

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 12, 2016

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

ABSENT: Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Jim Tate, Pastor, Memphis 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 Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

#### Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported as is customary, this is the only meeting that will be held in December due to the next scheduled meeting being the day after Christmas. He stated he hoped everyone had a very Special, Happy and Joyous Christmas. The chairman stated Christmas is a very busy time, and he asked everyone to remember the reason for the season to celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. He also asked people to remember to count their blessings. Chairman Culver reported he looked forward to seeing everyone back next year.

Commissioner Siquefield reported that Chattahoochee Park has shooting houses for the Wounded Warriors who can hunt. He pointed out they can go on the website to obtain information and they can also call ahead. Chairman Culver reported the county's former Engineer developed this program.

#### Awards and Presentations

1. Recognition of Houston County Employee

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Steve Carlisle to come forward. The Chairman reported Mr. Carlisle would be retiring at the end the year as the Director of the Houston County Emergency Management Agency. He stated Mr. Carlisle began with the agency in 2006 and in 2013, he became the Director. Chairman Culver expressed his and the commission's appreciation for his service to the county, and presented him with a plaque. The chairman pointed out most of the EMA directors who have retired have not gotten out of it totally. He called on Mr. Carlisle who thanked God for allowing him to have the opportunity, the Commission for their support, and the volunteers for all their help. He stated it has been a lot of hard work. Mr. Carlisle pointed out he had enjoyed meeting so many people and had made some great friendships along the way. He stated he planned to do some traveling and volunteer work. Chairman Culver reported he appreciated everything Mr. Carlisle had done.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution to transfer excess tax sale proceeds to the General Fund – Bill Dempsey, CAO

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to transfer excess tax sale proceeds to the General Fund. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called on Mr. Dempsey for comments. Mr. Dempsey reported each year the Revenue Commissioner's department conducts a tax sale on properties that the taxes have not been paid. He stated in certain cases, the payment of taxes have resulted in funds in excess of the amount of the taxes owed. Mr. Dempsey pointed out they have been putting the funds in a Trust Fund if they have not been collected after 10 years. He reported they have now been advised to transfer the excess funds derived from tax sales occurring prior to August 1, 2013 to the County's General Fund. It was pointed out by moving the funds to the General Fund, it will all be on the fund balance. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to approve the Henry County Water Authority expanding lines to resident in Houston County.

Chairman Culver reported this project has been ongoing for a while. He pointed out the commission's position has always been that they didn't care whose name in on the pipe, they just wanted the citizens of Houston County to have water. The chairman reported the Henry County Water Authority has received some funding to provide water to some of the residents in northern Houston County. He reported this is one of many steps to get the project started. The chairman pointed out there is an Administrative issue with this that will have to be corrected by legislative act, but commitments are in place to take care of it. He pointed out this will be at no cost to Houston County. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Agreement with the Henry County Water Authority, the Houston County Water Authority and the Houston County Commission to expand water lines to residents in Houston County. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve \$2,500 sponsorship for the Wiregrass WORKS Career Experience 2017.

Chairman Culver reported this is part of Workforce Development and will be the second year for this event. He pointed out there was a tremendous response last year, and they are asking for a \$2,500 sponsorship. Commissioner Shoupe reported he was glad to bring the request to the commission. He stated he felt it is great tool for 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are possibly not planning to attend college, to find out the job opportunities that are available to them for training in their respective career choices. Commissioner Siquefield reported he became acquainted with this program last year, and they had some 4,000 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate. He stated he thought it was very beneficial, and they work closely with Mr. Glenn Maloy, with the Career Technical Training Center. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve a \$2,500 sponsorship for the Wiregrass WORKS Career Experience 2017. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Commissioner Battles asked how it would affect the budget? Chairman Culver reported it was not in the budget but it would not affect it because the money would

come from unallocated funds. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to publish and approve financial report – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Mr. Dempsey reported this is required to be published and approved each year. He pointed out the financial report includes all fiduciary monies. He reported it is not a totally accurate picture of the finances. Commissioner Battles made a motion to publish and approve the financial report. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request to extend offer to fill Emergency Management Agency Director's position effective January 1, 2017.

Chairman Culver reported Chris Judah had been offered the Emergency Management Agency Director's position effective January 1, 2017, at a salary of \$53,530.00. He thanked Commissioner Battles for heading up the review committee's interviews with the six candidates who were finalists. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Judah was local and he had received recommendations from the Sheriff and the police who knew him and had worked with him. Commissioner Battles made a motion to extend the offer to fill the Emergency Management Agency Director's position to Chris Judah, effective January 1, 2017. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mrs. Brittney Clayton, Acting County Engineer, reported there were some closed roads due to the heavy rains that occurred last week.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver reported since we had received very little rain in two months, and then we received the 5 inches of rain in a short time, it did cause some damage to some roads.

Adjourn.

Chairman Culver called for a motion to adjourn. He then withdrew the request to adjourn, and stated an item needed to be added to the agenda if there were no objections. There being no objections, he reported Road and Bridge needed to have the items to be sold on Gov Deals placed on the agenda. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the list of items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

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