

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION  
June 24th, 2019

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, 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 June 24th, 2019, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Pastor Jonathan Woodham, Associate Pastor at Cloverdale Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Harvey and seconded by Commissioner Sinquefield. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Culver began by reminding everyone that there will not be an Administrative Meeting on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, as the county will be closed for the holiday. The regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and this will be a combined meeting to include the administrative portion. He added that the courthouse will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>, as all state offices will be closed. Chairman Culver announced that Foster Fest will be held on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> and the farmer's markets around our community will continue to operate as usual and encourages everyone to support our local farmers. Commissioner Shoupe congratulated Commissioner Harvey for the completion of his newly constructed church and added that Commissioner Harvey has worked very hard in this endeavor. In addition, Chairman Culver congratulated Commissioner Sinquefield for his recent election as Chairman of the ACCA Workman's Compensation Board of Directors.

#### AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

##### 1. Recognition – Buzz Smith

Chairman Culver called on Commissioner Sinquefield to make the recognition announcement. Commissioner Sinquefield began by stating the he considers it an honor to recognize Mr. Buzz Smith. Mr. Smith was awakened last December by the fire at Cottonwood High School and his quick response and actions to call 9-1-1 saved the school from what could have been a disastrous situation. Commissioner Sinquefield continued by saying that immediately after calling 9-1-1, Cottonwood Fire Dept., Chief Randy Hall and the volunteers came on the scene of the school along with EMA and the Dothan Fire Department to save the school. Thanks to EMA, a plaque is being sent to Mr. Smith for his honorable actions. Commissioner Sinquefield ended by saying that citizens like Mr. Smith are

appreciated and he encouraged all citizens that if they see something or hear something, to call emergency services as it could save a life or a structure. A round of applause was given to Mr. Smith.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 1. Request to approve the vacating of a portion of Zachary Road

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to vacate a portion of Zachary Road and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Request from Landmark Park for assistance to repair drainage problems on road – Laura Stakelum, Interim Director Landmark Park

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request from Landmark Park and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Chairman Culver commented that what is being done, as in the past, is committing to assist with the work on this project. Landmark Park Staff and Board will now collect all the materials, including the dirt, that is needed for the work through donations, etc. and then at the proper time, they will notify the Road and Bridge Department when work can proceed and schedule time accordingly. There being no further discussion, the request from Landmark Park was unanimously approved.

### 3. Request from Houston Schools to continue with SRO Program for the coming fiscal school year and add two additional SRO Officers under the same agreement – David Sewell, Superintendent

Chairman Culver reminded the commissioners that when making this motion that they need to be sure they word the two additional officers how they want it to be worded as the agenda item states “the same agreement”, which last year had the school system paying for the officers, and this particular item will be approving the Sheriff’s Department to cover it in their budget. Commissioner Sinquefield made the motion and Chairman Culver restated the motion as follows: the request be granted from the Houston County Schools to continue with the SRO Program for the coming fiscal year and add two SRO Officers and that a portion of this fiscal year will be covered in the Sheriff’s budget. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### 4. Request to adopt rules and procedures regarding fire protection service fees and appropriations to volunteer fire departments and volunteer fire association

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to adopt the rules and procedures regarding fire protection service fees and appropriations to volunteer fire departments and volunteer fire association and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver commented that a copy of the policy is in the commissioner’s package and basically all this is doing is establishing that we will fund eligible fire departments, which the law stipulates what an eligible fire department is. There are no new restrictions nor is funding being changed, this policy is just stating that the county will only

fund eligible fire departments which they are required to do. This policy will be effective October 1, 2019, in order to allow time for any fire department that is not eligible to acquire eligibility and the county will assist with any issues they may have. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve pass-through grant reimbursement 6FSL from Homeland Security to Sheriff's Dept. for specialized equipment – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the pass-through grant reimbursement. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Four Closed Roads at this time; State Line, Lanier, Dee Clark, and Indigo Pond

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.