

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JUNE 11, 2012

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

ABSENT: Mark Pool, County Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Scott Wyatt, Pastor, Bay Springs Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded the public that Fortner Street east of Brannon Stand Road was closed the week of June 11th. He pointed out a detour was marked. The chairman reported that the week of June 18th, Brannon Stand Road south of Fortner Street would be closed.

Chairman Culver reported that the Special General Election to fill the vacancy in District #4 would be held on July 10th. He urged everyone in that District to go out and vote. The chairman reported there would be only one name on the ballot but because of the law, the election that just occurred on May 22nd, was a Primary; a Party Election. He stated now the Party nominee has to be elected. He stated according to State law, county commissioners take office 7 days after the election, and the Swearing in Ceremony would be held on July 18th, at 10:00 A.M in the Commission Chambers.

He reported on Thursday, discussion was held regarding the county implementing a Tire Program that has been made available through a partnership with the state. The chairman reported they were asking Houston County Sanitation customers to put up to two passenger or light truck tires out at the road this week, and pick-up will begin June 18th. He stated the county does not normally handle tires, and this is an opportunity for citizens to get rid of a couple of tires if they have any around their house. He pointed out the tires are unsightly and they draw mosquitoes. Chairman Culver urged the county residents who are eligible to put the tires out this week.

Awards and Presentations

1. Recognition of Houston County Queens – Mrs. Lisa Peter

Chairman Culver reported the commission always looks forward to recognizing the queens each year. The chairman stated he was going to call on Mrs. Lisa Peter, but he had been advised Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, Co-Director, Houston County Pageants, Inc., will be speaking. He asked Mrs. Hall to come forward and

to bring the queens with her. The chairman then introduced the following: Future Little Miss Houston County – Mallory Webb, who attends Rehobeth Elementary, Little Miss Houston County – Claudia Aplin, who attends Ashford Elementary, Young Jr. Miss Houston County – Jesyka Torres, who attends Rehobeth, Jr. Miss Houston County – Avery Griffith, who attends Carver Magnet School, Teen Miss Houston County – Laura McKenny, who attends Providence Christian School, and Miss Houston County – Whitney DeVane, who graduated from Providence Christian School, and will attend Troy University-Dothan in the fall. The queens expressed how proud they are to represent Houston County, and looked forward to the coming events throughout their reign. Chairman Culver extended best wishes to Miss DeVane and Miss Aplin in the upcoming National Peanut Festival pageant. The chairman presented each of the queens with a Houston County pin. Chairman Culver also reported he had attended several functions with the queens and he stated they represented the citizens of Houston County very well. The chairman stated if anyone has functions coming up and would like to have the queens to attend, please get in touch with Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Hall reported they have a new sponsorship this year, Houston County Pageants, Inc., and they have had a great time working with the girls thus far. She stated they have a website, hcpsite.com. Mrs. Hall reported anyone can go on it and send them an e-mail regarding any upcoming events that they might wish to have the queens attend and assist. Mrs. Hall reported they wanted the girls to be very involved in the community. She stated they appreciated the commission's support and she thanked them for having the queens. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Peter and Mrs. Hall for their work.

2. Presentation by Houston County Foundation to local Charities – Mr. Pat Thomas

Chairman Culver reported this is the second time the commission has been involved in this item. He stated it is great anytime organizations can help the charities; particularly with the current economic situation. He asked Mr. Pat Thomas, Vice-Chairman, Houston County Foundation, and Mr. Bob Hendrix, Foundation Board Member, to come forward. Mr. Thomas pointed out Mr. Matt Parker, Chairman, of the Foundation, was in the audience. Mr. Thomas stated these agencies had been through an award process, and their group had recently met, and he reported it was a pleasure, on behalf of the Houston County Foundation, to be able to present checks to the following agencies:

1. Dr. Larry Kirkland, Director, SE Intervention Group - \$13,000

Dr. Kirkland introduced his Assistant Director, Jason Solowes. Dr. Kirkland reported the SE Intervention Group does business as two organizations--The Herring Houses of Dothan and Step by Step Recovery. He stated they provide long term residential drug and alcohol treatment to indigent offenders throughout Alabama, but particularly in the Wiregrass area. He stated this money will allow them to scholarship people into their program. Dr. Kirkland thanked the Foundation for the check.

2. Ms. Nicky Wyatt – Wiregrass Spay & Neuter Alliance - \$6,000.00

Mr. Thomas reported they have developed a voucher program where low income canine pet owners can bring their pets in and they can be assisted with the spay/neuter process. Mr. Thomas presented Ms. Wyatt a check for \$6,000.00 to the Wiregrass Spay & Neuter Alliance. She stated they had done approximately 19,000 surgeries, but within a mile of the Admin Building, a person can see many dogs

and cats running around on the streets. Ms. Wyatt reported with the funding, they will be able to help 150 dogs and cats. She thanked the Foundation for the check.

