

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinuefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, 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. Rev. Andy Gartman, Pastor, Tabernacle United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Jackie Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner McClendon for chairing the Administrative meeting in his absence. He reported he was attending an ACCA Retreat.

He reported the Economic Summit on Business would be September 25th at the Dothan Civic Center. He pointed out the event is sponsored by the City of Dothan, Houston County, and the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, and he reported it has been well attended in past years, and he encouraged people to attend if possible.

Chairman Culver stated the Town of Columbia would be holding their Annual Picnic on September 28th from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. He reported there would be lots of great entertainment as well as food.

He reported on September 24th, 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M., at Wiregrass Church, there would be an informational seminar regarding the Affordable HealthCare Act as it applies to businesses and individuals. He stated Representative Martha Roby, Don Williamson, M.D., State Health Officer, and a CPA would be present to discuss the Act and answer any questions. Chairman Culver reported if anyone was interested in going, they should contact Bevis, Eberhart, Browning, Walker, and Stewart, CPA's, 793-4883, in order to register.

The chairman reported on September 24th, at 6:00 P.M., there would be a Town Hall Meeting at the Dothan Opera House regarding the visit by the Chinese delegation scheduled for November 10th-12th. The chairman stated this is a tremendous happening in Dothan, and he pointed out there would be an opportunity to volunteer for the various events planned during the visit. Chairman Culver reported the county commissioners would be attending, and he encouraged county employees to attend.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children” – Mrs. Beth Ford, Program Manager, The Prevention Project

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Beth Ford, Manager, The Prevention Program, to come forward. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September 23rd, as “Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children.” Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. The chairman then read the Proclamation, and presented it to Mrs. Ford. Mrs. Ford thanked the chairman and commissioners and encouraged parents to take an active role in their children's life; not only on Family Day but every day. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Ford and her organization for everything they do all year.

2. Proclamation - “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” – Mr. Steve Turkoski, Project Manager, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Steve Turkoski, Project Manager, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, and his guest, to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Turkoski. Mr. Turkoski introduced Ms. Tracey Doran, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, and he thanked Chairman Culver and the commission for the Proclamation. He reported as stated in the Proclamation, people are the Nation's richest resource. Mr. Turkoski stated people with disabilities have the highest unemployment rate, and this needed to be reversed. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Turkoski for bringing this to the commission's attention.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve policy to establish a procedure for expenditure approval from the Capital Replacement department category.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the policy to establish a procedure for expenditure approval from the Capital Replacement department category. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is something new in this year's budget, and it would not affect the bottom line. He stated it will fund the replacement of faulty or failing equipment during the year. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Probate Judge to approve proposed polling place changes.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request to approve the proposed polling place changes. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Westgate is the largest polling place in Houston County. He stated the proposed change would allow for the majority of the 5,000 voters who live in Chapelwood and the Highlands to be moved to the First Assembly Family Life Center, and those who live behind the Northside Post Office to be moved to the Vaughn Blumberg Center. The chairman also reported the polling place would change for the voters in Rehobeth from the Community Center to the Municipal Complex. It was pointed out the only cost incurred for manpower would be for an additional Chief Inspector for approximately \$40.00. Chairman Culver reported Judge Davenport and his staff had done an excellent job on the polling place changes and felt it would alleviate the two hour wait some of the voters have experienced at Westgate. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported that County Road #55 was closed for the week between Womack Road and County Road #8 for maintenance on the bridge. He stated the road would be closed daily from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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