

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
October 15th, 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 Peter Covert.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the October 15th, 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.

County Attorney, Pres Register, gave the invocation and Commissioner Doug Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER

Chairman Culver began by proudly congratulating Ms. Maggie Wells, who was Little Miss Houston County and now she is Little Miss National Peanut Festival. Maggie won the pageant this past weekend and the commission is very proud of her. Chairman Culver added that there is a history of Miss Houston County's going on to be Miss National Peanut Festival and Maggie has continued that history by being crowned Little Miss National Peanut Festival. He reported that Maggie is a second grader at Rehobeth Elementary and she finished in the top five of the written competition, top five and winner of stage presence, and top five and winner in interview. He added that tonight, Miss Sophie Richards, will be crowned Little Miss Houston County and will serve the rest of the year since Maggie had to give up her title after winning Little Miss National Peanut Festival. Chairman Culver also stated that the Miss National Peanut Festival will be held this weekend and that Miss Houston County is very qualified and they wish her the best. He reminded everyone that this is "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and he encourages everyone to wear pink this month to bring awareness to help cure this disease.

Chairman Culver announced that Houston County is the awarding entity for the ACCA Joint Bids and those bids have been received and opened and will be awarded within the next few weeks. Commissioner Herring reported that on Saturday, October 19th, the Taylor Made Festival will be held and he encouraged everyone to enjoy the festivities and support the Town of Taylor.

Commissioner Siquefield reported that the county has some wonderful employees and at this time he would like to recognize a few of them. He stated that he had received a letter a few weeks ago from a couple that had been displaced from Hurricane Michael and came to Houston County. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Shirley had lost everything they had during the storm and they came in contact with Mrs. Sherry Douglas from Houston County In-Home Services and Elaine Lux, Sanitation Dept. Commissioner

Sinquefield then read the letter submitted by the Shirley family (attached to original minutes). They stated that Ms. Douglas and Ms. Lux had assisted the family with lodging, food, and other necessities they were in need of. The Shirley's wrote that these two employees continue to check on them and are always concerned of their well-being and they appreciate it so much. Commissioner Sinquefield commended these two ladies for their compassion, concern, and care for this family. A round of applause was given by all. Commissioner Sinquefield also announced that on November 2, 2019, the Southeast Coalition for the Homeless will host a homeless connect event at the Wiregrass 2-1-1 facility. Supplies and volunteers are needed for this event and he asked for everyone to do their part. He added that on Saturday, October 19th, the National Peanut Festival Cub Mobile Race will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the National Peanut Festival grounds and they currently have about 85 entries.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – “Farm City Week” – Gloria Jeffcoat, Farm City Committee

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the proclamation for “Farm City Week” and Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then asked Commissioner Sinquefield to present the proclamation to the committee members that are present which included Gloria Jeffcoat, Randy Davis and Jackie Culpepper. Chairman Culver announced that the Farm City Banquet is hosted by the County this year and it will be held at the Farm Center on November 21st. Commissioner Sinquefield then read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Davis, Farm City Week Chairman. Mr. Davis then thanked Commissioner Sinquefield and the Commission and stated that it is always an honor to come and receive this proclamation on behalf of Farm City. He added that the theme this year for Farm City Week is “Keep Alabama Growing” and that is across all sectors to include farming, commercial activity, and the agriculture industry across the County. He stated a few facts that he thought were interesting to note with the first being employment in agriculture industry. He stated that from a recent survey from US Food and Ag Industry, that in our areas’ congressional district the most jobs are provided in the state of Alabama that relate to food and agriculture. This includes almost 100,000 jobs that are related to agriculture. Mr. Davis also reported that the state of Alabama receives 8.3 billion dollars in taxes paid by the agriculture industry. He stated that Farm City promotes several activities during the year to bring awareness to the agriculture industry with a few being the Farm City Banquet, poster contest for grades K-6 coordinated by Mrs. Gloria Jeffcoat, essay competition for upper grades, farm tours, and many other activities. Mr. Davis asked everyone to spread the word about Farm City Week and when you see a farmer to be sure and thank them for all they do. Mrs. Jeffcoat announced that the Service Award for the state of Alabama this year was won by Dothan’s own Janice Sheppard.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to close the Houston County Courthouse along with all Houston County Offices on December 24th, 2019, due to it being declared a State Holiday.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to close on December 24th.
Commissioner Herring seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve vendor agreement with Humana for voluntary vision care plan for Houston County Employees – Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the vendor agreement with Humana for the voluntary vision care plan and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve Federal EMPG Pass Through Funding Grant 19EMF – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the Grant. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve resolution to resurface CR-277 (Cumbie Road) from the Geneva County line to CR-32. Approx. 2.0 miles – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the resolution to resurface CR-277 (Cumbie Road) from the Geneva County line to CR-32 and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve resolution to resurface Willie Varnum Road from CR-33 to Eddins Road. Approx. 4.91 miles – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the resolution to resurface Willie Varnum Road from CR-33 to Eddins Road. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request in kind services to construct parking lot for Cowarts Town Hall – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for in kind services to construct parking lot for Cowarts Town Hall. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. Request to sell 2007 Chevrolet Impala from EMA on GovDeals – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to sell the 2007 Chevrolet Impala on GovDeals and Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – Bids are being accepted for (1) year land lease on State Line Road.

County Engineer – 2 closed roads; 1st Ave in Ashford and Omussee Road.

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.