

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AUGUST 28, 2017

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, 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 the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present with the exception of Commissioner Harvey who was out of town. The chairman welcomed everyone. Commissioner Doug Sinquefield gave the invocation. Commissioner Branson Shoupe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the commissioners had just come back from their annual conference last week. He stated they would be operating under different rules because there was no administrative meeting last week. The chairman pointed out there would be more discussion.

Chairman Culver reported they had a good annual conference, and Houston County received a well deserved recognition from the Worker's Comp and Liability Insurance Fund. He pointed out the county received a good refund and it goes to help with the budget. He commended Bill Dempsey, Mrs. Kelly Crowell, and Commissioner Sinquefield who serves on the ACCA's State Workman's Board.

Chairman Culver reported the Wiregrass will be well represented next year on the ACCA Board. He reported Commissioner Steve McKinnon of the Dale County Commission is the new President, and Judge David Money is the 2nd Vice President, and will serve as the President in 2019.

Commissioner Shoupe recognized the following officers of the Wicksburg FBLA : Gavin Weber, Hunter Dillard, Jasmine Wisdom, and Toshanna Murray, who he stated were learning about Parliamentary Procedure. Commissioner Shoupe reported their teacher, Mrs. Sarah Swafford, is his favorite teacher of all time. Chairman Culver reported the commission was glad to have them, and he stated he knew Houston County was well represented by them at their recent competition in California.

Commissioner Sinquefield recognized Ms. Tara Harris who was representing Mr. Jason LeDuc, of the Dothan –Houston County Library System. Commissioner Sinquefield stated he appreciated everything the Library does for the citizens of Houston County.

Regular Agenda

1. Re-appointment of Mr. Hayne Hollis to the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority.

Chairman Culver reported this is a joint appointment between the city and county. He reported Mr. Hollis has served for several years, and has done an outstanding job. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Hayne Hollis as the joint appointee on the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority. Commissioner Shoupe seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution to amend Tax Abatement Agreement with Next Level Apparel for expansion.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Matt Parker, President, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, to come forward. Mr. Parker reported under the new law, agreements have to be done with the city and county, and this request was for an amendment to the tax abatement agreement with Next Level Apparel. He pointed out that they are adding a 100,000 square foot addition, which will bring the project from the original projection of \$4.7 million to \$5.2 million. He reported the expansion could create 75-100 jobs bringing the total number of employees to between 175 and 200. Mr. Parker reported the addition is expected to be completed by December 2018. He stated Mr. Kirkland and his crews had done an outstanding job on their portion of the project, and he thanked them. He reported the amendment will also provide some flexibility in authorizing the chairman to implement minor changes to the documents, if needed rather than have to come back before the commission. After discussion, Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution to amend the Tax Abatement Agreement with Next Level Apparel. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported the Next Level expansion is significant for the Ashford area and that end of the county with 200 employees. He pointed out they are considering a third expansion. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to adopt Resolution to amend Tax Abatement Agreement with Wayne Farms for expansion.

Chairman Culver called on Mr. Parker, who reported Wayne Farms is building a new 47,000 square foot warehouse, and is estimated to be a \$23.5 million investment, a \$2 million increase from the original projection. He stated this request is the same as the previous one under the new tax law. Mr. Parker pointed out the electric grid that was installed out at Wayne Farms has been a significant benefit for the east side of Dothan. Mr. Parker thanked the commission, and Barkley Kirkland for their part in these projects.

Mr. Parker reported that with the approval of the Tax Abatement Agreements for these companies, education based taxes cannot be forgiven, and the county will receive significant revenue from these taxes over the next 10 years.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution to amend the Tax Abatement Agreement with Wayne Farms. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Commissioner Siquefield thanked Mr. Parker for his work on these projects, and he also thanked Mr. Kirkland for the great job his crews did on the in-kind service work.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Parker, and the commission, as well as Mr. Kirkland and his staff for all of their efforts on these projects.

4. Request to approve Interlocal Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County for the 2017 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award.

Chairman Culver reported the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Award is done annually with the City of Dothan. He pointed out usually the county's portion of the grant is used for radios and cameras inside the Sheriff's vehicles. He reported this year, the county's portion is \$4,921.77, and it will be applied toward the purchase and installation of 2 in-car video camera systems valued at \$8,000.00. Chairman Culver pointed out the city handles the administrative part. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County for the 2017 Byrne Justice Assistance (JAG) Program Award. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported the following³ roads were closed: Beck, Adkinson Road, and Willie Raley Road.

County Attorney – there was no report

Chairman Culver asked if anyone had any questions.

Commissioner Shoupe reported he had received several calls about Adkinson Road. He asked about a timeline for the project. Mr. Kirkland reported it is a huge project, and they are going to have to get caught up on some projects. He pointed out they had applied for some EWP funding, but it was denied. Mr. Kirkland reported it would probably be sometime next spring before they start the project, but they would try to move it up if they could.

Adjourn

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