

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JULY 24, 2017

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Brandon Shoupe

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present with everyone in attendance with the exception of Commissioner Shoupe, and welcomed everyone. He pointed out Commissioner Shoupe was traveling back from the Annual NACO (National Association of Counties) Conference. Mr. Meyer Holloway gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Sinquefield 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 that the City of Dothan would hold an election for Mayor and Commissioners as well as School Board Chairman and members on August 1st. He pointed out the last day for an absentee ballot would be July 27th. He encouraged everyone who lived in the City of Dothan to get out and vote.

Commissioner Sinquefield reported that the Ashford Police Department was having a Back to School Supplies Day on July 29th. He pointed out that the supplies could be dropped off at the Police Department between 8:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon.

Awards and Presentations

1. Resolution – Sergeant Robert Reichert and K-9 Tarzan – Sheriff Donald Valenza – Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Donald Valenza, Sergeant Robert Reichert, and K-9 Tarzan, to come forward, and he asked Commissioner Harvey to step down to the podium. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution recognizing the retirement of K-9 Tarzan from the Houston County Sheriff's Office, and authorizing K-9 Tarzan to live out the rest of his natural life with Sergeant Robert Reichert, his handler. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Harvey read the Resolution and presented it to Sheriff Valenza. The Sheriff thanked the commission, and he stated that Tarzan had been an asset to the department, and he has been a great back-up partner.

Sergeant Reichert reported it was hard to believe that it had been ten years since Tarzan came to the Sheriff's office. He thanked former Sheriff, Andy Hughes, for initiating the program. He also thanked

Sheriff Valenza for continuing the program, for adding more dogs, and the training, etc. He stated dogs are a tremendous benefit to the department. Sergeant Reichert reported Tarzan was the most dynamite dog ever, and for ten years he had been his friend keeping an eye on him and he had kept him safe. Tarzan and Sergeant Reichert received a round of applause.

2. Recognition of Ashford 12 and Under Ponytails – Alabama Traditional State Champions – Dixie League World Series – Alexandria, LA – Commissioner Doug Siquefield

Commissioner Siquefield asked Mrs. Mindy Parmer to come forward and to bring the players with her. Commissioner Siquefield reported it was his pleasure to recognize these beautiful girls. He stated they were Alabama Traditional State Champions and they were headed to Alexandria, Louisiana on July 28th, to play in the Dixie World Series. He called on Mrs. Parmer, who stated these girls have been working four days a week since March, and she stated they were a great group of girls with great parents, and she was so proud of them. Commissioner Siquefield then reported the team was comprised of the following members: Maddie Decker, McKenzie Lee, Kelsey McGinnis, Joleigh Parmer, Mary Suzan Aman, Trinity McCree, Ellie Cook, Braylee Holland, Lilly Stewart, Mallory Worsham, Emma Ard, and Claudia Aplin. He reported John Lucas was the Head Coach and his assistants were Mark Aman and Chris Decker. Commissioner Siquefield wished them luck in the Dixie League World Series. They received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver stated he felt like it spoke volumes to Tarzan and the Sheriff when the law enforcement officers came to honor him. He stated they were a team, and Tarzan has had their backs for the last 10 years.

Regular Agenda

1. Re-appointment to the Houston County Water Authority – Joel Watkins.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to re-appoint Joel Watkins to the Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution awarding the bid for the implementation of sanitary sewer improvements on CDBG property – Mrs. Emily VanSycoc, Economic Development Director, SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution awarding the bid for the implementation of sanitary sewer improvements on CDBG property, to L&K Contracting Co., Inc., in the amount of \$72,713.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported there was a good article in the paper on Saturday. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request from Board of Registrars to hire a temporary staff member to assist in meeting deadlines for the upcoming elections – Mrs. Molly Meadows, Chairperson.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Board of Registrar's request to hire a temporary staff member to assist in meeting deadlines for the upcoming elections. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this would be on an as needed basis, and there would be very little cost involved. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver reported as everyone knows, the Administrative Building is closed on Fridays, and he wanted to publicly notify everyone beginning October 1st, the Board of Registrars would be open on Fridays, at the Houston County Courthouse. He pointed out Mrs. Carla Woodall, Circuit Clerk, had worked well with the Board of Registrars, and they will occupy an office on the 4th floor of the Houston County Courthouse.

4. Request from the City of Taylor for site work – Mayor Billy M. Snell, Jr.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Town of Taylor's request for site work. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to sell the following items on Gov Deals: 2000 Ford Explorer – Sheriff's Department, 2002 Dodge Pickup – Road and Bridge Department, (8) 265 Gallon Chemical Containers – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the items to be sold on Gov Deals: 2000 Ford Explorer – Sheriff's Department, 2002 Dodge Pickup – Road and Bridge Department, and (8) 265 Gallon Chemical Containers – Road and Bridge Department. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Engineer Kirkland reported there were 2 closed roads – Adkinson Road and First Avenue in Ashford. He pointed out they had started work on the City of Dothan's Training Facility.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.