

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
May 28, 2019

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

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the May 28, 2019, 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

Reverend James Register from Taylor Assembly of God Church gave the invocation and Commissioner Ricky Herring led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Siquefield and seconded by Commissioner Shoupe. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver began by recognizing Mr. Daniel Knight who was in the audience. Chairman Culver stated that Mr. Knight is working on completing his Eagle Scout status and becoming an Eagle Scout. Mr. Knight will receive a badge for attending the commission meeting and it is the last badge that he needs to obtain his Eagle Scout status. Chairman Culver congratulated and commended Mr. Knight for his participation in the Scouts and thanked him for being at the meeting today. Mr. Knight received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver announced that the regularly scheduled Administrative Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 6th, will not take place. Three of the five commission members will be out of town so a quorum will not be present. The regular Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, June 10th at 10:00 a.m. He also announced that the City of Dothan Farmer's Market will begin on June 1st at the Civic Center parking lot and will be held each Saturday during June and July. He encouraged everyone to support the local vendors. He also stated that the Ashford Farmers Market begins this Saturday as well. Chairman Culver reminded everyone that Foster Fest will be held next Friday night, June 7th and encouraged everyone to be part of this monthly event.

Commissioner Siquefield commented that he appreciated Robert Byrd and Sunset Funeral Home for the Memorial Day activities which they hosted to honor all veterans that sacrificed their lives for the freedoms that we have today.

Chairman Culver reported that an item has come to the commission to be added to the agenda for today's meeting, if the commission consents to adding the item. The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission Revolving Loan Fund Administration Board is asking for an appointment to replace Alice Beckham's term as she has moved out of the area. They are recommending Mr. Matt Parker to fill her unexpired term. Chairman Culver asked if there was an objection to adding this item to the agenda and there was none. This item will be #6 on today's agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request for a 160 Special Retail License – Serenity Island Clubhouse, LLC, d/b/a Serenity Island Clubhouse located at 4148 Third Avenue, Dothan, AL – Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the 160 Special Retail License for Serenity Island Clubhouse. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the vote and with Commissioners Sinquefield and Shoupe voting yea and Commissioner Herring voting nay, the motion passed.

2. Request to adopt Resolution for Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Program

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. Chairman Culver noted that this is a normal and customary yearly item. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to award janitorial bid to lowest bidder meeting specs – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to award the bid and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve joint bid with the City of Dothan for portable toilet rentals and service – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the joint bid with the City of Dothan and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert made a clarification and response to Commissioner Shoupe's question from the Administrative Meeting that this award is a one year award with a two one-year extension if there are no changes in the pricing. Also, this is just for the Farm Center, not for the general area of Houston County. In the future, Mr. Covert will look into this being a county wide area bid. When called for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Request to enter into a Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Dothan for the construction and maintenance of a roundabout located at the intersection of S. Park Ave. and Taylor Rd.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to enter into a Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Dothan. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver commented that at Thursday's meeting it was discussed that this is a shared project with the City and it's another grand opportunity to work closely with the City of Dothan. Chairman Culver asked if there were any comments and then acknowledged an audience member and asked him to come forward and state his name. He stated his name as Kenneth Mathis and he began by stating that the first time he appeared before the commission was regarding a roundabout that is being planned at Taylor Road and Campbellton Road. He continued by stating that at the time he requested that something be done at the Park and Taylor Road intersection before deciding on another roundabout. He reported that he questioned putting a roundabout there. He then held up a newspaper and stated that an article said that it would cost around a million dollars and he understands that this will be split. He continued by stating that a decision has been made and he understands that but he is disappointed in the commission and how they are operating business. He said that "ya'll get a preacher in here to have a word of prayer, but the decisions have been made before he ever comes through the door". He states that it upsets him that the public does not have any input on anything that is going on for the most part. He added that the county engineer and the city "man" got together and they have worked out all the details. He read in the paper that on account of the park being located off Taylor Road and businesses on the south side of Houston County, that the roundabout is what is needed. He stated that he wants the commission to understand that the reason for this being needed is because the commission let the city close Moore Road. Mr. Mathis says that the 4,000–5,000 cars that were using Moore Road are now being passed to the intersection where a million dollars will be spent to build a roundabout. He feels that this is "asinine", in his opinion, and that the commission makes the decisions and they have to live with it and they are going to die with it too.

Chairman Culver commented that the cost is a good bit under a million dollars and it is pretty much split equally and a lot of it is labor costs involved. He continued by stating that between the engineers and the staff, with the elected officials making the decision, they felt like this was the least impact on the citizens, the least amount of cost and, based on the information they received, they will be able to handle the situation in the safest manor. Chairman Culver reported that the decision was based on that information. On the Moore Road issue, it certainly impacts the traffic, but the commission did not let anyone do anything as he has stated on multiple occasions that Moore Road is not a county road. Chairman culver closed by stating that the decision to close Moore Road was "not made at this podium by this commission".

When called for the question, the motion passed unanimously to enter into the agreement with the City of Dothan.

6. Request to appoint Mr. Matt Parker to the Revolving Loan Fund Administration Board of the Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Mr. Kirkland reported that he would like to talk about closed road and Hurricane Michael clean up but he would like to ask Ashley Clements and Jason Harper from R & B to come forward. He announced that closed roads at this time are State Line, Lanier and Indigo Pond. He then gave an update on Hurricane Michael. He reported that debris and trash cleanup is complete and they worked a total of 59,872 hours, with 43,146 being regular hours and 15,369 being over time hours. His department worked 1,357 holiday hours during Christmas, etc. Approximately 1,890 miles of right-of-way was cleared in this time frame and 200 miles in towns and approximately 13,476 dump truck loads of material which is roughly 300,000 cubic yards. He stated that 243 loads of trash were moved, which is approximately 1,000 tons and there were 24 roads closed immediately after the storm due to wash outs and pipes and only one is closed now due to this problem and that is State Line Road and it is being worked on now. He commended Ashley Clements and Jason Harper as leaders of this project working with FEMA and the entire R & B Department to get this project completed. A round of applause was given.

County Attorney – No Report

Commissioner Sinquefield commended the Road and Bridge Department for all their hard work and he also pointed out that with over 59,000 hours of work time during this clean up, there was only one lost time accident in the department.

Chairman Culver urged everyone to monitor the heat situation and to stay hydrated during this hot weather.

Meeting adjourned.