

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 12, 2018

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

Chairman Culver welcome everyone to the February 12, 2018 Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were present.

Evan Kohen, Student Pastor at Selma Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Doug Siquefield led in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Commissioner Doug Siquefield made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Culver began by congratulating all who qualified for office last Friday. He wished everyone good luck and is looking forward to a good clean campaign for everyone during the next several months. In regards to the Mardi Gras parade that was held over the weekend, Chairman Culver commended everyone that was involved. He stated that it was well attended even though the weather was a factor and that this event is growing each year. He also announced that the Media VS Elected Officials Annual Softball Tournament is scheduled for April 28th. Houston County will be defending their victory from last year. Chairman Culver added that the Alabama Retirement Systems sent a commendation to the County for participating in the onetime support of retirees. He concluded that the County thinks of all the employees as family whether retired or active.

Commissioner Siquefield announced the 2018 football scholarship signees from local high schools and wished them the best in their new endeavor.

Chairman Culver called on EMA representative Rickey Stokes for an update on the current weather situation. Mr. Stokes reported that EMA is keeping a watch on all river stages at this time and any weather issues that may arise. He mentioned the malfunction of the weather sirens over the weekend and assured everyone that it is being looked into and will be fixed. Chairman Culver added that the outdoor weather sirens are mechanical and that mechanical things can have issues but that everything is being done to resolve the problem. He also encouraged citizens to sign up for "Code Red", which can be found on the EMA website. Mr. Stokes thanked all the firefighters, police department, sheriff's department, and volunteers for all their work this past weekend as well. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Stokes for his report and for all the hard work that the staff at EMA does for our community.

Commissioner Shoupe added that the sirens were put in for the importance of notifying the public, that may be outdoors, to seek shelter during emergency situations. The sirens may or may not be heard while someone is indoors so it is important that citizens sign up for the various emergency notifications on their mobile devices. Commissioner Shoupe also thanked Mr. Stokes and the entire EMA staff for their efforts in keeping everyone up to date on the weather situation this past weekend.

Chairman Culver called on County Engineer, Barkley Kirkland, concerning any road damage during the weather and Mr. Kirkland stated that at this time that only one road, Suggs Road, was closed due to the extreme rain amounts.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Request to make Appointments to the Houston County Port Authority; Rhonda Freeman, Dean Mitchell and Mark Freeman.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Request for Retail Beer License – 050 Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) – Granger’s Country Market, LLC, d/b/a Brunson Grocery, 4541 South County Road 75, Pansey, AL 36370 – Sheriff’s Dept.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for the Retail Beer License at Brunson Grocery. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Request for Table Wine License – 070 Retail Table Wine License (Off Premises Only) – Granger’s Country Market, LLC d/b/a Brunson Grocery, 4541 South County Road 75, Pansey, AL 36370 – Sheriff’s Dept.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for the Table Wine License at Brunson Grocery. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Request for Retail Beer License – 050 Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) and 070 Table Wine License (Off Premises Only) – REC Investments, LLC, d/b/a Roberts Wicksburg, 14625 W. US Hwy 84, Newton, AL 36352 – Sheriff’s Dept.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the Retail Beer and Table Wine License at Roberts Wicksburg. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Request to approve increase to the Sheriff’s Dept. Vehicle Repair Budget by \$629.40 – William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the requested increase to the Sheriff's Dept. Vehicle Repair Budget. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Request to reject current bids and rebid telephone and internet service – Danny Cumbie, IT Director

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request to reject current bids and rebid the services. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. Request to authorize polling place location changes – Patrick H. Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the location changes and Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Request to sell Communications Bus on GovDeals – Chris Judah, Director EMA

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. Request to approve final plat for Chase Ridge Subdivision, Phase II – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Battles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – 4 Closed Roads: Suggs, McAllister, Adkinson, and County Rd. 81.

Resurfacing project will begin possibly tomorrow on County Road 33. Several cross drains will be replaced so traffic will be re-routed. Also, the big bridge on State Line Road will be under repair for approximately three weeks. State Line Road between Industrial Park and Cottonwood Road will be closed during this time.

County Attorney – No Report

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.