

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 11, 2015

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and W. 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. Dr. Brent Parker, Pastor, Selma Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commission

Chairman Culver reported the 7th Annual Media vs. Electeds Softball Game would be held on May 16th, at 10:30 A.M., at Colby-Bottoms Field. He stated the game is a food/fundraiser for the Wiregrass Area Food Bank, and he urged everyone to come. Chairman Culver pointed out Probate Judge Patrick Davenport, Sheriff Donald Valenza, Commissioners Battles, Harvey, and he would be participating. The chairman reported after the game, everyone would be invited to go and eat at Red Elephant, and he pointed out 15% of the tab would go to the Food Bank.

The chairman reminded everyone that the next commission meeting would be on Tuesday, May 26th instead of Monday, May 25th, because of Memorial Day.

Chairman Culver reported the Auburn Tigers won the SEC Championship in Women's Softball over the weekend. He pointed out one of their star players is Ms. Kacey Cooper who is from Dothan, and he congratulated her and the team.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation – Circle City Chaos – Mr. Paul McVay

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Paul McVay to come and make a presentation on Circle City Chaos. He reported the county was proud and excited to have the Circle City Chaos team in the community, and they have been using the facilities at the Farm Center for practices. Chairman Culver turned the meeting over to Mr. McVay, who thanked Chairman Culver and the commission on behalf of the Circle City Chaos for having him. He reported in October, 2014, a group of individuals got together and formed the Circle City Chaos, the first premier Flat Track Derby Association, and he stated they are a semi-professional team. Mr. McVay reported they are creating history in Dothan since the last time a professional team of any sport was in 1962 when the Dothan Cardinals finished their last season. He pointed out the only other Houston County or Wiregrass area team was the Ozark Patriots in 2004, and

they never really got started. Mr. McVay reported the Dothan Circle City Chaos was founded on several rules: it would only host and have women from the Wiregrass Area, have a prayer, national anthem, special colors and a certain name. He stated they have fulfilled that. He reported they currently have 18 women and they are all from Abbeville or Dothan proper, and they have been practicing very hard 3-4 times a week at the Farm Center. Mr. McVay reported on May 23rd, at 7:00 P.M., at the Dothan Civic Center, they will go up against Columbus. He stated these women are very professional and athletic and they promote professionalism and empowering women through athletic expression. He pointed out this is not a skitted organization or a wrestling match; these are women going out and fighting for every point that they are going to score against the opposing teams. Mr. McVay reported they will host 5 bouts this year: Muscogee out of Columbus, Montgomery, New Orleans, Panama City, and Tallahassee. He pointed out there area 212 teams nationally, and 66 European teams. Mr. McVay reported the number 1 team in the nation is New York City. He stated the only way to keep the sport going is through the support of the people in the Wiregrass area. Mr. McVay stated they are a charitable organization and they have 2 charities they donate to each year, and through the proceeds from attendance and some other individual things they will be doing they will be raising money for the Wiregrass Children's Home and Girls, Inc. He pointed out they will receive a check after every bout. He stated he felt the public could see these women are going to support the city and the Wiregrass area. Mr. McVay thanked the commission for having him and he stated he hoped to see everyone at the Civic Center. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. McVay for coming and sharing about the Circle City Chaos.

2. Presentation – Farm City Week Awards – Dr. Adair Gilbert, Chairperson

Chairman Culver asked Commissioner Sinquefield, a member of the Farm City Week Committee, and Dr. Adair Gilbert, Farm City Week Chairperson, to come forward. The chairman turned the meeting over to Commissioner Sinquefield, and he introduced Dr. Gilbert, Chairperson. He pointed out Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat, Glenn Maloy, and Ms. Linda McGhee, also serve on the Farm City Committee, along with other members. Commissioner Sinquefield reported it takes a lot of people working together with this committee to have a successful Farm City Week. He commended all of the members for their hard work, interest, and support and working with the students, 4-H Club, and FFA who try to introduce to the community what agriculture is in the State of Alabama. He reported it is one of the biggest areas of economic development in the state. Commissioner Sinquefield recognized Mr. Glen Maloy, the incoming Chairman for 2015. Commissioner Sinquefield thanked everyone for coming. He called on Dr. Gilbert who recognized the state award winners. Dr. Gilbert reported it was great to come and talk about Farm City and share and thank the commission for all their support. She stated the county commission has supported the committee for so long, and the reward is in the awards that will be given to the young people as well as a couple of awards that the committee won at the state level. Dr. Gilbert reported 2-3 years ago, the committee was not doing that and now have started to make a name for our county in the State of Alabama. She reported the farming community and the proceeds from the community are the largest economic impact sector in Houston County. Dr. Gilbert reported all of the people on the farm are bringing approximately 15,000 jobs to Houston County. She stated she was so proud to have been able to serve as the Chairperson of the Farm City Week Committee for the last 2 years and it has been a highlight of her life because it has brought her from a background in farming that

