

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

APRIL 26, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Acting County Attorney, Press Register, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and W. J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Mitch Robison, Pastor, Enon Church of Christ, Webb, gave the invocation. Commissioner Brandon Shoupe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commission

Chairman Culver reported the Elected Officials vs. Media Softball Game would be held on Saturday, May 7th, at 10:30 A.M. He pointed out the venue has been changed to Wiregrass Park. The chairman reported the game is always a lot of fun and they will be raising funds and food for the Wiregrass Food Bank.

The chairman reported this Session of the Legislature is winding down, and the county has a couple of issues still pending. He stated there is still life but they will know probably after today on one and after tomorrow on the other regarding a couple of bills. He pointed out the county has a local bill in the Senate that needs to pass, the Sheriff's bill, and a couple of other s in the House.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Charles Finney is retiring from EMA after 25 years of knowing everything there is to know about EMA, technology, weather, Farley and everything else to do with Emergency Management. He reported Mr. Finney has served the county and citizens of the Wiregrass well. Chairman Culver stated a Retirement Reception would be held on April 28th, from 2:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M. in the EMA office located in the basement of the Courthouse, and he invited anyone who would like to stop by and extend best wishes to do so. The chairman stated he has served well, and that job has been his life all of these years, and the commission appreciated his service.

The chairman reported after the Administrative meeting, he had received a request from the Sheriff to be placed on the agenda for an overtime grant from the Department of Homeland Security. He stated it required unanimous consent from the commission to be placed on the agenda. The chairman asked if there was any objection to adding this to the agenda as Item #8? There was none.

Awards and Presentations

1. Recognition – Farm City Week Awards – Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat and Mr. Glenn Maloy – Commissioner Doug Siquefield

Chairman Culver asked Commissioner Siquefield to step down front and handle this item. Mr. Siquefield asked Mrs. Jeffcoat and Mr. Maloy, along with Mr. George Jeffcoat, and Ms. Linda McGhee and anyone else from the Farm City Committee to come forward. Commissioner Siquefield reported the commission appreciates the Farm City Committee and the hard work they do every year to promote the interest in sustaining agriculture in Houston County as well as our country. He recognized Mr. Glenn Maloy, Chairman, of the Farm City Committee, and Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat, Mr. George Jeffcoat, and Ms. Linda McGhee, members of the committee. Commissioner Siquefield reported there are many more members who serve every year, and do an outstanding job to promote agriculture.

Commissioner Siquefield called on Mr. Maloy who stated he appreciated the opportunity to come and talk about the Farm City opportunities and the things the committee does every year. Mr. Maloy reported the main reason he was in attendance, was to talk about some of the things that were accomplished based on what was done last year. He stated there are a lot of people working behind the scenes; not just during Farm City Week, but year round to help promote agriculture and to make sure

that agriculture receives the recognition it deserves for the people in our area. Mr. Maloy reported agriculture is still a very important part of the Houston County community. He reported as far as the awards go, Farm City has two different divisions for counties that are less than 36,000 in population and for those that have a population of more than 36,000. Mr. Maloy stated Houston County is in the division with a population of more than 36,000, and they compete with all of the other counties across the state. He pointed out this year, Houston County received three different awards. A Target Award for the things the committee does to promote agriculture throughout the year. He pointed out one of the things that was done was to have an Ag Day at Landmark Park in February, and high school seniors from 7 or 8 different counties were brought in. Mr. Maloy reported he did not know how many people see the Simply Southern Program, but the group was featured on one of those episodes a couple of months ago. He stated it gives everyone in agriculture a chance to look at what we do and see what we do. Mr. Maloy reported an award was also received for best media coverage and Proclamation. He stated the best award was receiving 2nd in the State overall. Mr. Maloy reported many have attended the Farm City Week Banquet which is a culmination of everything the committee does and everyone looks forward to it each year. He thanked the Commission for their support as well the committee members. Mr. Maloy stated one thing the committee can be proud of this year is one of the committee members, Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat, was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" for the State, and he called on her to say a few words about Farm City on behalf of our Volunteer of the Year.

