

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JUNE 25, 2012

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Don Tew, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Chairman Culver 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 reminded everyone that the General Election for the District 4 vacancy on the commission would be held on July 10th. He urged everyone who is eligible to go out and vote. The chairman reported the Swearing-In Ceremony would be held on July 18th, at 10:00 A.M., in the commission chambers.

Chairman Culver reported on Thursday the Sanitation Department's Tire Program was mentioned. He stated two weeks ago, they had asked everyone to put two of their car tires or light truck tires out, and last week they picked them up. The chairman reported the program has been extended for two more weeks and they have expanded the number of tires to four per household. He encouraged the county's Sanitation customers to take part in the program with any car tires or light truck tires they might have around their house. Chairman Culver stated with the storm and limbs, it may slow them down a little but they will get to them if they are placed out by the road.

Chairman Culver recognized and congratulated Commissioner Harvey for his recent recognition on the completion of the Graduate Program of the Alabama Local Government Training Institute. He stated Mr. Harvey has not only completed the required 50 hours that state law requires all county commissioners to complete, but also the 70 hour graduate program that is available to those who have completed the required program. Chairman Culver reported the commission appreciated Commissioner Harvey taking the time to complete the course and showing the interest in developing the outstanding experience he already has. Commissioner Harvey received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Tony Weber to stand. He recognized Mr. Weber on his appointment and designation as Director of the Community Corrections Program. The chairman reported Community Corrections has a board who oversees the program and the board met and interviewed and determined that Mr. Weber was the best applicant for the job. He stated that Mr. Weber is doing an outstanding job, and the commission appreciated him stepping forward in that position. The chairman stated they were glad to have Mr. Weber on board in that leadership capacity. Mr. Weber received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver reported he mentioned on Thursday about the July Fourth Family Celebration to be held at Center Stage and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. He stated he contacted Mrs. Kerry Farrell, who is putting on the event for the Kiwanis Club, and he asked her to come to the podium. Mrs. Farrell reported the Kiwanis Club of Dothan will be putting on the 6th Family Fourth Celebration out at Center Stage. She stated there is a fantastic fireworks show that caps off the night and there are plenty of activities scheduled for the whole day. Mrs. Farrell pointed out there will be an antique car show during the morning and the gates open at 2:00 P.M. with live music. She pointed out at 7:30 P.M., Shenandoah, a country music band will be performing. She reported there will be reptile shows throughout the day, water slides for the kids, and a watermelon eating contest and many other family activities. She invited everyone to come out and enjoy the celebration. Chairman Culver reported this event has grown. He stated he felt more people would be in town than usual because July 4th is on Wednesday.

Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA Director, reported the National Weather Service has predicted Houston County will have a minimum impact from Tropical Storm Debby. He stated there are 50% - 70% chances of rain through the middle of the week, and he stated it would be breezy unless the prediction changes. Mr. Matthews asked everyone to stay in contact with the media and if things change, they would certainly notify the public. He pointed out another weather briefing would be held later in the day and he stated there would probably be a couple each day until Debby comes on shore. Chairman Culver stated they encouraged everyone to be vigilant regarding the storm. Mr. Matthews stated there did not seem to be a large tornado threat for our area.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution to participate in the ACA Disaster Debris Removal Program.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to participate in the ACCA Disaster Debris Removal Program. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this request and Item #2 go hand in hand. He stated as everyone is aware, the county is the awarding authority for the County Statewide Joint Bid Program. The chairman reported Item #2 will request that the county be the awarding authority for the Region. Chairman Culver pointed out this item authorizes the county to participate in the program. He stated it does not mean the county has to use the program; it's like the joint bid program in that they bid a lot of things, but the county does not have to use it. Chairman Culver reported this request allows for pre-disaster plans to be put in place for debris removal so the EMA Directors and County Engineers do not have to be under the heat of a post disaster issue trying to get someone to pick up limbs and other debris. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to adopt Resolution to serve as the awarding authority on the ACCA County Joint Bid Program for Disaster Debris Removal.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution to serve as the awarding authority on the ACCA Joint Bid Program for Disaster Debris Removal in Region 2. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to authorize the Chairman and CAO to secure short term financing with Commission notification.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to authorize the Chairman and CAO to secure short term financing with Commission approval. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as was discussed on Thursday, they are not going out and obtaining any funds at this point, it is just to have a process in place should it be needed for ATRIP, cash flow, or other projects the county has coming up. He stated the commission will be notified about any issues that might arise. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve Policy for out of town travel and vehicle rental.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Policy for out of town travel and vehicle rental. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, it has been brought to the commission's attention there is a state bid program that is pretty inexpensive on vehicle rentals. He pointed out in some cases, the county believes it will be less expensive for county employees to rent a vehicle as opposed to the county paying mileage for their personal vehicle. Chairman Culver reported there is a form they will be asking department heads to look at, evaluate, and make a determination as to whether they should let their employees go on their personal car or rent a vehicle which will be the most cost effective. The chairman stated this does not apply to those who have a county vehicle. He stated it does not apply if personal time is involved in the same trip. Chairman Culver reported this may not save the county hundreds of thousands of dollars, but if it saves thousands, it is worth the effort. Commissioner Sinquefield asked if the rental car agency would deliver the cars or would employees go there to pick them up? Mr. Dempsey reported the agency is located about two miles from the county offices, and the county has the option to have the vehicle delivered or

