

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
DECEMBER 10, 2012

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Jackie Battles gave the invocation. Commissioner Doug Sinquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner McClendon seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported this would be the last meeting for 2012 because the commission would not meet on Christmas Eve. He pointed out as Commissioner Battles stated in his prayer that 2012 had been a good year, and he reported many of the people in attendance were the reason. He asked everyone to keep the season in mind and enjoy their holidays. Chairman Culver reported he looked forward to seeing everyone back in 2013.

The chairman reminded everyone that the Salvation Army bell ringing competition with the city would be Thursday, December 13th at Northside Walmart from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. He reported the Sheriff, Revenue Commissioner, and newly elected Probate Judge, Patrick Davenport, would be ringing with the commission also. The chairman encouraged shoppers to come out and participate at the county's door to help a good cause.

He stated it was the last day for the department heads to RSVP for the Employee Appreciation Dinner and he requested them to encourage their employees to attend. He stated there would be good food and door prizes.

He thanked Sean Curtis and his staff for the tree on top of the building.

The chairman welcomed newly elected Probate Judge Davenport and stated the commission was glad to have him attending his first commission meeting. He stated the Probate Judge was wasting no time because there was some training scheduled on December 13th at 4:30 P.M. and he wanted to let the public know the Probate Office would be closed at that time.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Ms. Whitney Devane – Miss National Peanut Festival” – Mrs. Shirley Brackin, NPF Representative

He stated the commission has been so blessed in Houston County with an outstanding queens program. He reported in the last couple of years they have had 2 winners to become Little Miss NPF, and now for the first time, Miss Houston County was crowned Miss NPF. He asked Ms. Devane and Mrs. Shirley Brackin, NPF representative, to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing Ms. Whitney Devane as “Miss National Peanut Festival” and declaring December 10, 2012 as “Whitney Devane Day” in Houston County. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. The chairman then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Devane. Chairman Culver congratulated her and told her how proud the commission was of her as well as the citizens of Houston County. Ms. Devane thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for the recognition. She stated she could not explain the feeling of being crowned Miss NPF, and it had been awesome. Ms. Devane thanked the commission for all of their support and everything they had done.

2. Recognition of Cottonwood High School – National FFA Award – Rusty Yeomans, Agri-Science Teacher, FFA Advisor, Cottonwood High School

Chairman Culver asked Commissioner Sinquefield to come down and Mr. Rusty Yeomans, Agri-Science Teacher, and FFA Advisor, Cottonwood High School, and some of his students to come forward. He stated the commission wanted to take a moment to recognize the feat they have done in winning the National FFA Award. Commissioner Sinquefield reported being a farmer made him so proud of Mr. Yeomans and his students who contributed to the award and honor in winning this in Indiana. Mr. Sinquefield stated Mr. Yeomans was doing an exceptional job at Cottonwood High School and just fortunate to have him. He reported Mr. Yeomans was promoting agriculture not only in Houston County but all across the State of Alabama. Commissioner Sinquefield pointed out Houston County was blessed with so many teachers who are doing a great job. The commissioner asked Mr. Yeomans to make comments. Mr. Yeomans introduced the following students who were with him: Cameron Jacobs, Gabe Hartfield, Robert McCardle, and Jesse Nelson. He reported they were asked to enter the competition by the State Supervisor’s Office in Montgomery. Mr. Yeomans pointed out he had done this five other times at a previous school he was teaching in. He reported Cottonwood won the first time they entered. Mr. Yeomans reported the purpose of the competition was to promote agriculture in Alabama and they competed against 35 other states across the nation. The group received a round of applause. Commissioner Sinquefield presented each of them with a county pin in recognition of their accomplishment. Chairman Culver also recognized Mr. Ricky Moore, member of the Houston County Board of Education. The chairman reported this achievement makes the commission feel good about the future of our county and nation, and he encouraged them to keep up the good work. He thanked Mr. Yeomans for his good work.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone there was not an Admin meeting on Thursday and they would operate under a somewhat varied schedule.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission Revolving Loan Fund – Harry B. Grier, III.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Harry B. Grier, III to the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission Revolving Loan Fund. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the appointment that was made at the last meeting had something come up and chose not to accept the appointment. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve contract for aerial photography.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to grant the Revenue Commissioner's request to approve the contractor for aerial photography. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a budgeted item and the last time it was done was in 2007. He stated the flying should take place sometime between January and February when there are no leaves on the trees. He thanked Mrs. Matthews and her staff for putting this together. Commissioner Sinquefield thanked the City of Dothan for their assistance also. Mr. Dempsey asked about the total cost? Mrs. Matthews reported they did it in for two years and it would be \$69,500 this year and it would be \$69,500 next year. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve and publish annual Financial Report.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve and publish the annual Financial Report. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver pointed out the commission is required by law to do this. He called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve budget amendment for the purchase of the phone system.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the purchase of the phone system. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported when the county originally discussed the phone system, there was \$30,000 placed in the budget to cover lease payments. He stated at this time, the commission would like to go ahead and purchase the phone system instead of paying the lease charges. Chairman Culver reported the bid that was awarded at the last meeting was \$96,000.00. He stated this budget amendment would be authorizing the purchase of the phone system. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Budget Amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request to adopt Resolution backing the Houston County Water Authority bond issue.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution backing the Houston County Water Authority bond issue. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. John Mazyck, Gary Sherrer, and Mr. Danny McNeil, Chairman of the Houston County Water Authority, were present to answer any questions. Chairman Culver reported the commission currently guarantees part of the water authority's indebtedness, and they are currently doing a rebuy due to lost revenue and they have asked the commission to guarantee the remainder. He stated the water authority has to

continue to exist, and this is a way the commission can help them. The chairman reported it actually helps the commission materially in that they will not have to expend some funds. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

