

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Chairman Mark S. Culver called 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He reported that Commissioner Harvey was with a delegation going to Selma. Due to the absence of Father Juan Celzo, St. Columba Catholic Church, Patrick Davenport, Probate Judge, 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 the motion; and it carried unanimously.

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commission

Chairman Culver reported there was an item that needed to be added to the Agenda. He reported that one of the air conditioning units in the Personnel Department went out Thursday after the Administrative meeting. He stated the request would be for approval of an emergency expenditure of \$7,853.00 from the Capital Replacement Account for the HVAC Unit 2 located at the Personnel Building. Chairman Culver asked if there were any objections? There were none. He stated it would be placed on the Agenda as Item #7.

Commissioner Siquefield reported on October 1st, the Chattahoochee Park would be having their Fall Day from 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. He pointed out they would have crafts and food. Mr. Siquefield stated Kim Taylor had partnered with Spectra Care for the event.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation “A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children” – Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, The Prevention Project, and Justin Motley, Former Youth Council Member

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, The Prevention Project, and Mr. Justin Motley, former Youth Council member, and his family to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring September 26th as “A Day to Eat Dinner with your Children.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Grimes. The chairman stated this is so important to our children, and should be done more than just once a year. He pointed out this is an old tradition that families used to sit down together at meal time. Mr. Grimes reported this day is set aside nationally on the 4th Monday of September to remind parents how important their children are. He stated The Prevention Project’s staff and the members of the Youth Council would all gather for a meal that night. Mr. Grimes introduced Mr. Justin Motley, a former Youth Council member, who is successful

in business, and how much they appreciate him. Mr. Motley stated he joined the Youth Council while in school and they were like family to him. He stated it had made a difference in his life and his family, and he felt having an event such as this to get families to sit down to eat together could deter some youth from taking the wrong path with drugs and alcohol. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Grimes and Mr. Motley for bringing this to the commission's attention. He reported this organization always does an excellent job, and he thanked them.

2. Proclamation – “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” – Ms. Beverly Youse, Executive Director, The House of Ruth, and Ms. Pam Miles, Executive Director, The Exchange Center of Child Abuse

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Beverly Youse, Executive Director, The House of Ruth, to come forward. He stated Ms. Pam Miles, Executive Director, The Exchange Center for Child Abuse, was not present. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month.” Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Youse. Chairman Culver reported he was sorry Ms. Miles was unable to attend. He thanked them for the work they do in the community. Ms. Youse reported back in the late '80's the House of Ruth used to hold a Candlelight Vigil. She pointed out domestic violence also affects children. She reported about 10 years ago, the Exchange Center for Child Abuse joined them and they have been holding a Candlelight Service each year for those who are survivors of domestic violence and for those who did not survive. Ms. Youse invited everyone to come to the Candlelight Service on October 13th from 5:30 P.M.-7:00 P.M., in the parking lot of Wiregrass Church. Ms. Youse thanked the chairman and commission for the Proclamation and helping to bring domestic violence awareness to the community.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to re-appoint Chairman Mark Culver and Commissioner Doug Sinquefield to the Wiregrass RC&D Council.

Commissioner Shoupe stated he would like to serve on the Council Chairman Culver reported a motion was needed to appoint Commissioner Brandon Shoupe and re-appoint Commissioner Sinquefield. Commissioner Battles made the motion to appoint Commissioner Shoupe and to re-appoint Commissioner Sinquefield to the Wiregrass RC&D Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shoupe. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Town of Cottonwood for donation of property located at 10189 South County Road #55 and the demolition of the structure.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Town of Cottonwood's request for the donation of property located at 10189 South County Road #55, and the demolition of the structure. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this property was given to the county through a bank, and the intention was for the county to give it to the Town of Cottonwood. He pointed out the Town of Cottonwood will pay for the demolition of the structure located on the

property. Chairman Culver reported the property is located across from the park, and will benefit the town. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve financing for \$1.7 million radio and tower project – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the financing for the \$1.7 million radio and tower project with BBVA Compass Bank. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported they are waiting on word from 3 of the volunteer fire departments regarding some other radios that they are willing to pay for. He stated the tower project is moving along and Attorney Pres Register will have information at a future meeting. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to approve Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$1,700,000 Houston County General Obligation Warrants for the tower and radio project – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$1,700,000 Houston County General Obligation Warrants for the tower and radio project. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to enter into an Agreement with The Grounds Guys of Dothan for lawn care for all downtown Houston County property – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with The Grounds Guys for lawn care for all downtown Houston County property. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request to discontinue building permits on non-residential property – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to discontinue building permits on non-residential property. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Mr. Kirkland pointed out there had only been 8 permits issued since 2009. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve an emergency expenditure in the amount of \$7,853.00 out of the Capital Replacement Fund to replace the HVAC Unit 2 in the Personnel Building.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for an emergency expenditure in the amount of \$7,853.00 out of the Capital Replacement Fund to replace HVAC Unit 2 in the Personnel Building. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. It was reported there would be a balance of \$9,832.93 left in the account. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Engineer Kirkland reported there were four roads closed: Blackman Road, Fortson Road, Parmer Road, and Dewberry Road.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Shoupe asked about Parmer Road? Attorney Register reported there had to be a Public Hearing and it should be prior to the last meeting on October 24th.

Adjourn

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