

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 26, 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 Nancy Bristow, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Mark S. Culver, Chairman, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Wes Kelley, Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Brandon Shoupe 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 Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported a Press Release had been sent out earlier in the day regarding the State of Alabama's on system roads. He stated these roads receive federal funding, and go through a rigorous Maintenance Inspection Program and are graded each year. The chairman pointed out this year, Houston County has the best roads in the state. He reported between 2000 and 2009, the county's roads were the best in the state, and then the grading system was changed and local funding was cut. He commended Engineer, Barkley Kirkland, and his staff for the outstanding job they did to make this happen. Chairman Culver reported these Houston County roads are safe. He pointed out the county has a significant problem with the off system roads, the roads that only county funds can be used for their repair and maintenance. The chairman reported these roads are going to have to be addressed.

Chairman Culver called on Mr. Kirkland who reported as previously stated, Houston County had the best roads from 2000-2009, but due to a loss of funding, and major flood work they did not achieve the # 1 rating until this year. He pointed out his department started concentrating on work to get the grade back this year. Mr. Kirkland recognized Mr. Myer Holloway, and Mrs. Britney Clayton, Assistant County Engineers, for all of their hard work and the staff to make this happen. Commissioner Jackie Battles stated he thought they deserved a round of applause.

Chairman Culver reported that the economic team's number one priority is creating employment opportunities for the community. He stated Wayne Farms and Commercial Jet were looking for employees. He urged anyone who might be interested in seeking employment to contact these companies.

The chairman reported the National Peanut Festival would be held November 6th-15th. He stated the Ribbon Cutting would be Friday, November 6th, at 5:00 P.M., and the Parade would be on Saturday, November 14th. He encouraged everyone to go and be a part of the Festival's activities and enjoy it. The chairman also stated he hoped the weather would cooperate.

Commissioner Shoupe reported he had recently taken a tour of Wallace Community College, and he stated it was eye opening regarding the technology available out there. He encouraged anyone interested in a tour to contact the college.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Wiregrass BEST Robotics Day” – Mrs. Mary Hudson, Robotics Team Sponsor, Wicksburg High School

Chairman Culver reported lots of students were in attendance along with their sponsors, and he could not get them all down front. He asked Mrs. Mary Hudson, Robotics Team Sponsor, Wicksburg High School, to come forward, and to bring her guests. Mrs. Hudson reported only the sponsors and officers of the teams from Wicksburg, Rehobeth, Cottonwood, and Ashford would be coming forward. Chairman Culver asked for a motion on the Proclamation. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming October 31st as “Wiregrass BEST Robotics Day.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Hudson. She thanked the commission for recognizing “Wiregrass BEST Robotics Day”, and she stated it would be October 31st from 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., at the Ozark Civic Center. Mrs. Hudson reported the event has grown and there would be 18 teams competing from throughout the wiregrass including Eufaula, and Bainbridge, Georgia. She stated city and private schools would also be competing. She pointed out these students have spent a minimum of 16-17 hours per week over the last 6 weeks on their projects. Mrs. Hudson introduced Kevin Stewart, CEO, of Wicksburg’s team. Ms. Donna Turner, Sponsor of Rehobeth Middle School, introduced Ms. Alyssa McRae, CEO of their team. Mr. Walter Handley, Sponsor of Cottonwood High School, introduced, Gabe Chavis, CEO of their team, and Gabe Handley, a Programmer for their team. Mr. Brent Maloy, Sponsor, Ashford High School, introduced their CEO, Lucas Venegas. Each team’s CEO spoke on their experience with BEST Robotics. Chairman Culver thanked the group for attending and he encouraged anyone who had never attended one of the competitions to go out and enjoy it.

2. Proclamation – “Alabama Farm City Week” – Mr. Glenn Maloy, Chairman, Farm City Week

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Glenn Maloy, Chairman of Farm City Week, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, and Ms. Linda McGhee, members of the Farm City Week Committee, to come forward. He asked for a motion on the Proclamation. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming November 20-26 as “Alabama Farm City Week.” Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported each year the city and the county alternate hosting the Farm City Week Banquet and the various events, and this year the county will be hosting the Banquet. He then read the Proclamation and presented it Mr. Maloy who thanked the Chairman and commission. He reported each year there are numerous events leading up to Farm City Week with the Banquet being the main event. Mr. Maloy reported there has already been a sponsor’s breakfast, and a farm agribusiness tour of the Mule Shoe Plantation that included 50 students from Rehobeth. He stated the tour provides an outdoor classroom for the students, and then they are treated to a hamburger cookout prepared by the staff of the Alabama Forestry Commission. Mr. Maloy

reported each year there is a Farm-City Swap and Commissioner Shoupe will be representing the county. He reported this year's Banquet will be held at the Houston County Farm Center on November 19th, at 6:00 P.M. He thanked the Chairman and the commission for recognizing Farm City Week. Mr. Maloy presented the commission with gift bags containing local products from the community. Commissioner Sinquefield stated he thought it was ironic to have some of the students competing in the BEST Robotics competition and the Farm City Week recognition with how far technology has come in farming. He stated he felt a lot of what the students are learning go hand in hand with the agricultural field.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to award bid for banking services.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to award the bid for banking services to BBVA Compass, best bidder, to begin January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request from the IT Department to award bid for IBM mainframe computer upgrade to the lowest bidder meeting specs – Danny Cumbie, IT Manager.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request from the IT Department to award the bid for the IBM mainframe computer upgrade to The Riley Group, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$83,817.00. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. The question was asked about the timeframe for the installation? Mr. Cumbie reported no specific date had been set. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, the installation will occur over a weekend. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Mr. Kadeem Martin addressed the Commission regarding how the vendors are chosen to receive an opportunity to bid. Chairman Culver reported the commission follows the law and all of the vendors receiving a packet are on the County's Bid List. He stated if Mr. Martin was interested in getting on the Bid List he needed to contact Ms. Nancy Bristow, Accounting Manager, after the meeting.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Ms. Nancy Bristow, Acting Administrative Officer, reported they were working to close out the end of the year by next week.

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported Antioch Church Road would be closed for a couple of weeks for crossdrain repairs. He also reported Jordan Avenue in Cowarts was closed during the day, but was opened back up at night.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver reported the Alabama Department of Examiners had conducted their Exiting Interview with the commission last week regarding the recent audit. He stated there were no findings and they had no comments, and he pointed out the commission was very proud. The chairman stated when they receive the final report, more information will be released.

Adjourn

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