she has had all of her life to being able to talk about the students and what is happening in the schools. She thanked Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat for her work in the schools and as a result having the opportunity to receive the awards. Dr. Gilbert then recognized the following students for their awards:

Logan McNeil, First Place State Farm City Poster Contest for Kindergarten – 3rd Grade Division. He attends Heard Magnet School. She pointed out he received a check and his school as his sponsor also got a check. He received a round of applause.

Makayla Delvecchio, First Place State Poster Farm City Poster Contest – 4th-6th Grade Division. She attends Cottonwood High School. Ms. Delvecchio was unable to attend. Dr. Gilbert reported she has consistently had wonderful posters depicting the theme each year. She pointed out this year's theme was "365 Sunrises-7 Billion Mouths to Feed."

Brody Stokes, First Place 4-H Peanut Essay Junior Division Contest, held in conjunction with the Farm City program. He attends Highlands Elementary School. Dr. Gilbert reported that at his age, she did not know what an essay was, and she stated the committee is so proud of Brody and what he has done. He received a round of applause.

Dr. Gilbert reported this year is the first time the county has competed in the Multi-Media Farm City Contest. She asked Mr. Maloy to come forward and thanked him for being the Chairperson for 2015. She reported Mr. Maloy has done so much to help the students to prepare for the Multi-Media Farm Contest. She asked Ms. Olivia Starling and Ms. Dara Glass to come forward. Dr. Gilbert reported they won 2nd place at the State Level. She stated the young ladies have worked hard and made everyone so proud.

Dr. Gilbert reported the local Farm City Committee won at the State Luncheon the Multi-Media Proclamation Award and the Civic Clubs Award. She pointed out they had hoped to win the State's Best Committee Award, and she reported the committee is working on it. Dr. Gilbert reported up until a year or so ago, they had not won any of the awards, but due to the commission's support the committee has been able to move forward and make a name for Houston County at the state level. Dr. Gilbert thanked the commission for their support. Chairman Culver thanked Dr. Gilbert for serving as the Chairperson over the last two years.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve revised agreement for final settlement of County Road #59 @ Fortner Street.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the revised agreement for final settlement of County Road #59 @ Fortner Street. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there was no work involved; just a settlement on work that had previously been done. He called for the question and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to approve agreement to resurface County Road 33/Smithville Road.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the agreement to resurface County Road 33/Smithville Road. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to award bid on crushed limestone.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to award the bids on crushed limestone in the various categories to the low bidders meeting specs. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

4. Request to award bid for one (1) four wheel drive pick-up truck.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid for one (1) four wheel drive pick-up truck to Bondy's Ford, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$32,847.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported on May 12th, the Webb to Kinsey Road would be closed for two weeks during the day. He reported they will have to go in and jack up the bridge. He pointed out this is an MPO project.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Kirkland to give an update on the storm debris removal? He stated they are working to get it off the county's right of ways, and they will be picking that up for weeks to come. He stated the crews are going to continue to pick up on the county's right of ways this week. He stated beginning on May 18th, they will begin picking up in the towns that were hardest hit and they will go to the others in an effort to try to let people get their yards cleaned up. Mr. Kirkland pointed out the deadline to have the debris out to the road is May 15th. Chairman Culver stated he hoped everyone would be patient because it is a huge undertaking due to the amount of damage that was done. He reported the county will get to it as soon as they can. He encouraged everyone to get their debris out to the road by Friday. Commissioner Battles stated he had been asked about some of the trees that have fallen towards the roads, and he asked the procedure. He asked if they are going to cut the trees back to the right of way? Mr. Kirkland stated yes, and he pointed out the county cannot go on private property. Chairman Culver pointed out most right of ways are 60 feet and would probably get most of it. Commissioner Sinquefield asked if the current debris sites were adequate to take care of all of the debris? Mr. Kirkland stated yes, they would be dumping it in several different pits.

Adjourn

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