

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JUNE 23, 2014

PRESENT: Mark S. Culver, Chairman, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Myer Holloway, Acting County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Kyle Johnson, Pastor, Union Hill Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Melinda McClendon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported since there was no Administrative meeting on Thursday, the commission would be operating under a little different format in that more discussion would be allowed in advance of a motion. The chairman reported there would also be a Public Hearing right after the announcements.

He reported there are 5 Mondays in June and there would be 3 weeks before the next meeting on July 14th. He stated the commission would not meet again before the 4th of July, which falls on Friday, and would be a long weekend. The chairman encouraged everyone to celebrate the birth of our great nation, but to please do it responsibly.

The chairman stated Chattahoochee Park celebrated its 78th Anniversary on Saturday. He reported he had a Class Reunion and was unable to attend. He called on Acting Engineer, Myer Holloway, who stated according to the Park's Manager, they had a good crowd, and received a lot of positive comments. The chairman stated the event was to celebrate the Anniversary, but it created a lot of awareness of the park. He stated the park is a beautiful place and he encouraged everyone to go and visit it. Chairman Culver pointed out the park used to be a state park, but it is now maintained by the county.

Chairman Culver reported he had received a letter from the Wiregrass Food Bank expressing their appreciation to the men and women from the Community Corrections Department who help their agency on a daily basis. The chairman stated the commission always likes to take the opportunity to recognize the department when they receive positive comments. He asked Mr. Weber to please pass this along to his people who work at the Food Bank.

Commissioner McClendon reported Team Alabama's Special Olympics Team went to New Jersey last week and participated on the national level, and it was a fantastic event for all who were able to attend. She asked if anyone sees any members of the team or someone who went to please congratulate them on their accomplishments. Commissioner McClendon reported they did very well and brought back a

ton of gold medals. She stated as someone who knows firsthand about Special Olympics, it is an unbelievable organization, and she gave kudos to Team Alabama.

Public Hearing related to a permit modification for the Omussee C&D Landfill located on Kinsey Road

Chairman Culver reported the law requires the commission to have a Public Hearing in advance of approval. He then called the Public Hearing to order regarding a permit modification for the Omussee C&D Landfill located on Kinsey Road. He asked if there were any comments? There being none, he declared the Public Hearing closed. The chairman thanked everyone who attended.

Awards and Presentations

1. Recognition - Rehobeth-Taylor 11 and 12 Year Old Girls' Softball Team – Lynn Benton

Chairman Culver reported as previously mentioned, the Alabama Special Olympics Team had done great, and he stated it is always good when our young people excel and the commission can recognize them. Chairman Culver reported a lot of young people are participating this week in WIRED, a great activity for the youth in the community.

He asked Ms. Katrina Tucker and the members of the softball team to come forward. He then presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing them as they represent the State of Alabama in the 11 and 12 Year Old Girl's Fast Pitch World Series in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Chairman Culver stated the commission appreciated the girls not only representing Rehobeth and Taylor and Houston County, but the entire State of Alabama. He reported the commission knew they would do very well and they were so proud of them. The chairman reported the endeavor to get the team to Myrtle Beach is not publicly paid for, and the cost is \$7,000. He reported Mrs. Tucker would tell everyone how to help to support the team if interested. He pointed out the team is also raising funds. Ms. Tucker thanked the commission for their recognition. She stated it is such an honor for the girls. Ms. Tucker pointed out when they started the season they were the 11 -12 year old softball team headed to Sub-district and District playoffs like every other all Star Team in the community. She stated when they went to the Sub-District meeting the girls were invited to forego the playoffs and go straight to the World Series Traditional Play Pony Tail in North Myrtle Beach, SC. She pointed out the team will no longer be the Taylor-Rehobeth All Stars, they are officially Team Alabama for the Girls 11 and 12 Year Old Pony Tail. She stated they will be the only team representing Alabama, and their goal is to bring the 2014 World Series win back home. Ms. Tucker reported this team is in need of sponsors and donations for expenses to include uniforms, equipment, travel, lodging, food, and parade festivities. She stated they would be grateful for any commitment anyone could make to assist this team. Ms. Tucker reported they will have a team banner to hang at the dugout for any team they play, and anyone or any business who sponsors will be listed on the banner. She stated they are extremely proud of the girls, and are confident in the girls to represent Alabama as well as Taylor-Rehobeth in a positive way and with good sportsmanship. She stated these girls have worked hard on the field and they have made a 110% commitment to the game they love, girls softball. Ms. Tucker introduced their Head Coach, Glen Tucker, and the following team members: Kayla Wallace, Alisa McCrae, Hannah Snellgrove, Avery Trotter, Laney Skipper, Tammy Brown, Madison Kirkland, and Kayla Jackson. She reported the following team

