

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
November 26, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Ricky Herring, and Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Attorney Pres Register, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer William J. Dempsey.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the November 26, 2018, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as the majority of the commissioners were in attendance.

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Commissioner Siquefield gave the invocation and Commissioner Ricky Herring led in the pledge of the 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

Chairman Culver announced that next week there will not be an administrative meeting due to the commissioners attending the ACCA Legislative Conference in Montgomery from December 5 – 6. He added that the last commission meeting of the year will be on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Chairman Culver noted that the Dothan Downtown Christmas Event will be held this Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, and Ashford's Christmas Parade will be held on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. He added that there are a lot of Christmas events going on and encouraged everyone to participate in these events. He also mentioned that on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioners will be at Northside Wal-Mart ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive against the City of Dothan Commissioners. This is a yearly event where the County Commissioners and the City Commissioners compete to raise money for the Salvation Army.

Commissioner Siquefield commented that the Salvation Army works really hard each year to generate money to purchase toys for the less fortunate children in our area. He encouraged everyone to participate in the red kettle drive.

Commissioner Shoupe commented that he would like to recognize Paul Lee and congratulate him on his re-election and that he will be sworn in tonight at 5:30 p.m. here in the Commission Chambers. He added that Mr. Lee has done a great job in the past and he knows he will continue to do so.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to present the 2017-2018 departmental over/under spending summary report.

Chairman Culver noted that several years ago a law was passed in the state of Alabama that requires departments to maintain balanced budgets. If an elected official goes over their budget without commission approval, by law they would have to write the county a check for the overage. Fortunately, Houston County has never had this happen, as department heads are very astute in their spending. This particular spending summary report goes through the over and under of the budget. At this time, Chairman Culver turned over the meeting to Mr. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer, to give his report.

Mr. Dempsey began by stating this report is a requirement of the state. The report showed that departmental funds saved more than \$700,000 than originally budgeted and an additional \$1.9 million from its' special fund accounts. The major contributors to the increase in reserves were an increase in property tax revenues and a spike in sales tax revenues along with less spending than budgeted. The departments leading the way in less spending were Road and Bridge with \$1.9 million less, Juvenile Services with \$200,000 less, elections expenses down \$135,000 and capital replacement projects under at \$103,000. Please see full report attached to original minutes.

Mr. Sinquefield commented on the savings of the juvenile Services renovation at the courthouse due to the county maintenance department taking on this project.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to publish the Houston County year-end financial report to include county, fiduciary, and other special trust funds.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the publishing of the year-end financials and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. Chairman Culver commented that the publishing of this report is required annually. After a call for the question, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to award bid for Telephone System Upgrade – Danny Cumbie, IT Manager

Mr. Cumbie came forward and reported that this is only an equipment upgrade that is need for the current system that is currently in place.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the bid and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Request to approve bid for Hot Plant Mix to the lowest bidder meeting specs – Road & Bridge

County Engineer Barkley Kirkland reported that there was only one bid submitted for this particular item. Chairman Culver asked what would the cost be to resurface a mile of roadway at this time and Mr. Kirkland reported that the cost is approximately ninety-five dollars per ton for a thousand tons or more. Commissioner Shoupe asked what would happen if they rejected this current bid being there is only one bidder. Mr. Kirkland answered that there would not be a bid in place when FEMA comes in to do the patching of the roads and he also stated that bids were sent out to other companies as well but only one responded.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the bid for Hot Plant Mix and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. When called for the vote, Commissioner's Herring and Sinquefield voted YEA and Commissioner Shoupe voted NO. The motion passed.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer –No Report

County Engineer – Commented that the R & B Dept. is doing more of their own patching on the roads because of the expense. Several roads closed at this time: State Line Road, North Co. Rd. 81, Olan Jones, Harvey Hicks, Billy Cherry, Zachary, Knowles, Ludlum, Enterprise Church, McDaniel Rd., Cephus Rollins, and Indigo Pond. All closed due to storm damage. Mr. Kirkland also reported that about 60,000 yards of debris have been picked up and they have cleaned up almost 100 miles of road with one hundred percent being in Rehobeth, Taylor, Madrid, Columbia and Cottonwood. He added that half of Ashford has been cleaned and about a quarter of Kinsey and Cowarts so far.

County Attorney – No Report

Commissioner Shoupe asked the County Engineer how he sees things going forward in a time sense. Mr. Kirkland stated that he feels like that they should be finished working in the towns within the next two weeks. As soon as that is completed, they will commence to working out in the county areas finishing cleaning up the road debris, especially in the lower end of the county where the storm hit the worse.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.