

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
February 25, 2019

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

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the February 25, 2019, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were present.

Pastor Kyle Gatlin, Covenant United Methodist 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 Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that Friday is the first Foster Fest of the year. It will be held on the first Friday of each month through the month of October. He encourages everyone to attend this great event. Chairman Culver also mentioned that on Saturday the Mardi Gras Parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. This parade goes through the garden district and then ends in downtown Dothan. This event has grown tremendously over the years. He also asked that everyone put on their calendar that on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., the Media VS Elected Officials Softball game will be held. The elected officials will be doing their very best to defend the title that they have held for the last two years. This event is also a fund/food raiser for the Wiregrass Area Food Bank and he encourages everyone to bring non-perishable items for the food bank.

Chairman Culver continued by congratulating six young ladies which were crowned on Saturday night as Houston County Queens and added that the event was exceptional as always. He mentioned that Houston County Pageants, Inc., runs the pageant and they do an extraordinary job. During the pageant, they did a beautiful tribute to Ms. Whitney Devane, former Ms. Houston County and former Ms. National Peanut Festival, whom recently passed away. The queens that were crowned are as follows: Future Little Miss Houston is Maebry Marler; Little Miss Houston County is Maggie Wells; Young Jr. Miss Houston County is Jessi Danford; Jr. Miss Houston County is Brinley Harrell; Teen Miss Houston County is Natalie Carlson; and Miss Houston County is Addison Reynolds. Chairman Culver reported that he asked the new Miss Houston County if she could play softball and he was excited to know that Ms. Reynolds plays for her high school softball team. The queens will be visiting the commission meeting in the very near future.

Commissioner Siquefield reported that Ashford's Spring Fling will be held Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Ashford Depot. He added that there will be lots of activities to include arts and crafts, food

vendors, fellowship and fun. The Ashford Chamber has been working really hard to make this event successful.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Request to authorize State Bank and Trust to issue credit card to Houston County Commission

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request from State Bank to issue a credit card to Houston County Commission. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver commented that this is a corporate resolution that the bank has asked us to adopt. He added that the county does not issue credit cards but there is only one that stays in the accounting office and controlled by the administrator. When called for the question, the motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Request to appoint Michael Farris to the Houston County Water Authority

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to appoint Michael Farris to the Houston County Water Authority. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### 3. Request to approve Proclamation in support of awarding Dale County the proposed V.A. Site

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the Proclamation and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to table this request based on some information he has recently acquired and felt like certain things needed to be worked out on the VA side before moving forward. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion to table the request and it passed unanimously.

### 4. Request to approve and authorize advertising local legislation to reinstate and add \$5 transaction probate fee – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve and authorize advertising local legislation to reinstate and add a \$5 transaction probate fee. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Commissioner Sinquefield commented that he would like to see that part of this fee be channeled and ear-marked for security for the Administrative Building for the protection of the employees and the customers. Chairman Culver responded that he would prefer that they not ear-mark any of the general fund money due to things are uncertain in what can happen in Montgomery and what they may pass. He added that the funny thing about county government is that it is ever changing due to legislature. He also stated that it is everyone's priority to implement security in the Administrative Building and it was the last thing that was cut out of the budget last year and is hopeful that it will be the first thing that is put in the budget for the coming year using these monies. He mentioned that 40% of the money will be ear-marked for the Probate Judge and the Sheriff's Department but the part that goes to the general fund should not be committed due to unknown legislature future actions. Commissioner Shoupe agreed that it would provide the Commission more flexibility if the money is not ear-marked but does agree that the first thing the money should be spent on is the security of the Administrative Building.

When called for the question, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to approve and authorize local constitution amendment requiring Probate Judge to be a licensed attorney in the State of Alabama – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve and authorize local constitution amendment requiring Probate Judge to be a licensed attorney in the State of Alabama. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Request to approve and authorize advertising local legislation to pass a bill authorizing law enforcement officers to transport individuals, believed to be suffering from mental illness, to a hospital or other facility for evaluation and treatment – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Request to reject only bid received for Houston County UHF Radio System, bid number SH-0744, and rebid.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to reject the only bid and rebid. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported that a letter has been submitted from the Sheriff's Department stating that they want to move forward with this project by using the Gordon Water Tower with the understanding that should it become necessary to take other actions with the tower, that the commission will consider that in the future.

When called for the question and vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Request to approve resolution to re-classify the highway functional classification of Cumbie Road (from Judge Logue Road to US Highway 84W) from unclassified to a Rural Major Collector in accordance with FHWA Highway Functional Classifications, Concepts, Criteria and Procedures – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Seven closed roads are State Line Road, Billy Cherry, Nobles, Enterprise Church, McDaniel, Indigo Pond and Waddell.

County Attorney – No Report

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