members were not present: Kendall Morris, Sara Nolen, Jody Anderson, and Emily Starling. Ms. Tucker reported the team did not have a website; however, she had forms she could hand out to the commission. She stated the President of their association is Brad Tucker, and his contact information is on the forms, or she could e-mail the information. Chairman Culver requested that Ms. Tucker give him the information and he would get it out to the public. She reported the girls would be out in the community doing fundraisers, and requested everyone's support. Chairman Culver stated the commission was glad to have the opportunity to recognize this team and let them know how proud they are of them, and he wished them the best of luck. They received a round of applause.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from WRC, Inc. for donation of four (4) 6 yard containers no longer in use by the Houston County Sanitation Department to be used in the E-Waste work training program.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request from WRC, Inc. for donation of four (4) 6-yard containers no longer in use by the Houston County Sanitation Department to be used in the E-Waste work training program. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the county has approximately 50 of these containers they are selling. He stated Mrs. Cynthia Green is available to answer any questions. He reported she contacted the county about the possibility of letting them have 4 of the containers for the activities they do out at WRC, and he stated he told her he thought it would be the commission's honor to do so. He thanked Mrs. Green for bringing it to the commission's attention, and asked her if she would like to make any comments. Mrs. Green stated they would be remiss for not thanking the commission for always supporting their programs and services. She reported they have been collecting electronic waste from residents for approximately 2 years, and they do have community events when they partner with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Mrs. Green reported Phillip Carter is their representative for that event. Mrs. Green reported they have been blessed to collect 10-12 game boards filled with electronics and then the material comes back to their service center and individuals who are in their training program or employed at WRC separate the materials and the materials are sold as scrap metal. She pointed out the scrap metal monies go to pay these individuals. Mrs. Green reported they are earning their paychecks, and they are spending the money back in the community. She stated it is a win-win situation for the residents and WRC. She encouraged businesses in the area that might have electronics to call them and they will pick them up. Mrs. Green reported for residents, they hope this will give an opportunity for drop off at various locations. Commissioner Sinquefield asked if the county would deliver the containers to WRC? Mrs. Green stated she had spoken with Engineer Barkley Kirkland and Randy Gaplin and they stated they could handle that but if not, arrangements could be made. Mrs. Green stated if so, it would be wonderful. Chairman Culver reported that he had spoken with Engineer Kirkland and he stated the county would deliver them. Commissioner Battles asked if they were doing repairs on the game boys for re-sale? Mrs. Green stated no, that by the time they get to them they are not worth anything. Mr. Battles stated he had some that work fine and Mrs. Green reported if he would call her she had a contact who buys them. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Green.

2. Request to approve Budget Amendment for Building Modification Costs.

Chairman Culver called on Mr. Dempsey, CAO, and he reported in the original budget the commission approved \$75,000 for moving from the Administration Building to the Mayer Building and back, and any modifications they might have at the Mayer Building. He stated at the time they approved the original budget that was all that was on the table. He reported after that, there was a special work session in October or November and Mr. Curtis presented a proposal that would modify the Administration Building, the RSVP Building, which is now the Personnel Building, the Mayer Building, and the Crawford Street Building. Mr. Dempsey reported since that time, roughly in November of last year, modifications began in the Mayer Building so the county could move in, and the work has continued to go on. Mr. Dempsey reported he had a list of the actual items that have occurred.

Chairman Culver reported the county is moving forward with all of it and the middle of August is the target date to be totally complete. He pointed out they anticipate moving some offices in July to include the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, and he stated they need to talk about possibly the Commission Offices and Accounting. Chairman Culver stated he was hoping they could have an Open House on a Friday morning if they could get people to agree to come in, and allow the public to come in and see the changes that have been made. Mr. Sean Curtis went over the following list of modifications and additions:

Administration Building:

1st Floor - Wall layout changes, Tag counters, added six more stations, new computer /electrical wires, and new floor covering, Drivers License- repaired laminate on countertops due to no air conditioning in the building.

