

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 24, 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

ABESENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Don Tew, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Brandon Shoupe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey 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 Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported Veterans Day would be Friday, November 11th, and the county offices would be closed. He reported October has 5 Mondays, and the county would not meet again for three weeks. The chairman pointed out the Administrative Meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 9th, due to Veterans Day.

He reported he had received a request to move Item #9 on the Agenda and it was going to be placed under Awards and Presentations.

Chairman Culver reported November 8th is Election Day and everyone needed to exercise their right to vote.

He congratulated Little Miss Geneva, Brooke Hughes, the newly crowned Little Ms. National Peanut Festival Queen. Chairman Culver reported they looked forward to working with her and especially during the National Peanut Festival, November 4th-13th.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Farm City Week” – Glenn Maloy, Chairman, Farm City Week Committee

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Glenn Maloy, Chairman of the Farm City Week Committee, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Ms. Linda McGhee, and Mr. DeWayne Williams, members of the committee, to come forward. Chairman Culver pointed out another member, Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat, was serving as the photographer. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring “Alabama Farm City Week” November 18 -24, 2016. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Maloy, who thanked him and the commission. He reported the Farm City Week Committee works year round on various events promoting it. Mr. Maloy stated this year’s Farm City Week Banquet will be November 17th, at 6:00 P.M., at the Civic Center, and will be hosted by the City of Dothan. Chairman Maloy reported there

are several recognitions at the Banquet including the Farm Family of the Year, the Farm City Swap, where someone from the city or county government swaps with a farmer and they experience a typical day in each other's profession. He reported some other awards include Conservationist of the Year, 4-H, and FFA awards. Mr. Maloy reported there are several others who serve with this committee, and he stated it takes everyone to be able to have a successful event. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Maloy and the members for their efforts each year. The chairman asked if anyone else would like to comment. Commissioner Sinquefield stated Mr. Maloy had touched on everything and he would make it brief – "Eat More Peanuts."

2. Proclamation – "Red Ribbon Week" – Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager, The Prevention Project

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Terry Grimes, Community Relations Manager of the Prevention Project, to come forward. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 23-31, 2016, as "Red Ribbon Week." Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Grimes and the entire staff for the work they do. He stated the Substance Abuse Partnership was started many years ago. Mr. Grimes reported this is their busiest week of the year, and all of the staff members are in different locations trying to get the message out regarding drug and alcohol abuse. He reported it is a major problem across the nation, and he cited some instances on the national level as well as the local level. Mr. Grimes reported the situation on the local level has put a different light on his work with the Prevention Project and its importance. Chairman Culver reported this organization works very hard with our youth to encourage them to be drug free. Mr. Grimes thanked the commission for the Proclamation and bringing this awareness to the community.

9. Request to recognize the Sanitation Department for surpassing one year without a medical case.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, Mrs. Kelly Crowell, Safety Coordinator, and members of the Sanitation Department to come forward. Chairman Culver reported over the last several years, the county has made great strides in safety. He stated the Road and Bridge Department has gone long periods of time without an accident. The chairman reported it is really an accomplishment for the Sanitation Department, and he thanked them for their diligence in doing their jobs and he thanked them for what they do.

Mr. Kirkland reported since October 12, 2015, they have gone 377 days without a medical case. He stated they used to have more accidents than any other department in the county, and he thanked them for being safety conscious.

Mrs. Crowell reported the occupation of a Sanitation driver is the 5th most dangerous in the United States. She stated these drivers pick up at 500 houses per truck per day, and since going to the automated system, they have kept it going. Mrs. Crowell reported they are not always appreciated, and she stated she is very proud of them. They received a round of applause.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve Tax Abatement for an industrial project – Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the Tax Abatement for an industrial project. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported every day the commission works to try to create jobs for our citizens or to get better jobs for those who have jobs. He reported it was an exciting day in the history of the Houston County Distribution Park and their efforts to spur economic development progress with our region. The chairman stated the Houston County Commission was pleased to support McLane Dothan's expansion at the Advantage Site Houston County Distribution Park. He pointed out it will be a \$17 million investment and add another 50 jobs, and involve adding extra building space and equipment to support their growth in the Southeast.

He thanked McLane for their investment in our community, and he also thanked the Alabama Department of Commerce/AIDT, the Wiregrass Legislative Delegation, the County Commission, the City of Dothan, as well as the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for their work and support on this investment. The chairman also thanked the utility partners serving the park with Wiregrass Electric Cooperative, CenturyLink, Houston County Water Authority and the Southeast Alabama Gas District.

Chairman Culver reported McLane currently employs 300 from the tri-state area. He pointed out they service customers in Alabama, the Florida Panhandle, and the southern half of Georgia.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Matt Parker and Attorney Wally Hinesley were present, and he asked Mr. Parker if he would like to comment?

Mr. Parker thanked the commission for adopting the Resolution on the tax abatement for the project. He stated he had Attorney Wally Hinesley with him. He reported Mr. Hinesley likes to stay in the background, but he prepared the Resolution and other documents for the project. He pointed out it will bring in another \$1 million for education. He thanked the Governor, the local Legislative Delegation, the Alabama Department of Commerce/AIDT and the other entities that worked on the project as well. Mr. Parker reported they plan to begin construction in January, 2017 and it should be completed by December, 2017. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Parker for his efforts on this project, and the outstanding job he does everyday. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request from the City of Dothan to approve proposed streetscape plan at the corner of North Foster Street and East Main Street.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to grant the request from the City of Dothan to approve the proposed streetscape plan at the corner of North Foster Street and East Main Street. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve Travel Policy – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Houston County Travel Policy. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the commission is putting in writing what the

county already does regarding travel to meet the requirements of the federal government. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution to vacate the portion of Parmer Road not situated in a municipality.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution to vacate the portion of Parmer Road not situated in a municipality. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

5. Request to enter into a consulting contract with Engineering Associates, LLC, related to the construction of a radio tower with components – Captain Bill Rafferty.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to enter into a consulting contract with Engineering Associates, LLC, related to the construction of a radio tower with components. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

6. Request from EMA to approve a 6ICL R2 Sustainment Grant for the communications truck in the amount of \$11,000.00 – Steve Carlisle, EMA Director.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve EMA's request for a 6ICL R2 Sustainment Grant for the communications truck in the amount of \$11,000.00. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

7. Request from EMA to approve 6FIL Sustainment Grant for the Dothan Fire Department in the amount of \$21,791.00 – Steve Carlisle, EMA Director.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve EMA's request for a 6FIL Sustainment Grant for the Dothan Fire Department in the amount of \$21,791.00. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

8. Request from Revenue Commission to award the bid for the purchase of a new vehicle – Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Revenue Commission's request to award the bid for the purchase of a new vehicle, 2017 Ford Escape, from Bondy's Ford, the only bidder, in the amount of \$20,105.00. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

9. This item was moved under Awards and Presentations.

10. Request to approve low bid for motorgrader blades – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the low bidder meeting specs for motorgrader blades in each category. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – There was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported Blackman Road and Campbellton Highway were closed. He pointed out the roundabout for the Jim Oates Park was being installed on Campbellton Highway, and that section was closed. He reported the paving had started on Bay Springs Road.

County Attorney – There was no report

Adjourn

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