

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 13, 2013

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He reported Commissioner McClendon was unable to attend due to her father being ill. The chairman asked everyone to please keep Commissioner McClendon and her family in their prayers. Rev. Paul Thompson, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey 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 stated he hoped everyone honored and paid tribute to their mothers yesterday on Mothers Day.

He also reported he had spoken with David Hanks of the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank and this year's softball game brought in a record number of cans of food and money. He stated the game is always a lot of fun, but it is a food raiser for the food bank.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that the next Commission meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 28th due to Monday, May 27th, being Memorial Day.

The chairman stated Mr. Robert Byrd would be having his annual Memorial Day event at 2:45 P.M., on May 28th, at Sunset Funeral Home.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Foster Care Month" – Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, DHR, Mrs. Julie Lindsey, Program Supervisor, Ms. Jenny Bell, Social Worker, and Ms. Jessica McLaughlin, Social Worker

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Mary Paulk, Director, DHR, Mrs. Julie Lindsey, Program Supervisor, Ms. Jenny Bell, Social Worker, and Ms. Jessica McLaughlin, Social Worker, to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as "Foster Care Month." Commissioner Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Paulk. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Paulk and her staff for all they do. He stated this group along with the foster parents, do a tremendous job in this community providing a safe environment for those children who otherwise would not have a home. He stated recognition of this group once a year is not really sufficient for the work they do. He thanked Mrs. Paulk

for bringing this to the Commission's attention. Mrs. Paulk thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for recognizing them. She also thanked her staff, her board, and the foster parents who open up their homes to these children and their efforts to provide a safe and stable home. The following board members were recognized: John Craig, Sam Crawford, Robert Flatt, and Wallace Smith. The group received a round of applause.

2. Recognition of Houston County Department of Human Resources Board Member

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Wallace Smith to come forward. He reported that Mr. Smith has served on the board of the Department of Human Resources since 1984. Chairman Culver stated after 29 years, Mr. Smith has decided he does not want to be re-appointed. The chairman then presented Mr. Smith with a plaque from the Commission for his 29 years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership. Mr. Smith stated he always wanted to be a part of the Human Resources Board and wanted to participate in adoption. He reported there is a great need for adoption and for foster parents in our community. Mr. Smith thanked chairman Culver and the Commission, and he also thanked Mrs. Paulk for her work as director. Mr. Smith stated he was leaving it in good hands with Mrs. Paulk. He received a round of applause.

3. Proclamation – "Police Officers Week" – Sheriff Andy Hughes

Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Andy Hughes to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to declare May 13-19, 2013 as "National Police Week." Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported each year that the Houston County Commission recognizes our Sheriff and his department for the outstanding job they do for the citizens of our county. He then read the Proclamation and presented it to Sheriff Hughes. He thanked the Chairman for the Proclamation and he commended the members of his department for their dedication and the great job they do each day. The Sheriff thanked the commission for their support.

4. Recognition of Fallen Officers and Others – Sheriff Andy Hughes

Sheriff Hughes asked the following officers to come forward: Sgt. Donovan Arias, Sgt. Jackie Smith, Sgt. Tony Turner, Cpl. Anthony Hatcher, and Deputy Trent Blair. He reported Lt. Bill Rafferty was not present because he was attending training at the FBI School in Virginia. The Sheriff reported on January 29th, he received a call concerning the child being held hostage in Dale County. He stated not many people know that Lt. Rafferty was the chief negotiator for the hostage situation. The Sheriff reported the deputies were with the operation for 6 days, and they were involved in medication drops and other things to the suspect and the hostage. He stated they placed their lives on the line in an effort to save lives. At that time, he presented the deputies with Medals of Valor. They received a round of applause.

Sheriff Hughes reported Wednesday, May 15th is observed annually as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day." He reported there have been four officers to die in the line of duty since the Sheriff's office was organized in 1903. The Sheriff recognized the fallen officers: Deputy Grady Granger, who died on November 27, 1915, Deputy Alvin North, who died August 17, 1916, Investigator Garvis Snellgrove, who died from a heart attack while on duty November 14, 1969, and Deputy Fred McClain, who died from a

heart attack on October 12, 1980. Sheriff Hughes stated each of the families deserve a debt of gratitude for the sacrifice that was made by their loved ones. The Sheriff reported members of Mr. Snellgrove's family were present and he recognized them. He thanked the commission for allowing him to come and make the presentation.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Houston County Commission and the following Municipalities for Houston County regarding request for assistance with debris removal: Ashford, Avon, Columbia, Cottonwood, Cowarts, Gordon, Kinsey, Madrid, Rehobeth, Taylor, and Webb.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Houston County Commission and the following Municipalities for Houston County regarding the request for assistance with debris removal: Ashford, Avon, Columbia, Cottonwood, Cowarts, Gordon, Kinsey, Madrid, Rehobeth, Taylor, and Webb. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these agreements with each municipality are for preparedness in case of a significant event happening. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to offer the position of Houston County Emergency Management Agency Director to Steve Carlisle at a beginning salary of \$47,000 per year effective June 1, 2013.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to offer the position of Houston County Emergency Management Agency Director to Steve Carlisle at a beginning salary of \$47,000 per year effective June 1, 2013. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Carlisle to come forward, and he asked him if he would accept the position? Mr. Carlisle stated yes. He thanked the Commission for giving him the opportunity to serve as the EMA Director. He stated he was ready to start work. Mr. Carlisle thanked Mr. Clark Matthews for training and helping him throughout the years he has been the community coordinator and operations manager. Chairman Culver reported the commission was looking forward to working with him. He also thanked Mr. Matthews for his leadership as the EMA Director, and expressed their gratitude to him. The chairman reported there would be a Retirement Reception for Mr. Matthews on May 22nd, at 2:00 P.M. Chairman Culver then called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland about Cowarts Road? Mr. Kirkland reported they plan to pave it this week. Mr. Kirkland stated they would have the parking lot at the Courthouse finished before the second week of June.

Chairman Culver recognized Mr. Steve Collins, E-911 Coordinator, and stated he was welcome to come back anytime.

Adjourn

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