Mrs. Jeffcoat state she had the opportunity to work with the most amazing Chairman, and she stated you can see how amazing he is. Mrs. Jeffcoat pointed out she had also worked with Commissioner Sinquefield, and people like Dr. Adair Gilbert, and they have made a difference. Mrs. Jeffcoat reported they have taken the Farm City Program to heart, and they have made it what it is today. She stated to think that Houston County can go to these award programs and come back with this many awards shows the dedication of all the members of the committee. She pointed out as previously stated by Mr. Maloy, it takes everyone working together; no one single person that makes a difference in the community. Mrs. Jeffcoat stated that she and her husband, George, live on a farm and know the importance of agriculture, and are thankful to be representatives of it. She reminded everyone not to forget that agriculture is the number one business in the state. Mrs. Jeffcoat received a round of applause.

Commissioner Sinquefield commended Mrs. Jeffcoat for being so active; putting in over 300 hours last year of volunteer work. He stated she has been the past chairman of the Alabama Farmers Federation Women's Committee. Mr. Sinquefield reported people do not have any idea how much work she puts in behind the scenes. He stated she is retired and he does not understand that working like she does. The commissioner pointed out Mrs. Jeffcoat has served on the Farm City Week Committee for over 20 years. He reported she is a retired teacher who goes into over 29 different schools, and hands out coloring books and book marks in an effort to educate the students on agriculture. Commissioner Sinquefield stated they could not thank the committee enough for what they do. He stated they are looking forward to next year, and maybe Houston County might be number one. Commissioner Sinquefield reported Mrs. Jeffcoat is number one in the state in volunteering.

Chairman Culver thanked everyone and stated they looked forward to another robust year this year. He thanked Commissioner Sinquefield.

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment to the Board of the Dothan-Houston County Library System – Mr. Brad Kimbro.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to appoint Mr. Brad Kimbro to the Board of the Dothan-Houston County Library System. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Kimbro is an outstanding appointment to the board. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to temporarily place artwork on side of county owned building by DDRA.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to temporarily place artwork on the side of the county owned building on Foster Street by the DDRA. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported they discussed on Thursday obtaining some information. Commissioner Shoupe reported they had updated the request to specify that they would patch the mortar if they needed to, and they would not undermine the integrity of the building and would not drill into the bricks or anything. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from EMA to approve the purchase of Digital Repeater.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the purchase of the Digital Repeater. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to award bid for the modernization of the Houston County Jail controls to the low bidder meeting specs – Houston County Buildings.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to award the bid for the modernization of the Houston County Jail controls to the low bidder meeting specs, Steward Construction Company, in the amount of \$249,899.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the discussion on Thursday was about the low bidder meeting specs and it appears to be the direction the commission is taking in the amount of \$249,999.00. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request to approve site work for the Town of Cowarts Senior Center – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the site work for the Town of Cowarts Senior Center. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the Mayor and engineer were very clear in the discussion on Thursday regarding the benefit to the town and what was involved. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request to approve the preliminary plat for Chase Ridge Subdivision Phase II – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Chase Ridge Subdivision Phase II. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Harvey seconded; the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

8. Request from the Sheriff's Department to approve an Overtime Grant Disbursement from the Department of Homeland Security.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve an Overtime Grant Disbursement from the Department of Homeland Security for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – There was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported there are 16 roads closed. He stated they worked yesterday, but got rained out Friday and Saturday. He stated they would be working this weekend.

County Attorney –

Acting County Attorney, Press Register, had no report.

Commissioner Battles asked Mr. Kirkland to explain to the public about why when people are told the county is working on the roads some of them do not understand that we had to wait on FEMA and then order pipes. Mr. Kirkland reported they have had some of the pipes ordered since a week or two after

the storm, but Houston County is not the only county ordering pipes. He pointed out half of Alabama, some parts of Florida and Mississippi are also ordering them too. Mr. Kirkland reported they had to close two roads earlier in the day and they are going to start working on them because the pipe on the other roads has not come in yet. He stated this pipe was on the yard. He stated they waited on FEMA to get the money coming in, and had already gone ahead and ordered pipe to get it in and be ready to go to work when they heard from FEMA, and they have done that. He pointed out they are still waiting on some of the pipe, and some of them are 120 inches around and they only bring one 20 foot section at the time. Mr. Kirkland reported the pipe for Tipton Road has been on order for several months.

Commissioner Shoupe asked if the size of the sinkhole on Adkinson Road had stabilized? Mr. Kirkland reported it had not grown any more.

Mr. Kirkland reported he had not heard back from Taylor about what they found when they checked their water lines.

Adjourn

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