6. Request to adopt Resolution establishing the Safety Coordinator position in Houston County.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution establishing the Safety Coordinator position in Houston County. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the county has this position already and no new position would be created. He stated the commission is officially adopting a Resolution establishing the Safety Coordinator position. Chairman Culver reported in order to get a discount, the Worker's Comp and Liability Insurance companies want the commission to present them with a Resolution establishing the position. Commissioner Siquefield thanked Mrs. Kelly Crowell on behalf of the commission for the job she has done and the job she is doing to promote safety in Houston County. Mr. Siquefield reported the county has seen results in the county premiums. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

7. Request from Sheriff to approve proposed local legislation.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to grant the Sheriff's request to approve proposed local legislation. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Hughes to come and make comments. Sheriff Hughes reported this legislation is a local bill he had spoken with Representative Paul Lee about proposing to benefit retiring local law enforcement officers. He pointed out the Dothan Police Department, the Alabama State Troopers and numerous other local law enforcement agencies have the same local bill. Sheriff Hughes reported the only thing the bill will do will allow a deputy who retires with 10 or more years the opportunity to keep their service firearm and their badge. He pointed out this firearm would be the one hand gun that was purchased by the county. He reported there would be no seized guns. Commissioner Siquefield asked if those retired individuals would be doing any type of enforcement later? The Sheriff stated they could always be subject to recall. He pointed out about five years ago, Congress passed a law that any law enforcement officer can be armed anywhere in the U.S., and he stated it is always good to have a trained law enforcement officer around. Chairman Culver asked if the Sheriff was going to handle the advertisement through the staff or if he wanted the commission to handle it? The Sheriff requested the commission to handle it. Chairman Culver commended the Sheriff for bringing it at that time instead of waiting until the Legislative Session begins. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request for 050 – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) License for RACEWAY 988, 15809 South U.S. 231, Slocomb, AL

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for a 050 Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) License for JAI HARSIDDHMA, LLC d/b/a Raceway 988, 15809 South U. S. Highway 231, Slocomb, AL 36375. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if there was anyone present who was in opposition? There being none, he called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to enter into an agreement with Mr. Rex Buntin for lease of farm land located at the Houston County Distribution Park.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to enter into an agreement with Mr. Rex Buntin for the lease of farm land located at the Houston County Distribution Park. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is an ongoing contract the county has had for many years. He stated there are over 200 acres in the distribution park and the county allows approximately 50 acres to be farmed. Chairman Culver reported it helps both Mr. Buntin and the county. It was reported the county increased the fee from \$30 to \$35 this year. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Request from EMA to enter into a 4 year agreement with Southern Nuclear Company for budgetary assistance in support of Farley Nuclear Plant – Clark Matthews, EMA Director.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve EMA's request to enter into a 4 year agreement with Southern Nuclear Company for budgetary assistance in support of the Farley Nuclear Plant. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported every year in the budget funds come in to help offset the cost for the Nuclear Plant in the community. He stated there are some added costs dealing with preparedness, exercises, plans, overtime, etc., and the county has been operating under a contract for years. Chairman Culver reported it was time to look at the contract and redo it. He stated Southern Nuclear's request was for a contract for four years instead of an annual contract. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Request from EMA to award bid for 2013 Chevy Silverado as budgeted.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the bid for a 2013 Chevy Silverado for EMA as budgeted to Solomon Motor Company, in the amount of \$25,750.00. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Commissioner Battles asked Mr. Matthews to come and explain how the program works with this vehicle. Mr. Matthews reported many years ago this program was set up and the vehicle is leased rather than purchased. He pointed out the State and Farley Nuclear Plant furnish money for the lease and it is a bargain for the county. Mr. Matthews reported at the end of the lease, approximately 2-3 years, a new vehicle is leased and it becomes a win win situation to the recipient of the EMA's old vehicle. Chairman Culver reported the county has given these vehicles to the Sheriff's Department and to other departments. He pointed out normally these vehicles have been provided to the Sheriff's Department since the commission has been lax in providing him with new vehicles. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

12. Request to award bid on knuckleboom trash loader.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid on the knuckleboom trash loader to Coffman International, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$132,009.00. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. It was pointed out the trash loader was within budget. Chairman Culver called

for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

13. Request to approve preliminary plat for Orchard Park Subdivision.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Orchard Park Subdivision. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there have not been many subdivisions built lately and the subdivision regs have not been used. He pointed out the county subdivision rules and regs are a 2 step process for the commission. Chairman Culver reported the developers submit everything to the engineering department and they make sure it will be built as it should be and the commission approves a preliminary plat. He stated upon the approval of the preliminary plat, the subdivision is built, and then the commission will approve the final plat after which point the developer can start selling lots. Chairman Culver pointed out Orchard Park is located off Blackmon Road, in District 3. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Request to award ACCA County Joint Bid for Low Boy Tractor-Option B, Tier 4, to Kenworth of Montgomery.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to award the ACCA County Joint Bid for a Low Boy Tractor-Option B, Tier B, to Kenworth of Montgomery. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there were some issues with this when the county awarded the ACCA Joint Bids, and they have gone back and gotten it handled. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

15. Request from Community Corrections to renew contract for one year with Wiregrass Security – Chris Jerkins

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request for Community Corrections to renew the contract for one year with Wiregrass Security. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the contract allows for the extension. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a safe holiday season.

Adjourn

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