3. Mrs. Linda O'Connell, Director – Alfred Saliba Family Services Center - \$7,496.31

Mr. Thomas reported the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center was replacing a \$12,000 telephone system, and the grant is in the amount of \$7,496.31. He pointed out they would have a fund raiser to take care of their 40%. Mrs. O'Connell thanked the Foundation. She introduced Ms. Mary Hill, their Fiscal Administrator, who wrote the grant. Mrs. O'Connell reported the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center serves all of Houston County, and they are a multi-faceted, non-profit organization that has programs from early childhood education to career centers, marriage and family, and relationships, parenting programs, and just about anything anyone would want. She urged anyone with a need to contact them. Mrs. O'Connell thanked the Foundation for the opportunity to use the funds for the telephone system, a very needed addition to their services.

4. Ms. Amber Hinson – Mrs. Mary Alice Veale -Wiregrass Museum of Art - \$15,000.00

Mr. Thomas presented the Wiregrass Museum of Art a check in the amount of \$15,000.00 to be used for art lessons. Ms. Hinson, Grants Writer, Wiregrass Museum of Art, reported this money would be used for the Third Grade Outreach Program. She stated each semester they send their educators out to every classroom in Dothan City and Houston County Schools, and they deliver hands on art lessons to all of the students that incorporates their curriculum subjects. Ms. Hinson reported they teach Science, Math, and English through the arts. She thanked the Foundation for the check.

5. Ms. Kay Hanks – Wiregrass Children's Home - \$15,000.00

Mr. Thomas reported the Wiregrass Children's Home will be updating facilities at their home, and he presented Ms. Hanks with a check in the amount of \$15,000.00. He stated there is an outdoor playground in need of a lot of work and he stated the money will go toward that goal. She reported Wiregrass Children's Home is a home for abused and neglected children located in Wicksburg, and they serve 7 counties. Ms. Hanks stated they are able to house 10 children at one time. She thanked the Foundation for the check and their support.

6. Ms. Bettye Forbus - Mrs. Mary Alice Veale - Houston –Love Memorial Library - \$10,000.00

Mr. Thomas stated it was an honor and pleasure to present a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the capital campaign for the new library. Ms. Forbus, Director, Houston-love Memorial Library, thanked Mr. Thomas. She reported things are exciting and are happening at the library. Ms. Forbus stated last week they began registration for the summer reading program, and they had more than 300 children registered in the first three days. Ms. Forbus reported their goal is to build two new library facilities for Dothan and she stated as everyone knows, they provide services throughout Houston County. She reported they have locations in Columbia and Ashford, and the Bookmobile goes throughout the county. Ms. Forbus stated they are building a new downtown library across the street from the Admin Building, and a new facility within Westgate Park. She pointed out they anticipate breaking ground in October,

and they hope to complete both buildings by the Fourth Quarter of 2013. Ms. Forbus reported the \$10,000.00 check is a big step in making the dream a reality, and she thanked the Foundation.

Mr. Thomas introduced Mr. Frank Wendt, President, HEDA. He stated he was President of the Houston Economic Development Association, and they run the bingo down at Center Stage and generate the funds the Houston County Foundation is able to distribute to the local charities. He thanked Mr. Thomas, Mr. Hendrix, and Mr. Parker for their help to administer the funds. He also thanked the commission. Mr. Wendt reported they would not be where they are today if it was not for the continued vigilant support of the commission, and local officials. He stated he was very appreciative. Mr. Wendt reported good things are happening at Center Stage. He pointed out they have over 100 employees. Mr. Wendt stated they are continuing to do more and more things with events like The Comedy Zone held the first and second Friday every month. He reported the Kiwanis Fourth of July Event would be at the Amphitheater, and he urged everyone to come out and support them in an effort to continue to provide good things to the community.

