

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

APRIL 8, 2013

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, Interim County Engineer, and William J. 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. David Willis, Pastor, Highland Park United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported there is a lot going on in our community. He stated everyone is excited, honored and grateful with the huge announcement that was made on Friday. Chairman Culver reported probably one of the most important things elected officials do is to provide opportunities for the citizens they serve. He stated through a lot of hard work and diligence particularly by Mayor Mike Schmitz, Matt Parker, and Governor Bentley our community was able to have that announcement last week. He pointed out although the airport is in Dale County, most of those 500 employees will come from and have an impact on Houston County. Chairman Culver reported everyone is very excited about this announcement but also from other things that could happen out at the airport. He commended everyone for their efforts.

Chairman Culver reported the Tri-State Bar-B-Que Festival will be held April 12th and 13th at the Farm Center. He encouraged everyone to go out there and enjoy it.

Chairman Culver reported he is trying to schedule a media announcement in Ashford later this week, and when all of the details are worked out he would be sending something out.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation – Toadlick Festival – Mr. Chris Gilbert

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Chris Gilbert to come forward and talk about the Toadlick Festival. Chairman Culver stated if everyone is wondering why Mr. Gilbert had a huge smile on his face, he stated he doubted a year ago when he booked Luke Bryan, he had any idea that Mr. Bryan would be hosting the Country Music Awards much less be named Entertainer of the Year. The chairman reported Toadlick will also have Ms. Kelly Pickler of Dancing with the Stars, who is doing an outstanding job. Chairman Culver reported the Toadlick Festival will be this weekend, April 11th -13th, at the National Peanut Festival. The Chairman stated next year, it would be hard for Mr. Gilbert to top the luck he had this year.

Mr. Gilbert reported a couple of months ago, his producer out of Nashville congratulated him on being in the 20th percentile. He stated the producer told him that 80% of music festivals never make it to the second year. Mr. Gilbert reported that was a blessing for him and this area. He pointed out it does not get any bigger than the ACA and the CMA Entertainer of the Year. Mr. Gilbert reported if it was football, it would be equivalent to the Super Bowl. He stated they got in at the right time and they pulled some strings and were able to get Luke Bryan. Mr. Gilbert reported nothing like this has ever come to Dothan. He pointed out they have hit a homerun this year as far as the lineup of entertainment. He stated all of the partner hotels are filled, and they have sold 700 camping spots compared to 80 last year. Mr. Gilbert reported they tried to target the people who would attend by making it affordable for everything from ticket prices to food. He stated the ticket prices for 3 days, are \$99.00, and that price would not allow someone to go to the movies for three days. Mr. Gilbert stated if someone looks at music festivals in other cities, the revenue that is generated is insane because the impact of 20,000 people coming to Dothan/Houston County for three days is huge. Mr. Gilbert reported they are doing a bring your own collapsible cooler to allow attendees to bring their own food and drinks. He stated attendees could also

bring their own beer. Mr. Gilbert reported they took the stance if someone has bought a ticket to the festival then they have done their job supporting the festival and they can bring their own drinks and food. He pointed out children under 12 get in free and a family of four could come to the festival for under \$200.00. Mr. Gilbert reported Luke Bryan will be performing Friday night and it will be his first concert performing as Entertainer of the Year. He pointed out Kelly Pickler would be on Saturday night along with Lynard Skynard, Three Doors Down, and many others. He thanked the commission for allowing him to come and he stated he looked forward to seeing them there. Chairman Culver stated the commission appreciated him putting the festival together, and that he hoped it continues. Mr. Gilbert received a round of applause.

2. Proclamation – “National Public Safety Telecommunications Week” – Mr. Steve Collins, E-911 Coordinator, Ms. Vickie Cothran, 3rd Shift Supervisor, Ms. Vicky Thomas, Mr. Adam Gonzalez, and Ms. Tiffany Davis, Dispatchers, Houston County Sheriff’s Office Communications Division

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Steve Collins, E-911 Coordinator, Ms. Vickie Cothran, 3rd Shift Supervisor, Ms. Vicky Thomas, and Ms. Tiffany Davis, Dispatchers with the Houston County Sheriff’s Office Communications Division to come forward. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April 14th- 20th as “National Public Telecommunications Week.” Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Cothran. Chairman Culver reported unless you go down and witness the activity of stress and the level of commitment and compassion these people are under you really cannot get an appreciation for it. He stated it is something to watch them work as they along with the firefighters and law enforcement people do have peoples’ lives almost in their hands at times. Chairman Culver stated the commission really appreciates what they do every day, and he hated that they are only recognized once a year. He reported it goes without saying, the community appreciates what they do and thanks them for helping to make this a safer community.

Ms. Cothran thanked the chairman and commission for the Proclamation. She stated they really appreciated it and she hoped that they would strive to be better dispatchers and to make everyone proud.

Mr. Collins stated this is a brief opportunity to recognize the work the dispatchers do throughout the year but it is not really sufficient to recognize what they do and how they serve the community. He reported there is a staff of 13 dispatchers and shift supervisors that man the communications center 24 hours a day, and they do an outstanding job. He pointed out there are times when things are slow and there is not a lot of activity going on throughout the county, but they have to be prepared to step up in a split second. He stated when that phone call comes in they are responsible for ensuring that the proper emergency responders are dispatched to handle the situation. Mr. Collins reported if someone went down and observed them at peak times, they would be amazed at what they accomplish with all of the radio transmissions and telephone calls coming in at one time. He stated his hat is off to them for the work they do. Chairman Culver thanked them and they received a round of applause.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County on joint purchases and authorize the Chairman to make any minor changes, and to execute the Agreement.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County on joint purchases and to authorize the Chairman to make any major changes, and to execute the Agreement. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported he and Mr. West had scheduled a meeting to talk about this item and some other things on Friday, but obviously other events got in the way and he had not received any further input. He reported it is a standard agreement, but if the city wants to make some minor changes before they approve it, that is why the motion is worded as it is so that it will not have to come back before the commission. He reported if he and Mr. Dempsey determine there is something major, then it would be brought back before the commission. Chairman Culver stated he hoped this would allow both entities to save money long term. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to award bid for hot plant mix.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the bid for hot plant mix to the low bidder meeting specs, APAC-Southeast, Inc., in each category. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

Interim County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported all of the closed roads that received damage were back open and repaired. He stated they started on the last damaged road cross drain pipe today, and hoped to be completely through with all of them from the flood damage within a week. Mr. Kirkland reported it is drying out and they can go back to work.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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