

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 14, 2011

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Patrick Jones, Acting County Attorney, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester and Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Dr. Mark Turner, Pastor, Christian Home Church of Christ, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported that he thought the National Peanut Festival and the parade were a grand and glorious success over the past week with excellent crowds and great weather.

He commended those responsible for the Houston County Queens' Program, the Altrusa Club and Mrs. Lisa Peter and the others involved. He reported they did a great job on the float, and it came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. He pointed out the queens represented themselves and the count really well.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone the next Administrative meeting would be Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:00 A.M. instead of on Thursday due to Thanksgiving.

The chairman reported the Veterans Day Ceremony was held on Friday, and that he was unable to attend. He stated he had heard that it was a very touching service with great attendance. The chairman stated the commission wanted to continue to thank the veterans for everything they do. Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Siquefield for representing the county.

Chairman Culver reported Farm City Week is ongoing and Commissioner Siquefield is chairing it. He called on Commissioner Siquefield for comments. Commissioner Siquefield reported the Farm City Week Banquet would be Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M., at the Houston County Farm Center. Commissioner Siquefield stated Houston County is hosting the event this year and there will be several awards and presentations. He thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work in an effort to make this another successful year.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Salvation Army" – Captain Bill Criss and Rev. Morris Bates, The Salvation Army

Chairman Culver stated there was no one from the Salvation Army present, and this Proclamation would be delayed until someone showed up. The chairman reminded everyone that the Kettle Drive is

ongoing. He reported on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the commission along with the Probate Judge, Revenue Commissioner, and the Sheriff would be ringing the bells at the kettles at the Southside Walmart. He stated the county would be located on one door and the city would be located on the other. He urged everyone to make sure they found the door where the county would be located, and help them to defeat the city commission. Chairman Culver reported the commission appreciated the Salvation Army and all they do.

## 2. Presentation – Mrs. Sherri Douglas – In-Home Services Director

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Douglas to come forward. He stated she does a great job and he told her they talk about her a lot, and it is always good. Mrs. Douglas reported “Santa for Seniors” would be going public later in the day with SARCOA, and she encouraged everyone to take part in this program. She stated the program is for seniors who are 60 years or older, and that she picks those who are the neediest. Mrs. Douglas reported [www.sarcoa.org](http://www.sarcoa.org) is the website for all of the seniors who have been selected if anyone is interested in adopting one.

She reported her office serves the seniors in Houston County. Mrs. Douglas reported we hear a lot of bad things about the young people today, but she had a group of students from Ridgecrest Baptist Church, who have chosen to do good things. She stated on October 8<sup>th</sup> a group of 15 students did some volunteer work cleaning in the yards for one of her ladies, and she reported they did an outstanding job. Mrs. Douglas reported the lady was overwhelmed when she called and told her what a good job they did. She stated it was the lady’s idea to do something special for this group. Mrs. Douglas told her she would like to bring this group before the commission and give them a special recognition. At that time, she asked them to come forward and she presented them with a Certificate for their community service to senior citizens. Mrs. Douglas thanked them and they received a round of applause. Chairman Culver thanked them for their help, and he also thanked Mrs. Douglas for her continued good work. The chairman reported Ridgecrest Baptist and the Columbia Baptist Association are both very involved in community spirit of service projects, and he expressed the commission’s appreciation.

Captain Criss of the Salvation Army came in, and the chairman asked him to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing the Salvation Army. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Captain Criss. Captain Criss thanked Chairman Culver and the commission and stated they received the support from Houston County and the greater Dothan area, Henry County and the other counties as well. He reported they are excited about the Kettle Program this year and they were off to a great start with the generosity of the people of Houston County. Captain Criss reported they were excited about the beginning of the Angel Tree Program that kicked off on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Wiregrass Commons Mall. He pointed out last year they assisted 1,420 families and 3,000-4,000 children with Christmas as well as seniors. Captain Criss reported this year the number will exceed 1,500 families who have asked for assistance and who need assistance. He stated he was not sure what was going on but the number of seniors requesting assistance has greatly increased. The Captain reported the seniors are often the people who are forgotten because

most people would rather buy a toy or clothes for a child. He pointed out a lot of the seniors are simply asking for a heating pad to keep them warm at night. He encouraged everyone to please remember the seniors as well. Captain Criss thanked the commission and stated they appreciated their support and they looked forward to seeing the commissioners and other elected officials on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Regular Agenda

1. Request to award corrected Joint County ACCA Bids.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to award the corrected Joint County ACCA Bids. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there were some misquotes on the bid that was awarded at the last meeting. He stated this request is to approve the amended version. The chairman reported counties throughout the state are allowed to use this to bid, and Houston County is just the awarding entity. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Sheets in Minute Book)

2. Request to approve Actual vs. Budget overspending for '10-'11 FY in accordance with the County Modernization Act.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Actual vs. Budget overspending for '10-'11 FY in accordance with the County Modernization Act. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. Chairman Culver reported as was discussed on Thursday, there are certain departments that for whatever reason they may go over on particular items in their budget. He pointed out the County Modernization Act requires the commission to approve the budget amendments to cover those items. Chairman Culver reported this does not mean any department was over in their budget. He reported the department heads did a great job in cutting back and keeping their expenses low particularly at the end of the fiscal year. He reported the act does require the commission to make the amendments. Chairman Culver reported the list does not contain all of the departments but there are very few instances that they go over in light of the ups and downs with gas and electricity and everything else they battle daily. He stated the commission really appreciated their department heads and the work they do. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request from Probate Judge to approve the ESS Model M100 voting equipment – Judge Luke Cooley.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant the Probate Judge's request to approve the ESS Model M100 voting equipment. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Judge Cooley to come up to the front. He stated she was unable to be at the meeting on Thursday. Judge Cooley reported this is an upgrade they have been waiting on for quite a while. She stated the machines are in and it will be covered in Polling School. The Judge pointed out there will be no change to the voters; they will take their regular ballot and put it in like they always have done. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to reject bids for Houston County Community Corrections Security Officers Service.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bids for the Houston County Community Corrections Security Officers Service to the low bidder meeting specs, Wiregrass Security. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Pool reported that the dry weather has allowed them to be able to perform some work they would not otherwise be able to do in areas that are normally wet. He stated he heard that this is the worst drought in this area since 1954. Mr. Pool reported that they have received the lowest number of complaints in 10 years.

County Attorney – Acting County Attorney, Patrick Jones, had nothing to report

Adjourn

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