

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 24, 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, Chief Administrative Officer William J. Dempsey.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. Chairman Culver declared a quorum as the majority of the commissioners were present.

Absent: Commissioner Jackie Battles.

Rev. Clark Cornelius, Pastor at Grace Anglican Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Brandon Shoupe led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Doug Siquefield announced that Joe Phillips from the Gordon area is getting ready for the "Fishing with Angels" event coming up on October 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a yearly event the Mr. Phillips sponsors for all the special needs children in our county and city schools. It is always a great event.

Chairman Culver mentioned that there had been a couple of losses in our county family and asked everyone to keep those people in their thoughts and prayers.

#### AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – "Archives Month" – Dr. Martin Olliff, Director, The Wiregrass Archives and Dr. Robert S. Saunders, Jr., Dothan-Houston County Library System

Chairman Culver stepped down to the podium and asked Dr. Olliff and Dr. Saunders to come forward. Commissioner Doug Siquefield made a motion to adopt the proclamation and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver continued by reading the proclamation and presenting it to Dr. Olliff. Dr. Olliff accepted the proclamation and thanked the Chairman and the Commissioners. He commented that archives identify, preserve and make available records of enduring value and that these are generally made available to the public for inspection unless there is some kind of privacy or security issue with the archive. He continued by stating that on behalf of the professional archivist at Troy University, Dothan Campus, the professional archivist who are practicing in other

components of the county, those whom are not professional archivist but who find themselves having archives thrust upon them, and for the people in the non-profit sector, the for-profit sector, the governmental sector, churches, and family historians who find themselves with a body of material that they have to find something to do with, he accepted the proclamation with great pleasure. Dr. Saunders then approached the podium and stated that anything that helps the library, archives, or body of knowledge is a great day. He thanked the commission for the wonderful proclamation.

## 2. Proclamation – “Hunger Action Month” – David Hanks, Executive Director – Wiregrass Area Food Bank

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously. After Chairman Culver read the proclamation and upon completion he thanked Mr. Hanks for all he does for our community with the food bank.

Mr. Hanks commented that during disasters, the food bank provides for citizens as they flee from storms and such as that. He added that the food bank is a food source for the Salvation Army and the Red Cross and that more importantly it is coming up on the busy time of the year as the food bank is getting ready for the holidays and food drive season and they need to make sure they have ample supply. He thanked the commission for all the help the county has given the food bank over the years and it is much appreciated. He ended by saying that anyone that would like to volunteer to please contact the food bank as there are opportunities for everyone to help those in need. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Hanks for the food bank partnering with the county and media for the annual softball game.

## 3. Proclamation – “Family Day – A Day To Eat Dinner With Your Children” – Susan Trawick & Molly Matthews – Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Trawick and thanked her for bringing this to our attention continually. He thanked Mrs. Trawick for her work with this program and stated that this is just one of those small things that is a lost art within families.

Mrs. Trawick began by stating that it is always a wonderful day to be before the commission and she thanked them for the proclamation but she also stated that it’s a sad day that we have to stand and proclaim a day to eat dinner with our family. Mrs. Trawick encouraged everyone to sit down and eat and talk to your children as they do want to hear what their parents have to say. She also stated that for every one dollar in prevention there is eighteen dollars saved in treatment. She then introduced youth council member Molly Matthews. Ms. Matthews is a senior at Dothan High School and is involved with fostering to the betterment of the students in her school and the local area. She encouraged families to spend time together no matter how difficult it is to find the time. She stated that studies show that teens that spend time with their families have better grades in school and it makes them emotionally

stronger and the same can go for the parents. Ms. Matthews added that this could lead to a healthier lifestyle as well and that the benefits of eating together as a family outweigh the cost.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve Electronic Monitoring Program to lowest bidder meeting specs – Jeff Ozbun, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the bid and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Commissioner Shoupe asked how much this particular program is going to save and Mr. Ozbun reported that it will save one-third of the current cost. With no further questions or comments, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve uniform guidelines for federal funds – William Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the guidelines and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Mr. Dempsey stated that this is just a formality to include in the policies and procedures as the county has always followed the procedures for the federal funds. As there were no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to obtain a loan/financing to purchase 8 Chevy Tahoes' and equipment – Major Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver commented that this is a continuation of a previous program that the Sheriff agreed to put in place with the proceeds from funding of the Sheriff's Dept. is used to repay the loan. Being no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Request to renew County Engineer's Employment Contract

Commissioner Curtis Harvey made a motion to approve the renewal of the contract. Mr. Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Request to authorize the Chairman to enter into agreement with ADEM for county wide tire clean up – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver pointed out that this is a continuation of an ongoing program that the county has and it is time to renew the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to sell 5 vehicles on GovDeals – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to sell the vehicles and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – One closed road – Gus Love Road

County Attorney – No Report

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