

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

MARCH 11, 2013

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

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Dr. C. J. Campbell, Interim Pastor, Harpers Joy Assembly of God Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Melinda McClendon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported there would be no Administrative meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> due to three of the commissioners attending training classes. He pointed out the commission would meet on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

The chairman reported Dothan's Azalea Dogwood Trail would be Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. He pointed out it is sponsored by the City of Dothan and the National Peanut Festival.

### Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve and advertise legislation authorizing \$1.00 license fee for the operation of the Probate Office.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to grant the request to approve and advertise legislation authorizing \$1.00 license fee for the operation of the Probate Office. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the Probate Judge did an eloquent job discussing this on Thursday. He stated Judge Davenport felt, based on his analysis since going into office, that it was needed to provide services to the citizens. Chairman Culver reported in a previous meeting a year ago, the commission voted to put on a \$3.00 fee, and because of his care, the commission's questions and the legislators the Judge thinks for now it can be done for a \$1.00. The chairman reported he had talked with the county's legislative delegation and they are on board with it assuming the commission passes it. Chairman Culver reported so many times when fees are put on, a lot of feedback is received, but he had only received one phone call and the person stated he was glad something was being done about the Probate Office. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the vote was: YEAS: Commissioners Harvey, Battles and McClendon NAYS: Commissioner Siquefield The chairman stated the motion passed.

2. Request to approve lease agreement for four dump trucks.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request for the lease agreement for four dump trucks. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these dump trucks are all budgeted and are scheduled at the same time so that they will be placed on the lease without additional administrative costs. Mr. Dempsey reported the county received a great rate. Chairman Culver reported he did not know how long it would last, but it is very inexpensive to do the leases at this time. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve change order on the Package Treatment Plant Upgrade for the Rest Area in the amount of \$3,870.00.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the change order on the Package Treatment Plant Upgrade for the Rest Area in the amount of \$3,870.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was brought about as Mr. James Brannon, PolyEngineering, explained on Thursday primarily by the things that ADEM put in place. He reported ADEM made them move the outflow and some other things, and it is just a cost overrun. Chairman Culver reported this brings the

total cost to \$104,000. He pointed out the county has an agreement with the state, and they are reimbursing the county for around \$90,000, and Mr. Brannon is going to see if he can get the state to reimburse the additional \$6,000-\$8,000. Chairman Culver stated if not, this is a reimbursement project and has been from the start. He stated they are not only paying for the cost of upgrading the facility and running the lines, they are also paying the county a monthly fee, which will probably start going up this month, for the increase usage of the rest area. The chairman reported while this is an overrun there are monies to offset almost all of this project. He stated he hoped they could get the balance taken care of. The chairman then called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to take bids on paving asphalt.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to take bids on paving asphalt. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is the normal and customary 6 month bid. He stated it was mentioned on Thursday the possibility of looking down the road, if costs continue to escalate, at the potential for the city and county to have their own asphalt plant. He stated that they also would look at the possibility of bringing in some other counties who might be interested. The chairman reported there was a little more discussion on Friday with the city. He stated it is long term, and they would look into it more as they are able. Chairman Culver reported the acting county engineer has been in the private sector in the asphalt business and knows about the operations. He reported the agenda item is for taking bids on paving asphalt for six months. Chairman Culver called for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to award bid for disaster debris removal, disposal and reduction.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid for the disaster debris removal, disposal and reduction to the low bidder meeting specs, Unified, in the amount of \$97,720.00. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, the county will have the opportunity to use the state bid should the county choose to do so and should it be less expensive. He stated the county felt it pertinent to have a bid in place. Chairman Culver pointed out the company that has the state bid is in the same region as Baldwin County. He stated Baldwin is a very large county located on the coast, and if all the assets of the company that has the state bid were to be tied up, this would give Houston County an alternative to come back to if they were cheaper and it was felt they would do a better job. He stated it is no requirement to use them just to put the contract in place. He reported there is no money being spent. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

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

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there is a dump truck and a knuckle boom trash truck and they want to see what the market is on GovDeals on those items. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

Acting County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported after the storm there were 14 roads that were closed due to significant damage. He stated there are 7 roads currently closed, they hope to open up one later in the day depending on the weather. Mr. Kirkland stated he anticipated having all of them opened up in about a month. He asked the citizens to be patient. Chairman Culver stated he appreciated all of the county crews working long and late during the storm. He stated you see some of the difficulties Geneva County and others are having and even though there were 14 roads closed, Houston County is very blessed to have good people working on them and well built roads that can sustain that kind of impact.

Acting County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland to remind the public regarding the parking in the lot across from the Courthouse? Mr. Culver reported they plan to work on it while the jury is not in session, and the plan would be to begin on March 18<sup>th</sup>. He pointed out the entrance and exit will be changed, new parking spaces added, and landscaping. The chairman asked Mr. Kirkland to get with him about the landscaping plan.

Commissioner Harvey asked for an update on the Saints Apartments? Chairman Culver reported that it has closed and is now in the name of the DDRA and the county. He stated the next step would be to handle the asbestos abatement, and the city will tear down the buildings. Chairman Culver reported he had given them a proposed plan, and once they say it is okay, the commission will have to approve it or not or do something different with it. He stated then it will be turned over to Mr. Kirkland's staff to create some additional parking, office space, or whatever the commission decides to do, and definitely some green space. Chairman Culver reported from what they talked about they have a good plan to create an area of greenery that the county would not have to maintain and that would be good for the county.

Adjourn.

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