

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
DECEMBER 9, 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, County Engineer, and W. J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone.

He reported there was no Administrative Meeting on Thursday and the meeting will be operated under different rules allowing more discussion before motions are made if necessary. He stated they attended a Legislative Conference last week and received a lot of good information they will be bringing forward over the next coming weeks.

Elder Jason Johnson, Rhema Rock Church, gave the invocation. Chairman Culver reported Elder Johnson worked with Commissioner Harvey. Commissioner Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey 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 reminded everyone this is the last regular meeting of the year unless a meeting had to be called for something special. He stated he did not envision that right now. The chairman reminded everyone when they reconvene in 2014, they will be meeting in the City Commission Chambers. He pointed out the city is allowing the commission to hold their meetings there during the relocation. The chairman reported the county's meetings will continue to be at the same time on Thursdays and Mondays unless something changes, and then there will be plenty of advance notice given.

The chairman then gave an update on the move. He reported they hoped to move Probate the week between Christmas and New Years in order to have them operational in the new year. He stated the Revenue Commission will be collecting property taxes until December 31st; therefore they will not be moving until January 6th. The chairman reported most of the other departments would be moving during the first week of January. He requested if someone needs an office and they are not open yet, to please be patient. The chairman reported the bottom line is to have everyone moved out of the building by the end of the first week of January, and turn it over to the ESCO company and let them go to work. He stated if there are no bumps in the road, they hope to be back in the Administrative Building by May 1st. Chairman Culver stated they would continue to advise the public through the social media, and continue to advise the regular media also. He reported the parking lot resurfacing should begin this week or next week. The chairman pointed out the roof replacement should begin this week, and he stated he thought everything is moving forward. He stated the commission appreciated the department heads and employees in the Administrative Building being as understandable as possible with the

situation packing up and moving their personal things home and storing county things. He reported it is not an easy thing. Chairman Culver stated they were going to try and make it comfortable and safe for the citizens in the county.

Mr. Dempsey reported the fourth floor would be moving this week. Chairman Culver reported 4th floor is the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, and part of their offices are going to the Transit Authority Building and part of them are going to Headland. Commissioner McClendon asked if the move would occur during the day or after hours? Mr. Dempsey reported it would be during the day. Commissioner McClendon asked if one of the elevators could be assigned for movers and the other one for the citizens coming into the building to conduct business. Chairman Culver reported that was not a bad idea and the padding would need to be hung in the elevator designated for moving in order to protect it.

Chairman Culver reported Saturday, December 14th, the City of Ashford would be having their Christmas Parade at 5:00P.M.

Chairman Culver thanked the commissioners, Probate Judge Patrick Davenport, Revenue Commissioner Starla Moss Matthews, and Coroner Robert Byrd for ringing the Salvation Army Bell on Friday at the Northside Wal Mart. He stated they were in competition with the City. He pointed out it was supposed to be between elected officials only, and once again, he had to report that the City had some of their department heads ringing the bell during the designated hours. He stated the commission would learn in January or February who won. He thanked everyone again who participated.

Commissioner McClendon reported that Wicksburg and Rehobeth came in first and second in the Robotics competition held in Dothan earlier in the fall. She stated this weekend they went to a regional competition in Auburn to compete with 7 states and Wicksburg came in 3rd overall and 2nd in display. She pointed out they came in 37th last year. Commissioner McClendon reported they are a group of very determined kids who are totally supported by their community. She commended them for their efforts.

Commissioner Harvey reported he had the Operation Angel event this past weekend, and they gave out 1,100 toys and served 600 families a meal, and they played games and had a really good time. He thanked all of the volunteers and the community for their collaborative efforts, and the media for their coverage in helping to make it very successful event.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to award bid to move furnishings from Administrative Building to the temporary Court House Annex, and other locations.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid to move furnishings from the Administrative Building to the temporary Court House Annex and other locations to the low bidder meeting specs, Covan World-Wide Moving, Inc. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. He stated they do not come and move everything at one time. The chairman reported as boxes are ready, they will come in

and move them. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minutes Book)

