

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
December 10, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinuefield, 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 December 10, 2018, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Lt. Austin Sturdivant, Director of the Salvation Army, gave the invocation and Commissioner Doug Sinuefield led in the pledge of the allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that the commission will not have a meeting in two weeks due to the Christmas Holiday and the county offices being closed. The next commission meeting will be held in five weeks on January 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be an administrative meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Culver continued by stating that the Salvation Army Bell Ringing by the commissioners will be held on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Northside Wal-Mart. The city commissioners will also be there and he encouraged everyone to come out and give to this great cause. At this time, Chairman Culver asked Lt. Sturdivant to come forward to say a few words about this event. Lt. Sturdivant approached the podium and stated that one day of bell ringing can provide enough food for a family of five for a month, or it can provide food for a week for five different families or it can provide money to help someone pay their rent. He asked everyone to come and support this event.

Chairman Culver stated that last Thursday night, the county held their employee appreciation dinner and he wanted to thank the Personnel staff and all that helped with this event to make it great. He felt that this was the best attendance in many years and everything went really well.

At this time, Chairman Culver asked Maintenance Manager, Sean Curtis, to stand up. Chairman Culver asked if anyone had seen the recent news report about the county tower Christmas lights. He commended Sean and his staff for the great job on the lights (which are shaped into a Christmas tree) and thanked them for their hard work. Sean stated that he had one employee in particular, Scott Holley, who has devoted himself to this project and he has another one in the works that will be ready in the next few days.

Commissioner Sinquefield commented that Ashford had their Christmas parade last Friday night and they had over fifty entries in the parade and a large turnout from the community was present. He thanked Kim Vann from the Ashford Chamber and everyone that participated that made the event successful.

Commissioner Harvey thanked everyone for their prayers and concerns during his recent surgery. He also commented that he needed to clear the record that he was not present at the last commission meeting when the voting took place for the request to approve the renewal for the Houston Economic Development application. He stated that had he of been at the meeting he would of voted NO and will do so in the future.

#### REGUL AR AGENDA

1. Request to re-appoint the following to the Houston County Industrial Development Authority Board: James Pouncy, Lori Wilcoxon, Robert Hewes, Hugh Wheelless, David Parsons, Velma Tribue, and Harrison Morris

Commissioner Curtis Harvey made a motion to approve the re-appointments to the HCIDA Board. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Request to re-appoint the following to the Houston County Department of Human Resources Board: Leo Breckenridge, Frances Cook, and Sam Crawford

Commissioner Doug Sinquefield made a motion to approve the re-appointments to the HCDHR Board. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Request for 050 Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) and 070 Retail Table Wine License (Off Premises Only) – Dolgencorp, LLC, d/b/a Dollar General Store #19936 located at 88 Curtis Mixon Rd., Gordon, AL – Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Doug Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for the License. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. When called for the vote, Commissioner's Sinquefield, Harvey, and Shoupe voted YEA and Commissioner Herring voted NO. The motion passed.

4. Request to install ventilation system and water hook-up for washer/dryer at Department of Human Resources building – Leslie Kelly, Director Houston County DHR

Leslie Kelly came forward to discuss the request. Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Kelly if she was requesting permission for the state to do the work needed to install a washer/dryer at the DHR office and she responded that is quite possibly what they are looking at. They understand that it is not the norm for a county building to have a washer/dryer installed but she wanted to explain the need for it. She continued by stating that Houston County DHR serves over six hundred children either in foster care,

group homes, or other homes. In some instances, the children come to the facility with only the clothes on their backs, which in most cases are dirty and need to be washed before placing the children in a foster home or group home. Mrs. Kelly noted that she has worked for DHR for over twenty-two years and this is the only county office that does not have a washer/dryer accessible. She has had the county Maintenance Dept. come and look at the facility and the kitchen area seems to be the best fit for the appliances to be placed since there is water hook up available. Ventilation would need to be put in for the dryer. Mrs. Kelly noted that the state office informed her that she would need to have the commission's approval before submitting a request to the state office before any work can go forward. She has received an estimate from an outside source and they agree with the location being in the kitchen area and the plumbing and electrical would be the most cost involved. The estimate is \$4,500. Mrs. Kelly stated that DHR is asking for either the county to make this happen or to allow DHR to get written permission from the commission for the state office to finance.

Chairman Culver asked Sean Curtis, Maintenance Mgr. to come forward and he asked Sean if the county is correct to let the state do the work to the building. Mr. Curtis advised that an engineer should assess this project due to the possibility that a laundry facility could create environmental issues due to moisture, fire alarms, ventilation, etc. He added that typically the state has an architectural engineer come and inspect and handle the entire project.