Mr. Bill Durden, member of HEDA, stated he knew there had been a lot of drama but he was glad to see everything come together. At that time on behalf of HEDA, Mr. Durden made a donation to the Houston County Foundation in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Chairman Culver thanked HEDA, and he stated assisting charities is something that the Houston County Foundation is focused on. He reported on the county's website, there is a link for the application to the Houston County Foundation for the grants. He stated also on the county's website there is a simpler application that the Foundation is calling a microgrant. Chairman Culver reported if someone's organization has an interest in working with the Houston County Foundation on future funding, they need to obtain the information off the website, and submit it to the Foundation for their analysis. The chairman stated he hoped in the not too distant future, the commission would have the opportunity to allow the Foundation to come and make more awards to the charities. He stated the commission is deeply involved in some of those organizations that received funds. He pointed out the commission funds the Art Outreach Program at the Wiregrass Museum of Art. The chairman stated the commission is aware of all the good that these organizations are doing, and they appreciate the effort they put forth.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to renew WasteWater Treatment Plant Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Houston County Industrial Park.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to renew the WasteWater Treatment Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Houston County Industrial Park. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Battles asked about this at the last meeting. He stated it has been an effort in progress, and this is with the same individual who has had it for several years. Chairman Culver reported this individual has not had an increase in pay for quite some time, and he pointed out there is a \$25.00 per month increase in the agreement. He stated he was glad to get this in place to take care of the wastewater treatment plant at the industrial park. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver reported Items #2-#6 are basically projects that the county is getting ready to submit for ATRIP funding.

2. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface Fortner Street, approximately 5.69 miles, from Cumbie Road easterly to the beginning of turn lane on the west leg of intersection of Fortner and Brannon Stand Road.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface Fortner Street, approximately 5.69 miles, from Cumbie Road easterly to the beginning of turn lane on the west leg of intersection of Fortner and Brannon Stand Road. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this will connect with the intersection that was mentioned earlier that they are widening and getting signaled, and then go all the way out to Cumbie Road. He stated this is a much needed project. Chairman Culver reported this project would cost \$1.14 million. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface Glen Lawrence Road, approximately 6.69 miles from U.S. Highway 84 East to County Road 55 North.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface Glen Lawrence Road, approximately 6.69 miles from U.S. Highway 84 East to County Road 55 North. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the cost for the project would be \$1.34 million. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface County Road 33 North, approximately 7.47 miles, from County Road 55 in Ashford to AL Highway 52 East and Nuclear Plant Road, approximately 3.65 miles, from County Road 33 to AL Highway 95 North.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface County Road 33 North, approximately 7.47 miles, from County Road 55 in Ashford to AL Highway 52 East and Nuclear Plant Road, approximately 3.65 miles, from County Road 33 to AL Highway 95 North. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there are two roads in one project and one of the roads runs to the front gate of the Farley Nuclear Plant. He pointed out these are going to be in a competitive process based on traffic count and economic impact. Chairman Culver reported the county feels pretty good about this project because it is the primary feeder to Farley. He reported this is a \$2.2 million project. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface Judge Logue Road, approximately 5.47 miles, from AL Highway 123 to U.S. Highway 84 West.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface Judge Logue Road, approximately 5.47 miles, from AL Highway 123 to U.S. Highway 84 West. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a \$1.1 million project. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to adopt Resolution to resurface County Road 75, approximately 13.78 miles, from County Road 81 to U.S. Highway 84 East and then from U. S. Highway 84 East to County Road 33 North.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to resurface County Road 75, approximately 13.78 miles from County Road 81 to U.S. Highway 84 East and then from U.S. Highway 84 East to County Road 33 North. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a \$2.76 million project. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Chairman Culver reported all five of the items are projects that the county is applying to the state to obtain ATRIP funds. He stated Governor Bentley implemented this program this year in an effort to get a lot of roadwork at the local level in the state. The chairman reported Houston County submitted a little over \$10 million in projects in Round 1 of Phase 1 and the county was awarded one road, Rocky Creek Road. He stated the county has a total of approximately \$30 million in projects they are ready to submit. The chairman stated they do not anticipate all of those being funded but because of the competitive situation, the county wants to submit several. He reported he had already mentioned the Nuclear Plant project, and there is one that runs in and out of Houston County into another county, and they hope having a joint county submittal will strengthen it. Chairman Culver reported the county would be announcing what it gets all along. He stated some of the projects have already been submitted, and they have lengthened them or adjusted them. The chairman reported it is a good project and will give the county an opportunity to work on some of its on-system roads. He stated the county wants to do as much as it can with someone else's money. Chairman Culver stated just because these projects are on the agenda does not mean they will be done. He stated the county is submitting them to obtain funds so they can be done.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reminded everyone the first pass of the budget will be held on Wednesday, June 13th at 1:30 P.M., to discuss manpower and major spending projects. Chairman Culver reported although the commission is invited, it is not a commission meeting but a meeting with administration, department heads, and commissioners.

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland, Acting County Engineer, re-emphasized on the Tire Program that the citizens get their tires out to the road this week and they will begin picking up on Monday, June 18th. He pointed out they only will go down the road one time.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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