2. Request to approve Kiosk electrical/data installation at the Houston County Jail in the amount \$24,770.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Kiosk electrical/data installation at the Houston County Jail in the amount of \$24,770.00. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if anyone from the Jail was present? There was no one, and he asked Mr. Sean Curtis to come forward and explain the request. Mr. Curtis reported the company that provides the kiosk machines for the kiosk services that does their commissary is giving the jail the machines that can be placed in the inmates' day pods, and there is data and electrical that has to be done in order to get the machines operational. He stated this will keep the inmates from having to be carried through the jail, and they can stay in their areas. Mr. Curtis reported this will provide other services as well. Commissioner Battles asked if this was budgeted? Mr. Dempsey reported at the last meeting, a budget amendment was requested for this year because the invoice was not processed last year. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from the Sheriff's Department to award bids for uniforms to the low bidder meeting specs.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award the bids for uniforms to the low bidders meeting specs, Azar's Uniforms, for all items with the exception of Call Out Uniform Pants, to Seminole Communications. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question, and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bib Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

4. Request to consider moving building at Crawford Street site.

Chairman Culver reported in all of the relocation plans, they made the determination to move the Maintenance Department from the 2nd floor over to the Crawford Street Building which has been sitting vacant for quite a while. He stated it was a good building and good space. The chairman reported the Maintenance Department wants to combine all of their employees in one location to include their trucks and equipment. He stated some additional room behind the building was needed in order for all the trucks to fit, and he had made additional contact with the property owner to see about the possibility of selling the county 12-15 feet. He stated when Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Curtis were looking at the site, they came up with the idea of moving the building forward 15 feet. He stated they have looked into it and based on the type building it is, they felt it could be done. The chairman reported based on the information they had received on the possibility of purchasing the additional footage, it will save the county approximately \$20,000.00 over what they were looking at to purchase. He commended Mr. Curtis and Mr. Kirkland for going over to the site and looking and thinking out of the box, coming up with a solution that does not create any issues. Chairman Culver reported he had talked with Todd McDonald with the City of Dothan, and he stated it would not create any problems. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request to move the building at Crawford Street as presented. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported sometime in

January, they will come back with a request for a pole barn to cover the equipment. He called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

5. Request from Landmark Park to install approximately 600 tons of crushed concrete on the entrance road to the park, to assist in removing 2 small block buildings, and to haul two pieces of old machinery to be sold.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Landmark Park to install approximately 600 tons of crushed concrete on the entrance road to the park, to assist in removing 2 small block buildings, and to haul two pieces of old machinery to be sold. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Mr. William Holman, Dothan Landmarks Foundation, reported this request goes back to the summer when a big rain came and totally washed out their road, and he thanked them for helping them with the project. He pointed out the torrential rain occurred on Tuesday, and there was a wedding on Saturday, and the city and county came to his rescue to get that road fixed to the point they could still have the wedding reception there. He stated the city is participating in the project in that they are providing the material and he is asking the county to provide the labor. Mr. Holman stated they now have the old Hodges Fairgrounds, and the other part is somewhat related in that in a future phase, it gives them an opportunity to have an emergency exit should another situation should occur and they have to get people in and out. He stated the two small buildings are on the old Hodges Fairgrounds, and are located right where the road would need to go. Chairman Culver reported the commission has done significant work on that road over the years along with the city, and have solved some of the issues, but there are still some issues. He stated they have come a long way. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland if they had looked at the road and buildings? Mr. Kirkland stated yes, and there was probably two days worth of work. The chairman asked him to make sure the city agrees to accept the hauled off buildings. Mr. Holman stated he was going to sell the machinery, and he stated Mr. Kirkland had offered to haul it to the scrap yard. Commissioner Sinuefield thanked Mr. Holman for what he and his staff do out at Landmark Park and he stated they do a wonderful service promoting agriculture, and teaching the many school children throughout the Wiregrass area. Mr. Holman reported the county commission has been a partner from day one and they appreciate all of the support they are given. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported they have mailed out brochures regarding the new garbage cans, and he pointed out the garbage cans will be delivered in mid-January to approximately 300 customers in Madrid on a trial basis. Mr. Kirkland reported they are blue and white.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and he stated when everyone returns after the first of the year, the county offices in the Admin Building will be in a temporary location.

Adjourn

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