the employee can go pick it up. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Policy Manual)

5. Request to award bids on seed and MC70 prime.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to award bids on seed and MC 70 prime to low bidders meeting specs. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Commissioner Sinquefield asked Mr. Pool if the county ever used bahia grass or if bermuda was the only type grass not including the brown top millet and rye? Mr. Pool reported the county's herbicide program is actually defined as a bermuda release program. He stated the bahia likes to grow tall and the bermuda stays low. Mr. Sinquefield reported there is quite a difference in the price of seeds between bermuda and bahia. Mr. Pool stated there is also a big price difference in cutting the grass. Chairman Culver reported the county found out when they go out and do projects on roads with a lot of houses, and they come behind and reseed, there have been some instances where there has been a little bit of bahia mixed in with the bermuda and the commissioners phones have rung off the hook. Chairman Culver reported the commission made the determination to use bermuda long ago. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

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

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

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Pool reported the Brannon Stand and Fortner Street intersection is open. He stated there has been some wind with the storm, and he thought they had two days worth of work picking them up. Mr. Pool stated the limb pick-up will include paved and dirt roads in the county. He reported they have stopped picking up tires until the limbs are all picked up.

Mr. Pool reported he had received a letter from Mr. Ed Phillips, Secondary Roads, Alabama Department of Transportation, stating they have reviewed all of the federal laws and counties do not have to advertise their projects anymore. Mr. Pool reported all of the costly advertising the county has done in the past does not have to be done anymore.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver reported he had a few calls from businesses that appreciated the expedient manner in which the county crews completed the work on the intersection of Fortner Street and Brannon Stand. The chairman stated discussion was held on Thursday about some who did not appreciate the way in which the county handled the project, and the county did not appreciate the way in which some of the citizens handled the road closed signs by driving around them. Chairman Culver reported most of the businesses knew the roads would be closed for a week, but the county only had them closed for two days, and they appreciated it. He asked Mr. Pool to pass it on to the county crews.

Chairman Culver reported he thought there would be a minimum impact from the storm, but there could be 20-30 mph winds all week. He asked everyone to get their 4 tires per household out to the road, but be patient because the crews will have to take care of the limbs first, and then the crews will get back on the tire pickups. Mr. Pool reported sanitation customers could put 4 tires out this week and 4 tires next week. Chairman Culver asked if someone could have as many as 8 tires sitting at the road at one time? Mr. Pool stated yes. Commissioner Sinquefield reported the county started out with 2 tires per household, and he asked if the county was going to increase the number? Mr. Pool reported ADEM has given the county \$100,000 on the tire program, and they are going to spend the full amount. He stated they are on new ground with this program and the first pass did not bring out that many tires and they have expanded it. He stated they have been told this will be available again next year. He stated if

they get all kind of tires and they spend \$100,000 they will do their best to stop. Chairman Culver stated he should have asked when this first came up, but he asked Mr. Pool if he had anything from the state in writing about the tire program? Mr. Pool stated yes. Mr. Pool stated they will pay over and above the \$100,000 to pick up tires if there is a tire dump. Chairman Culver reported the county is on a new procedure with the state and the federal government in that everything has to be in writing.

Adjourn

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