

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 23, 2016

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Brandon Shoupe and Gary Sherrer, Attorney

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 Jackie 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 congratulated all of the graduates in the area. He wished them the best as they go forth with their future plans, and he asked them not to forget their roots.

He reported on May 30th, all local, state, and federal offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. He stated Sunset Funeral Home would be hosting a Memorial Day Program at 10:00 A.M., and Mayor Mike Schmitz would be the emcee.

The chairman stated Saturday, May 28th, at 8:30 A.M., Ashford Recreation Park would be hosting a Memorial Day Celebration with games and activities along with a fireworks show. He pointed out there would be no charge for the event.

Chairman Culver reported state and county offices would be closed on June 6th, in observance of Jefferson Davis' Birthday, a state holiday.

Commissioner Siquefield reported he attended the ACEA Annual Meeting last week and Mr. Barkley Kirkland and members of his staff made an outstanding presentation. He stated he had received several good comments while attending the meeting, and he congratulated them on the job they do.

Chairman Culver reported the county has many department heads who do an outstanding job, and the commission is fortunate to have their leadership in the county.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Foster Care Month” – Mrs. Stephanie McKnight, Director, Mrs. Judy Walding, Program Supervisor, Mrs. Dana Trawick, Resource Supervisor, Mrs. Jessica Oppert and Mrs. Cathy Arnold, Resource Workers, Department of Human Resources

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Jessica Oppert and her guest to come forward. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May as “Foster Care Month.” Commissioner

Harvey seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. The chairman read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Oppert. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Oppert on behalf of the 104,000 citizens of Houston County for what they do. Mrs. Oppert thanked the chairman and commission for recognizing "Foster Care Month." She introduced Mrs. Cathy Arnold, who does welfare checks and works with the court system. Mrs. Oppert stated becoming a foster parent is not easy, and they appreciate their foster parents. She pointed out they could use more foster parents and she encouraged anyone who knew someone who might be interested in becoming a foster parent to please contact the Department of Human Resources.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to transfer Peggi James Park property to Houston County.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the transfer of the Peggi James Park property to Houston County pending the correction of the incorrect reference. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the purchase of the property, formerly the Old Saints Apartments, was a partnership between the county, the DDRA, and 5 Star Federal Credit Union. He stated it has become an asset to the block and to the county. He pointed out the City of Dothan will maintain the property even though Houston County will have ownership. A question was asked if the property located on the corner of West Powell and North Oates is included? It was pointed out that the DDRA owns that portion. Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Harvey for his work on this project along with the Peggi James family. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to convey the property no longer usable by the County to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request to convey the property no longer usable by the County to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman stated that Mr. Matt Parker, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, was present to answer any questions. Chairman Culver reported this property is located across from the Wiregrass Rehab Center, and will be used primarily for utilities. He stated the Houston County Industrial Development Authority will negotiate the sale of the property with Wayne Farms for the expansion of its plant. The chairman pointed out the county will receive the proceeds from the sale. Chairman Culver reported if this will create new jobs, he could not think of a better use for it. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority for assistance with site drainage work in conjunction with Dale County.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority's request for assistance with site drainage work in conjunction with Dale County. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated Mr. Matt Parker was present and would be glad to answer any questions. The chairman reported funding for the \$1.2 million project will be from the State

of Alabama, and the City of Dothan will provide some federal matching funds. He reported Houston County and Dale County will do the work. Chairman Culver reported they hope this work will assist in bringing additional jobs at the airport. It was pointed out Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc. and Barkley Kirkland, Houston County Engineer, have worked on this project in an effort to make it as cost effective as possible. Mr. Matt Parker stated the work will solve a drainage issue out at the airport and make the site attractive for possible future expansion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported they were down to six roads closed. Chairman Culver reported by the next meeting they should have all the roads repaired. Mr. Kirkland stated they should be in pretty good shape. He pointed out they were working on Rice Road and Fuller Road. Commissioner Battles asked Mr. Kirkland to name the 6 roads that were closed. Mr. Kirkland reported the roads are Sharpie Road, Blackman Road, Rice Road, Fuller Road, June Road and Lanier Road.

County Attorney – Acting County Attorney, Pres Register, had no report

Adjourn

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