2nd Floor – Two additional offices with computer/phone/ electrical wires Probate Recording – Removed the counters and allowed new computer/phone/electrical wires to be run Probate Courtroom was built

3rd Floor – Recorders for Commission Chambers

4th Floor – Sheetrock repairs due to contaminates, and replace floor covering on entire floor

5th Floor – Remodel bathrooms to make them Handicap accessible, added security for the doors in the Revenue Department, repair laminate on the countertops due to delamination

6th Floor – Replace carpet and make sheetrock repairs

Mr. Curtis reported they have painted all walls and refinished the doors in the building

Personnel Building:

He stated there were a lot of issues with the building to include wall repairs due to termite damage and contaminates, made electrical repairs that were fire hazards, repairs made to plumbing lines due to being clogged up, re-wiring for computer/phone/electrical for the training room

Crawford Street Building:

Moved building forward in lieu of property purchase, adding fencing around the property, adding stairs due to the move and repair the plumbing

Temp. Admin (Mayer):

Sewage lines collapsed, and repairs have been made to the old air-conditioning

Mr. Dempsey reported the county has revenues in the amount of \$238,500 from an unbudgeted transfer, and Trane has agreed to pay for the roof repair, parking lot and some of the carpet replacement. He pointed out the Revenue Commissioner is paying one-half of the cost for the 5th floor modification. Mr. Dempsey reported the reason for the request at this time is because at the end of June the books are closed for the year in order to begin the budget process. He reported this does not close the year but a line is drawn on June 30th in order to make sure all of the expenses and revenues are captured at that time. Mr. Dempsey reported Mr. Curtis had given a brief overview and he stated there have been repairs to the roof, lots of HVAC repairs, a lot of sewage line issues and problems. He complimented Mr. Curtis and his staff on getting the Mayer Building up and going. Commissioner Sinquefield asked how the fiber optic connections would be handled on the move back into the Admin Building? Mr. Danny Cumbie, IT Manager, reported they will disconnect the connections on all of the wiring that has been installed in the Mayer Building. He stated they can either take the fiber down or leave it up. Commissioner Sinquefield reported the Sheriff had that as a budget request for the Jail, and he wondered if any of it could be used? Mr. Cumbie stated probably not.

Chairman Culver stated in spite of the few things the county has had to do, the Mayer Building has been a great asset for the county. He reported he has had people ask particularly about the tag line, if the county could not stay instead of moving back? The chairman stated hopefully, with the changes, it will be a pleasant experience in the Admin building. He pointed out the building was donated to the DDRA, and the county is basically renting it for 2 years for virtually nothing. He reported there is a potential for a private company to go in there which will be good for downtown to bring people to work and help develop downtown and that facility. The chairman reported the company is still evaluating that possibility. Chairman Culver stated if for some reason it does not come to fruition, the commission will probably be back to discuss the disposition of the building. He stated the county has found it could be a tremendous asset; particularly the storage. He reported the county is not going to pull all of the wiring down until those determinations are made. Chairman Culver reported if the county has some use for the facility then having all of it there would be beneficial. The chairman stated if the private sector company comes in, the county still hopes to gain some storage across the street out of the use. He reported the building will either be good for the community or good for the county; but either way it is a good situation. Chairman Culver reported the monies the county has put in to help with major expenses will be a little less than \$100,000 if the private sector moves back in there. He stated if not, the investment has been made by the county. He stated the determinations would be made later. He pointed out the 6th floor Conference Room is being redone. He reported the computer lab would be moving to the Personnel Building, and will not only help with training, but it will help Personnel to

