

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

OCTOBER 11, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, 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: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Mike Golson, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Doug Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver extended congratulations to Ms. RaeLeigh Baldwin, Ms. Henry County, the newly crowned Miss National Peanut Festival queen. He reported the commission looked forward to working with Ms. Baldwin. He congratulated Ms. Houston County, Ms. Emily Carroll, First Runner-up. The chairman reported the county's people who handle the Ms. Houston County and Little Ms. Houston County pageants do a great job. He reported Little Ms. Peanut would be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The chairman reported October is "Breast Cancer Awareness Month," and the Sandi McCool Champions of Hope Walk and Run sponsored by the Southeast Alabama Medical Center, would be Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at ACOM. He encouraged everyone in the community to do something for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

### Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "Wiregrass BEST Robotics Day" – Ms. Rachel Hudson, Teacher/Sponsor, BEST Robotics Program, Wicksburg High School

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Rachel Hudson, Teacher/Sponsor, BEST Robotics Program, Wicksburg High School, to come forward and to bring all of the students and guests from Cottonwood and Houston Academy with her. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 29<sup>th</sup>, as "Wiregrass BEST Robotics Day." Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Mary Hudson. Chairman Culver reported the Robotics program is a competitive and fun program for the students. He pointed out as the parent of a first semester engineering student at Auburn University, these students need all the help they can get because it is not easy. Mrs. Mary Hudson thanked the commission for allowing them to come and receive the Proclamation as well as the opportunity to enlighten the citizens of the community about the robotics program. She reported the Wiregrass BEST Robotics Day competition would be held on October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 A.M., at the Ozark Civic Center, and she invited everyone to attend. She reported Mr. Walter Handley, Cottonwood High School's Sponsor, and several of his students as well as Mr. Andrew Kirk, Houston Academy's Sponsor, and some of his students were also present. It was reported the BEST Robotics Day theme this year is "Bet the Farm." Mrs. Hudson introduced Ms. Theresa Reynolds, Wicksburg's CEO, Kade Turner, Vice President of Engineering and Manufacturing, Ms. Aubrey Bond, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations, and Ms. Abby Herring, Vice President of Administration and Finance. Each of the officers gave a brief synopsis of their jobs on their team. Ms. Kathy Henley, CEO and Vice-President of Marketing for Cottonwood's team spoke, and Houston Academy was represented by Jason Reddi. Mrs. Hudson encouraged everyone to attend the event on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. She pointed out there would be 16-20 schools involved.

2. Proclamation – "Disability Employment Awareness Month" – Mr. Paul Lee, Executive Director, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Ms. Jenifer Robinson, Unit Supervisor for Vocational Services, Ms.

Suzanne Golson, VR Counselor, Ms. Sara Williams, Assistant, Ms. Pam Solomon, VR Counselor, and Ms. Sherry Robinson, Assistant

Chairman Culver reported he did not see Mr. Paul Lee. He invited Ms. Jennifer Robinson and Ms. Suzanne Golson to come forward. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October as "Disability Employment Awareness Month." Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Robinson. Chairman Culver thanked them for the wonderful job they do in Houston County. Ms. Robinson reported they work with the individuals from 16 years of age through retirement age, and currently they service 154 individuals with disabilities. She pointed out employers are becoming more and more aware of those with disabilities and what they can do. Ms. Robinson reported the Annual Rewards Reception recognizing employees with disabilities and employers will be held on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. She thanked the commission for bringing awareness of employees with disabilities.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to re-appoint Mr. Robert Flatt and Mrs. Rosalind James to the Houston County Department of Human Resources.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Robert Flatt and Mrs. Rosalind James to the Houston County Department of Human Resources. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution in Support of Proposed Constitutional Amendments #3 and #4.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution in Support of Proposed Constitutional Amendments #3 and #4. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Amendment #3 will do away with amendments on the ballot in which all counties in the state are required to vote on affecting only one county. He stated Amendment #4 will give counties more administrative power, but it will not give them Home Rule. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to adopt Resolution in Support of Proposed Constitutional Amendment #14.

Chairman Culver reported Amendment #14 will try to fix a discrepancy in the law that led to the passage of many local laws using a slightly different process than the one in which other laws are passed. He pointed out as discussed on Thursday, a law in Jefferson County has been challenged under the process and if it is ruled invalid because it was passed improperly, it could put all local laws passed in the same way in jeopardy. He encouraged voters to vote yes on Amendment #14 because it would ratify the local laws passed under the old procedure. He stated if Amendment #14 does not pass, there will be some real issues in our state. Commissioner Sinquefield stated to better understand Amendment #14, the following website is available, [www.voteeyes@al.org](http://www.voteeyes@al.org). Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

4. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing the Ordinance Amending the Building Code for Houston County.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Ordinance Amending the Building Code for Houston County. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this codifies what the commission did at the last meeting regarding getting out of issuing non-residential permits. He pointed out the state has attached a fee to each permit issued, and it was felt it was not in the county's best interest. The chairman reported the county only issues one or two per year. He asked Attorney Register if he had any comments? Mr. Register stated all items deleted in the Resolution relate to the non-residential permitting, and nothing else. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to approve Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Blackman Road from West Saunders to Campbellton Highway – Length 1.605 miles.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Agreement with ALDOT to resurface Blackman Road from West Saunders to Campbellton Highway – Length 1.605 miles. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported the work will be done in the spring. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer -

Mr. Kirkland reported there were three roads closed, Blackman, Parmer, and Dewberry.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

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