

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Acting Chairman, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Patrick Jones, Acting County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver and Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Acting Chairman, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He reported Chairman Culver was on an Economic mission, and Commissioner Harvey was unable to attend. Rev. Jimmy Bolin, Pastor, Cottonwood First Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Jackie Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Acting Chairman Siquefield reported on Saturday, October 3rd, at 9:00 A.M., the Fall Festival would be held at the Chattahoochee State Park. He stated Kim and Allen have worked hard on it, and they are doing a great job at the Park. He pointed out there would be 70 vendors participating and all of the proceeds would go to Habitat for Humanity, Living Waters Counseling, Inc., Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention, and Wiregrass Hope Group. He pointed out this is going to be a great event and he encouraged everyone to attend .

Mr. Siquefield reported October 24th, at 10:00 A.M., the Ashford Fall Festival would be held downtown.

Acting Chairman Siquefield called on Steve Carlisle, EMA Director, to come forward and give an update on the weather. Mr. Carlisle reported our area was going to just get rain, and probably would be 2-4 inches over a 2 day period. He pointed out the bad weather was going to stay along the coastline.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with your Children – Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership

Acting Chairman Siquefield asked Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, to come forward and bring his guests. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried. Mr. Siquefield then read the Proclamation declaring September 28th, A Day to Eat Dinner with your Children, and presented it to Mr. Grimes. He thanked the commission for their support of the Partnership and its annual observance of Family Day. Mr. Grimes pointed out it is a national initiative to remind parents of the power that they will in keeping their kids substance free. He stated everyone knows how parents joke about how the brains of young people work or don't work. Mr. Grimes

reported in actuality the developed teen brain makes it likelier that teens will take risks including using addictive substances that interfere with brain development, impaired judgment, and increase their risk of addiction. He stated three-fourths of high school students have used addictive substances including cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana or cocaine. Mr. Grimes reported two-thirds have used more than one of these substances, and when you add other concerns such as family history or genetic pre-disposition, a co-occurring health problem, or a traumatic experience this greatly increases the risk of substance abuse and addiction. He stated according to many family experts, regular family meals are probably the best psychological daily vitamin parents can give their children. Mr. Grimes reported family meals make kids feel good especially when the focus is positive, kids get a chance to be themselves and offer parents insight into what is really going on in their lives. He stated it is no wonder family meals are associated with lower teen pregnancy rates, higher grade point averages, fewer eating disorders and a lower risk of depression. Mr. Grimes asked everyone to turn off their televisions, tablets, computers, hide the cell phones, and gather the family around the table for a good meal. He stated they might even start a trend. He thanked the commission for the Proclamation and helping to bring awareness to the community. Mr. Grimes called on Ms. Kimberley Guiller, a student at Northview High School, who thanked the commission for allowing her to come and share the importance of Family Day. She stated she grew up in a family of 5 and things were always hectic, but dinnertime was a time to come together and talk about their day. She reported with everyone going in different directions, it is nice to sit and talk to each other. Ms. Guiller stated that she believed having the time together has brought her family closer. She stated her two older brothers did not live at home any more, and she cherishes the Sunday afternoons where they can come together and catch up on the past week. Ms. Guiller reported in this modern world of technology, everyone needs to put down their phones and tablets to talk to each other, and she challenged everyone to go home, have dinner with their families and talk about their day. She thanked the commission. Acting Chairman Sinquefield thanked her and Mr. Grimes and he stated what an important challenge they have given by asking everyone to come and have family day together. He stated the day has a very meaningful purpose because of the things you can learn from your children and things your children can learn from you.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve the County Debt Setoff Program Participation Agreement between the Association of County Commissions of Alabama and Houston County.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the County Debt Setoff Program Participation Agreement between the Association of County Commissions of Alabama and Houston County. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Sinquefield reported this was discussed on Thursday and it is an agreement that was made between the Association of County Commissions of Alabama and the county commission. He asked Mr. Dempsey if he had any comments? Mr. Dempsey stated it is as discussed last Thursday. He pointed out if there is a debt at least 60 days old and greater than \$25.00, it will be submitted through ACCA, and if that person has a refund from the State of Alabama, the money they owe the county would be taken along with a \$25.00 service fee from ACCA. Commissioner Shoupe asked if someone owes \$50.00 and the county submits that to ACCA, and they voluntarily come in and pay it before it is deducted from their income tax refund, would the county

charge them a \$25.00 late fee? Mr. Dempsey reported the county has some options . He stated they would accept payment but once the county submitted it to ACCA, the money would be taken, and the fee would be charged. Mr. Dempsey reported it is more of an operations policy that the county would have to determine whether they would reimburse the \$25.00 fee or not. He pointed out it would not have been submitted in the first place if it was not delinquent. Acting Chairman Siquefield called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution for Solid Waste Collection and Community Corrections Program Fees to participate in the County Tax Setoff Program.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution for Solid Waste Collection and Community Corrections Program Fees to participate in the County Tax Setoff Program. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Mr. Siquefield reported this was the Resolution with Solid Waste Collection and Community Corrections Program fees . Acting Chairman Siquefield called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to extend Lease for Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission to occupy the 4th Floor of the Administration Building.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to extend the Lease for Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission to occupy the 4th Floor of the Administration Building. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Acting Chairman Siquefield reported it is in accordance with the terms of the agreement with SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for the occupation of the 4th floor of the Admin Building. He pointed out the New Lease Cost would be \$50,820 per year and the new Janitorial Cost would be \$5,280 per year for a total new cost of \$56,100 per year. Acting Chairman Siquefield called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported the exemption Forms will be mailed out soon for Social Security Solid Waste Exemption. He stated in order for someone to qualify, the only source of income in the household has to be social security. Mr. Dempsey reported this year, they are going to require some backup documentation along with that form. Commissioner Shoupe asked what type of backup documentation would be required? Mr. Dempsey stated they would require their last 3 bank statements.

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported Antioch Church Road is closed for approximately two weeks due to the rain.

County Attorney – Acting County Attorney Jones had no report

Adjourn

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