

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 27, 2017

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

Commission Chairman Culver called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Commissioner Doug Siquefield gave the invocation and Commissioner Jackie Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone back from the Thanksgiving Holiday. He announced that there would not be an Administrative Meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> due to the Commissioners being out of town to attend the ACCA Legislative Meeting in Florence, Alabama. The Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Culver added that the Dothan Downtown Christmas Festival would be held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and he encouraged everyone to attend the various activities in their communities. He also reminded the staff of the Employee Appreciation Dinner to be held on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Culver announced that the supplemental bids for the ACCA Joint Bids were in and these will be awarded at the December meeting.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Ashford High School Band Recognition – Commissioner Doug Siquefield

Commissioner Siquefield asked the representatives from Ashford High School Band to come forward. In attendance were Don Parrish and his granddaughter Jaydin. Jaydin is a tenth grader in the Ashford High School Band and Mr. Parrish is a volunteer with the program. Mr. Siquefield stated that the band has done very well this year with competitions and they have over 80 band members and still growing. Mr. Parrish spoke and said that these students are

very dedicated with their practices and that competition has been tough, but they have received several Superior Ratings at various events. He also stated that the band director has done an excellent job working with the students and his love for the band definitely shows through the students.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to publish and approve the 2016-2017 Financial Report – William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Battles made a motion to publish and approve the 2016-2017 Financial Report. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to present Actual Revenues/Expenditures VS. Forecast and Budgeted Revenues and Expenditures for 2016-2017 – William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request for Mr. Dempsey to present the Actual Revenues/Expenditures VS. Forecast and Budgeted Revenues and Expenditures for 2016-2017. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Dempsey made his presentation highlighting that revenue was up for the year and expenses were down. Leading the change in revenue gain was the increase from the “sellers use tax” which is paid into local government from online retailers. Other major gains in revenue occurred from property taxes paid, the sale of equipment from the Road & Bridge Dept., and an increase in sanitation customers. Mr. Dempsey also credited the Sheriff’s Dept. for saving about \$238,000 off budgeted expenditures in the 2017 fiscal year and Road & Bridge saved about \$1.7 million over projections through several resources.

3. Request to approve lease of Industrial Park Farm Land – William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the lease of the Industrial Park Farm Land. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Chris Love was awarded the lease.

4. Request to enter into agreement with Prim & Mendheim, LLC, to pursue potential claims of injuries and/or damages to losses suffered by Houston County as a result of the opioid epidemic – Cliff Mendheim

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve entering into agreement with Prim & Mendheim. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve Alabama Brownfield Tax Abatement Project – Matt Parker, DACC (Grow Dothan) Economic Development Program

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Alabama Brownfield Tax Abatement Project. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. This is in regards to a project being developed by Private Holdings, LLC, in which they are planning to construct a large building to attract a new manufacturer to this site. This property is located at 441 Nypro Lane.

6. Request to approve \$1,000 funding to the Southeast Worlds of Work for Career Experience 2018 – Ryan Richards, Director of Workforce Development of SE Alabama Worlds of Work

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve \$1,500 of funding to the SE Worlds of Work instead of the initial \$1,000. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion to approve the \$1,500 funding and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Sinquefield added that this event is held at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds and is a gathering for several thousand eighth graders to enhance our workforce development. He also stated that in 2016 there were 4,208 in attendance and in 2017 they had 5,300. The projection for 2018 is 5,900 eighth graders.

7. Request to adopt Resolution concerning closing County Courthouse and other County Buildings in the event of emergency – Pres Register, County Attorney.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adopt the Resolution and this was seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Pres Register stated that this resolution will help with issues that have happened in the past due to commissioners having to have a special meeting to close county buildings due to hazardous weather, etc. This allows the Chairman of the County Commission to close county offices and the courthouse in the event of an emergency after consultation with other commissioners. This resolution is fashioned after other counties in our state.

8. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing structuring, preparation, and initiation of 2014-A Bond refinancing and issuance of general obligation warrant – Pres Register, County Attorney

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointment to the Houston County Water Authority

This being a District 2 appointment, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield made a motion to appoint Miguel Otero of Pansey to serve on the Houston County Water Authority Board. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Request to approve bid for Sheriff's Dept. Uniforms – Captain Bill Rafferty

Commissioner Doug Sinquefield made a motion to approve the bid for the Sheriff's Dept. Uniforms. Commissioner Battles seconded and it passed unanimously.

11. Request to approve resolution accepting grant for generator at Road & Bridge and approve budget amendment for said generator – Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Request to approve final plat for Pine Grove Subdivision in Cowarts, AL – Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the final plat for Pine Grove Subdivision. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Attorney – No Report

County Engineer - Barkley Kirkland

Mr. Kirkland stated that we have three road closings at this time; Adkinson, Willie Varnum, and Fortner.

Adjourn

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