determine on the spot what potential employees can do. The chairman stated some additional space was needed for Maintenance. He pointed out moving the Crawford Street building forward will make that possible. He commended Mr. Curtis and Engineer Kirkland for coming up with the idea to move it forward rather than purchasing additional property. Chairman Culver reported that the commission felt it was better to do the painting, flooring, and bathroom repairs while the building was vacated rather than do it two or three years later. The chairman stated as part of the ESCO Project, work is being done in other county buildings to include, the Jail, Community Corrections, and the Courthouse. He stated there have been changes to county buildings for the positive and he thanked everyone who has been involved. Mr. Dempsey reported \$507,548 is the best estimate at this time, but it was subject to change, He then proposed the amount as a budget amendment. He stated there is still some construction and Probate will not be moving until August. Mr. Dempsey reported he hoped the other departments could move before then. Chairman Culver stated the motion should be to make the budget amendment in the amount of \$507,548, but they do anticipate some revenue, and the net results will be around \$270,000. Commissioner Sinquefield motioned to approve the request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$507,548 for building modifications as presented. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve Life Insurance Renewal.

Mr. Dempsey reported the county provides a \$15,000 Life Insurance and Accidental Death Policy to employees. He stated they occasionally get a re-quote, and the lowest price is provided by CIGNA who is represented by Bailey, Espy, & Lee, at \$0.1800 per thousand for a total cost of approximately \$12,200 per year. He pointed out it is a decrease of around \$1,000 per year. Mr. Dempsey reported they contacted 3 companies for quotes. He stated employees also have an opportunity to buy insurance through the company. Commissioner McClendon made a motion to approve the renewal of the Life Insurance with Cigna, represented by Bailey, Espy, & Lee for a \$15,000 Life Insurance and AD&D policy to county employees, at a total cost of \$0.1800 per thousand. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Sheet)

4. Request to approve the expansion of Omussee C&D Landfill located on Kinsey Road.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the expansion of the Omussee C&D Landfill located on Kinsey Road. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported a Public Hearing was held in advance of this item and there were no objections. He reported this expands the area where they can dump the construction and debris. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to approve Debris Management Plan

Acting Engineer Myer Holloway reported it is part of the county's Pre-Disaster Plan, and it includes a Debris Management Plan spelling out how the county would handle a disaster with a large amount of debris. He pointed out this is an EMA and FEMA requirement. Mr. Holloway reported this is a plan and it is not a contract with a company. Commissioner Sinquefield stated he felt public information would

be very critical if some type of disaster did occur. Chairman Culver stated that was part of the plan. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Debris Management Plan. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Plan in Minute Book)

6., Request to award contract to the lowest bidder, Midsouth Paving, Inc., of Birmingham, AL for resurfacing Glen Lawrence Road, Webb Road, and South Park Avenue. (ATRIP Projects)

Commissioner Battles made a motion to concur in the award of the contract to the lowest bidder, Midsouth Paving, Inc., of Birmingham, AL for resurfacing Glen Lawrence Road, Webb Road, and South Park Avenue. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these are the last three of the ATRIP projects, and the county was glad to get them going. He stated the county was going to be on the lookout for extra ATRIP money that might be around in the next few months. He stated in the meantime, the county is glad to have these because they have made a good impact on some of the roads in the city and county. The chairman pointed out the ATRIP projects account for approximately \$23 million worth of work in the city and county. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request to approve the sale of a convection oven belonging to the Jail on GovDeals.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the sale of a convection oven belonging to the Jail on GovDeals. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Sheet in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Acting Engineer Holloway reported they are continuing work on Saunders Road, Glen Lawrence Road, and Forrester Road. He stated depending on the weather, they hope to finish the resurfacing this week.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked if any of the commission had any questions for the staff?

Chairman Culver asked how many roads were still closed? Acting Engineer Holloway stated he thought it was 7. The chairman asked if there were still roads closed on the lower end of the county? Mr. Holloway stated yes because there is nowhere for the water to go. He reported they are also waiting on the proper paperwork from FEMA. Chairman Culver reported he had received several calls on these roads and the county will get started to work on them as quick as they can, but they have to make sure all of the paperwork is done and all of the authorizations. He pointed out the county had an issue with that in the past and they will not have that again. The chairman reported FEMA appears to be very willing and cooperative this time and seem to be moving forward pretty quickly. Acting Engineer

Holloway reported the FEMA representative is processing the paperwork and they hope to hear something soon. Chairman Culver reported the commission wanted the citizens to know that they are having to wait on the paperwork from FEMA before they can do the work.

Adjourn

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