

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 9, 2015

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:0 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Captain Chris Bryant, Captain, The Salvation Army, 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 Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

#### Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans living or deceased. He encouraged everyone to take the time to remember those who serve and have served in order for us to have the many freedoms we have. Chairman Culver reported the VFW would be having a ceremony at 11:00 A.M., out at their building, and he encouraged citizens to attend. He stated county, state, federal and city offices would be closed Wednesday. He reported there would be no change in the county's garbage pick-up.

Chairman Culver reported there has been a lot of rain, and the parking lots out at the National Peanut Festival cannot be used. He stated the National Peanut Festival will be shuttling people attending the event out to the gate at the fairgrounds, and they will catch a shuttle. The chairman reported the gates will open at 4:30 P.M. and the buses will begin running at 4:30 P.M., and will run continuously. He pointed out the buses will run until the end of the week, and people from Dothan and surrounding areas from the north, east, and west will catch the bus at the Rip Hewes Stadium parking lot, and those coming from the south will catch the bus at the Center Stage parking lot. Chairman Culver reported handicapped parking will be available at the National Peanut Festival on the paved portion. He encouraged everyone to go out and enjoy the festival, and pay attention to the media for updates.

The chairman also reported on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the county will be in competition with the city ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Northside WalMart. He stated the city and county have been competing for the last 10-15 years. The chairman stated there would be more information later in the meeting regarding this.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “The Salvation Army” – Captain Chris Bryant

Chairman Culver asked Captain Chris Bryant to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing the Salvation Army. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Captain Bryant. Chairman Culver thanked Captain Bryant and the Salvation Army for what they do, and he welcomed him to the community. Chairman Culver reported on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the city and county would be in competition ringing the Salvation Army Bell at the Northside WalMart. He pointed out they look forward to it each year. Captain Bryant thanked the Chairman and the Commission for the Proclamation. He stated he recently found out that the Salvation Army has been in the community for 103 years. The Captain thanked the commission for their support.

2. Proclamation – “Adoption Awareness Month” - Ms. Stephanie McKnight, Director, and Ms. Judy Walding, Programs Supervisor, Houston County Department of Human Resources

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Judy Walding, Program Supervisor, Houston County Department of Human Resources, to come forward. She stated Ms. Stephanie McKnight was unable to attend. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming the month of November as “Adoption Awareness Month.” Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Walding. He thanked her for making the commission and the community aware of “Adoption Awareness Month.” Ms. Walding thanked the chairman and commission for the Proclamation. She reported they are trying to recruit foster parents, and it is getting harder and harder to place the children. Ms. Walding pointed out they have children that nobody wants, and she encouraged anyone interested in adopting kids to please contact them.

3. Proclamation – “Diabetes Awareness Month” – Ms. Sambora Vaughn, ADPH Diabetes Ambassador and Founder, Student Ambassador Program

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Sambora Vaughn, ADPH Diabetes Ambassador, and Founder of the Student Ambassador Program, to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming November as “Diabetes Awareness Month.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Vaughn. He thanked her for bringing this serious problem to the commission’s attention, and for what she does to help promote diabetes awareness. Ms. Vaughn reported diabetes has reached epidemic proportions in Alabama as well as the nation. She reported in 2012, there were 452,000 people with diabetes, and one in three people born after 2000 will develop Type 2 diabetes. She reported \$322 billion has been spent for the cost of diabetes healthcare. She thanked the commission for the Proclamation, and allowing her to come.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for Nyride, LLC.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, was present to answer any questions. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Resolution for the Brownfield Tax Abatement Project for Nyride, LLC. Commissioner Shoupe seconded

the motion. Commissioner Battles asked if they were expanding? Mr. Parker stated this was part of keeping them operational on the Sony property. He pointed out this company is out of Effington, Illinois and will maintain 100 plus jobs. He reported the tax abatement would provide additional revenue to education in the amount of \$208,000 over the 20 year period. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with Regions Bank for the purchase of one (1) Auto Load Garbage Truck and wi-fi equipment.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to enter into a lease/purchase agreement with Regions Bank for the purchase of one (1) Auto Load Garbage Truck and wi-fi equipment contingent upon acceptance by Regions Bank. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion. Mr. Dempsey reported the total for the wi-fi equipment is \$12,850, and the garbage Truck is \$288,093.52 for a grand total of \$300,943.52. It was pointed out the wi-fi portion was omitted. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

3. Request to award Joint County ACCA Bids on Herbicides and Adjuvants, Heavy Equipment, and Road Signs.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to award the Joint County ACCA Bids on Herbicides and Adjuvants, Heavy Equipment, and Road Signs to low bidders meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported over the last 15 years, Houston County has been the awarding authority for the Joint County ACCA Bids. He stated they have proven to be so beneficial for the State. The chairman pointed out Ms. McGhee has the bids on her desk if anyone would like to review them.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported the county had 3 roads closed. He pointed out Antioch Church Road and Harris Butler Road were already closed. Before the rain. Mr. Kirkland reported Hilltop Road at Pate Road between Judge Logue and the Geneva County Line would be closed for 3 weeks.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver reminded everyone about the National Peanut Festival shuttling people Monday night through Friday night out to the Fairgrounds. He stated those coming from the south would be catching the buses at Center Stage, and all others would be catching the buses at Rip Hewes Stadium. He reported the handicapped parking would be available at the NPF on the paved portion.

Adjourn

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