with the plans or the lines. He pointed out the public hearing was last Thursday and there were no negative comments. He stated it is a very simple plan that he felt was being received well. He thanked the commission for their work on the plan.

2. Request from Probate Judge for HAVA Grant Funds to improve polling facilities.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request for HAVA Grant Funds to improve polling facilities. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is for computer notebooks to be used in the polling places in the amount of \$5,649.03. Chairman Culver reported this grant is 100% where the county buys, and they are reimbursed. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to submit an Energy Efficient and Conservative Block Grant request to ADECA.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to submit an Energy Efficient and Conservative Block Grant request to ADECA. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman reported the grant is in the amount of \$300,000.00. He stated if the county can get the grant, it would be a tremendous help from an energy prospective as well as the budget because there are some units that will have to be replaced and it will be good if the county can use it to improve its efficiency. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for the Houston County Distribution Center.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for the Houston County Distribution Center. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a required report. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request from County Buildings for monies for lighting at the Houston County Health Department and the Department of Human Resources.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request for grant monies for lighting at the Houston County Health Department and the Department of Human Resources. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman reported this is some of the energy efficiency that is available that the county got and it was used for lighting. He pointed out the county is expanding the amount. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to amend Sanitation Collection Policy.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve amending Policy #41 - Sanitation Collection Policy as follows:

**Change first line of "Containers" section:**

**Current: " All household garbage shall be placed in heavy-duty plastic bags or containers which"**

**Proposed: "All household garbage shall be placed in heavy-duty plastic bags and containers which"**

Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported he had received a couple of calls about the change. He stated one of the calls was questioning the enforcement of the amended policy. Chairman Culver reported normally, if someone does not abide by the policy, they do not pickup their garbage. Mr. Kirkland stated they place hangers on them and tell them the can is too heavy or whatever the problem might be, and they can call in. The chairman reported the county has regulations, and if they are not met, it is taken care of by notification. He stated the other question was if the county is going to require everyone to have a can, would the county provide the can, and could the county not go to the automated service that provides the cans? Chairman Culver reported when the city went to the automated service, the county did a cursory look at that type of collection, and it would not be feasible for the county due to primarily, the cost. Mr. Barkley Kirkland reported one of the main reasons is out in the county there may be long stretches of road that have 2 or 3 people who live on the road and the one-armed trucks have to go down one side and come back up the other. He stated there would be a tremendous amount of time and cost to run a truck down a road to pick up 2 or 3 cans. Mr. Kirkland reported the cost of the cans for the one-armed trucks would cost approximately \$500,000 - \$600,000. He stated it did not seem cost effective for the county. Chairman Culver reported he would think the county would give some kind of notice of this change to the customers. It was pointed out a notice could be posted on the bills. The chairman suggested that the policy as adopted be made effective immediately but the enforcement of the policy be made effective on August 1, 2011. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request from the Houston County Water Authority for two loads of dirt to dress up work areas at the well site.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Houston County Water Authority's request for two loads of dirt to dress up work areas at the well site. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is on the Water Authority's property. He asked Acting Engineer Kirkland to coordinate with them when they need the dirt? The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported as previously mentioned, the budget hearing on capital and manpower would be held at 11:00 A.M that day in the sixth floor Conference Room. He pointed out this has the biggest impact on the budget.

County Engineer

Acting County Engineer Kirkland reported since some rain had been received to cool down the pavement at the Ardilla Intersection they were going to start dressing up the intersection, and they hope to have the project completed next week. Mr. Battles stated the county was doing a good job, and he was starting to hear good comments on the project.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Harvey reported he would like to acknowledge his father. He stated he just recently retired after 32 years at the same church. Rev. Harvey received a round of applause.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.