

MINUTES OF THE "CALLED" HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
APRIL 3, 2014

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, 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 Culver called the 10:30 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He stated this is a very exciting day in the community, and as the day progresses, everyone will learn more and more about it. Commissioner Curtis Harvey gave the invocation. Chairman Culver led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that "Spirit of Service Day" and "Houston County Gives Day" would be on Saturday, April 5th. He stated there are many non-profit agencies in the community and Saturday is a day to help them. The chairman invited everyone to go by Eagle Eye Outfitters on the circle between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., or go to their website, to make financial contributions. He pointed out these contributions will help them as they work to make things better for the community. The chairman reported there are still opportunities for projects with "Spirit of Service Day." He stated if anyone would like to become involved, they should call the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

1. Request to adopt Resolution granting a special appropriation to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority.

Chairman Culver reported this is a tremendous day, and he was going to call on Mr. Matt Parker, President of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. David Parsons, Chairman of the Houston County Industrial Development Authority, for comments. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Resolution granting a special appropriation to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver then read the resolution. Chairman Culver reported he attended the Houston County Industrial Development Authority's meeting earlier in the day and he stated how much the commission appreciated the members being involved in the authority, and the job they have agreed to do. He pointed out the county's industrial authority had only been in existence 5 years, and they have not used them very much. He stated this particular opportunity was the right thing to do, and he stated he believed that Mr. Parker would be back before them again at some point in the future to do some other things. The chairman recognized Mayor Mike Schmitz, and everyone else who has been a part of this project.

Mr. Parsons stated they were all honored to be a part of the endeavor and as mentioned, this authority did not exist 5 years ago. He thanked Chairman Culver and Matt Parker for their vision to form the authority 5 years ago, and he stated without their vision they would not be able to be here. Mr. Parsons reported the symbolism of the county commission meeting being in the city commission chambers

shows exactly the spirit that exists and the cooperation between the city and county and the chamber of commerce.

Mr. Parsons reported the Houston County Industrial Development Authority was very happy to come and request the county's assistance and also to thank Chairman Culver, Matt Parker, and Mayor Schmitz who worked on this project for over a year. He pointed out it takes a lot of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to make things like this happen, and he thanked them.

Mr. Matt Parker recognized Bob Woodall, Chairman of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, and Mark Saliba, Economic Development Chairman. He reported they work behind the scenes and do a tremendous job for the chamber, and he thanked them for all of their efforts. He thanked the city and county for their cooperative efforts in economic development. Mr. Parker reported after yesterday's headlines regarding the Wayne Farms layoff, he sometimes wondered if economic development is a journey or a destination. He stated it is a journey; there is no destination because you keep working and try to strive for progress and opportunities. Mr. Parker reported there is an opportunity before the commission to create 100 jobs initially with another 75 down the road to bring a new manufacturing operation to the community that has been in business 32 years. He pointed out the company needed to expand and grow and get a solid labor force that will let them capture their market share. Mr. Parker reported they have been working with the company's team for close to a year to find the location, and they were able to customize a package for their needs. He pointed out Dothan-Houston County had some pretty strict competition with 10 other communities. Mr. Parker reported they are asking the county to assist with a spec building to house their manufacturing operation, and the company will equip it to start building their product that they manufacture. He pointed out the initial phase would create 100 jobs and in the future, an expansion phase will create 75 more jobs. Mr. Parker reported there has been a great partnership with all of the utilities, the county's team, their administrative team and legal team. He pointed out the Alabama Industrial Development Training office has added tremendously to this effort because this company is a labor oriented sector, and they have to have a proficient workforce in order to develop the required skill level to be successful. He also reported the Department of Commerce from the Governor's office had been very supportive as well as those at the city and county level to make things happen. Mr. Parker asked for the commission's support on the project and stated they are ready to move forward. He stated he would be glad to answer any questions.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Parker. He stated he and the mayor are not the most patient people in the world and thank goodness they have Mr. Parker to keep them on an even keel. The chairman stated he could not reiterate the cooperation between the city, county and chamber of commerce enough. He stated the economic development partnership they all have is extremely unique. He thanked the mayor. The chairman asked if anyone had any questions. Commissioner Battles asked about the groundbreaking. Mr. Parker reported there are some final closure details that have to be done, but it would be within the next 60 days. Chairman Culver reported it is an existing building, and there will have to be some work done on it. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. He thanked Mayor Schmitz, Mr. Parker, Mr. Parsons, and everyone. He stated he looked

forward to 11:00 A.M. when the entire community would be advised on the project. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Adjourn

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