Chairman Culver noted that the concern of the commission is that no added cost would be put on for other things that were mentioned such as HVAC issues that could arise. He agreed that the things that Mrs. Kelly had mentioned, such as the care for the children, are valid reasons why the equipment is needed.

A motion, by Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, was made to approve a request to provide written authorization to ask the state to move forward with the installation of a washer/dryer at the DHR building. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harvey and passed unanimously.

5. Request to approve bid for purchase of vehicle for Reappraisal Dept. – Starla Moss, Revenue Commissioner

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the purchase of the vehicle and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to approve emergency expenditure for a boiler at the jail from the Capital Replacement Fund – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Mgr.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the emergency expenditure and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Request to increase price of meals sold outside of jail – William J. Dempsey, CAO

Mr. Dempsey reported that the county sells to two different groups, outside the jail, with those being the City of Dothan and the Community Corrections. The total meals are \$75,000 a year that are sold to these entities. Recently, the county had an increase in the price of the meals and this request is so that the cost can be passed directly to the outside facilities.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to increase price of the meals. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 8. Request to fill Director Position at Wicksburg Senior Center

Commissioner Shoupe commented that Susan Hardy has been selected to replace the retiring Sue Mathis. Mrs. Hardy is the daughter of long time Wicksburg resident John Bond. Mr. Shoupe has spoken to some of the Senior Center participants and they feel good about the selection of Mrs. Hardy.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to fill the Director Position at Wicksburg Senior Center with Susan Hardy. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Culver mentioned that Mrs. Sue Mathis has worked at the Center for many years and has served the seniors very well and Mr. Shoupe mentioned that effective January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the seniors will be meeting at the volunteer fire department at five points in Wicksburg. They will begin the New Year at the new facility with a pot luck luncheon.

9. Request to make appointment to fill Chief Administrative Officer vacancy upon retirement of Bill Dempsey and offer Peter Covert the position and authorize the Chairman to negotiate the job description and pay range.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the appointment and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported that the commission has spent the last two to three months going through resumes and interviews. He mentioned that Mr. Covert has been a resident of Dothan for quite a while and was, for several years, the Chief Executive Officer with Oncology Supply here in Dothan. Chairman Culver stated that if Mr. Covert accepts the position, his starting date would be December 26, 2018 so as he and Mr. Dempsey could work together for a few months.

After a call for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. Request to approve (4) Homeland Security Grants: 8ICC, 7ICC, 7FIL, 8FIL – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Chris Judah came forward and stated that these are pass through grants from Homeland Security. Bill Dempsey commented that a couple of the grants were from 2017 and questioned if the money had already come in. Mr. Judah responded that he would find out if they any money had come through yet.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the grants. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11. Request to extend existing contract with Wiregrass Electric for sanitation billing services effective 1/1/2019 for a two year period – Elaine Lux, Sanitation Mgr.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the extension of the existing contract and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Request to amend the 2018-2019 Sanitation billing budget from \$137,000 to \$146,000 – Elaine Lux, Sanitation Mgr.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to amend the billing budget and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Request to approve \$10,600 change notice from Engineering Associates for communications project – Maj. Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Chairman Culver stated that this request is for the consultant of the tower project to bring the bids to an award. In addition, he mentioned that in a previous meeting, the commission approved \$4,500 for Lee Moore and those funds did not get spent, so the \$10,600 would be less the \$4,500 making the new amount \$6,100.

Commissioner Shoupe asked the expected date to go live on the tower project and Maj. Rafferty stated it would be six to nine months or sooner.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for the change notice. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

14. Request to approve bid for 2019 Chassis Crew Cab – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the bid and Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Request to approve bid for 2019 4WD Crew Cab – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Curtis Harvey made a motion to approve the bid for the 2019 4WD Crew Cab. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

16. Request to sell the following item on GovDeals; Stove – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Ricky Herring made a motion to approve the request to sell the stove on GovDeals. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer –No Report

County Engineer –13 roads closed at this time. Cephus Rollins, McDaniel, Enterprise Church, Ludlum, Knowles, Zachary, Billy Cherry, Harvey Hicks, Olan Jones, North Co. Rd. 81, State Line, Sweetie Smith and Gus Love.

Debris update: All towns have been cleaned with the exception of Gordon. 215 miles of road have been cleared; 4 cross drains have been laid; all debris adds up to 4,338 dump truck loads or 90,000 cubic yards of debris.

County Attorney – No report but there was not a motion or a second on item #10. Commissioner Herring made the motion and Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Culver wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and Holiday Season.

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