

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
October 28th, 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 28th, 2019, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all the commissioners were in attendance.

Rev. Caleb Galloway, Asst. Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dothan, gave the invocation and Commissioner Brandon Shoupe 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 reminding everyone that beginning this Friday, November 1st, the National Peanut Festival will begin and will last for nine days. He encourages everyone to get out and enjoy the festival and in addition, the parade will be a week from this Saturday. He also mentioned that the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12th, due to the Veterans Day holiday on Monday, November 11th. Chairman Culver reported that the Farm and City Swap is going on and it involves a few people that are in attendance today. He asked Commissioner Siquefield to make comments on this. Commissioner Siquefield began by letting everyone know that the Farm City Program has a lot of activities going on with the conclusion of the banquet on November 21st. He welcomed our friend and farmer Mr. Dennis McCord, who is in attendance today, and he is swapping with Commissioner Herring for the Farm-City Swap.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – Tuesday Rotary Club “Adopt-A-Mile” Program, Vanita McLain

Chairman Culver and Commissioner Shoupe stepped down to the podium for this presentation. Chairman Culver asked that Ms. Vanita McLain come forward for the recognition. Commissioner Shoupe began by stating that the commission wanted to recognize the Tuesday Rotary Club for the participation in Adopt-A-Mile and that Ms. McLain spear headed this effort. He reminded everyone that earlier this year the commission had challenged the community to step forward and do a better job of taking care of our roadways and he reported that the challenge is going to be met for this year and the Rotary Club is the third group to help with this endeavor. Commissioner Shoupe asked Ms. McLain for any

comments. Ms. McLain reported that she is the Service Project Chair for the Tuesday Rotary Club and it all began with an email from Commissioner Shoupe to the Club President and they thought it would be a great venture for the Club. They applied for the mile and their mile is on Main Street from S. St. Andrews to Plant Street. The Club is meeting tomorrow and will be walking their mile and then meet at the Thirsty Pig for refreshments. They look forward to making this clean up an annual event. Commissioner Shoupe thanked them for their efforts and mentioned that the Commission would like to get two more groups signed up before the end of the year.

2. Proclamation – “Red Ribbon Week” – Judy Guiler, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, Roxane Fuentes, SADD Advisor and Carrie Elaine Smith, DHS SADD Officer

Chairman Culver asked Roxanne Fuentes and Carrie Elaine Smith to come forward to accept the proclamation for “Red Ribbon Week”. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver began by reading the proclamation and then presented it to Ms. Fuentes. He thanked the partnership and the council for all the work they have done over the years and that they are making an impact by helping to bring awareness to the community. Ms. Fuentes reported that they are reviving their youth council program and they are looking for eight twelfth graders to volunteer and in turn they may receive scholarships from the partnership and their sponsors. She then gave some history facts about Red Ribbon Week and introduced Carrie Elaine Smith. Ms. Smith also gave highlights and history points of Red Ribbon Week. With this, she encouraged all youth to become more active in SADD by helping to bring awareness to the drug abuse problem among the youth in our community.

3. Recognition – Sanitation Safety Record – Kelly Crowell, Safety Director

Chairman Culver asked the Sanitation Department to come forward. He stated that it is always nice when we can recognize our own employees for their efforts in stepping above and beyond. Kelly Crowell, Safety Director, then came forward and reported that the Sanitation Dept. services over 500 homes per day and they are responsible to keeping our county clean. She stated that this team has worked four years without a medical case and they have the fifth most dangerous occupation according to the Bureau of Labor and Statics. Ms. Crowell reported that this team has gone 1,476 days as of today without a medical case and this includes the time of Hurricane Michael cleanup as well. She concluded that this department has a lot to be proud of for their efforts and she expects to be back for the fifth year. Chairman Culver then read a certificate of appreciation and presented it to the department and thanked them for all they do in working safe. A round of applause was given to all.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to appoint Beverly Lampkin to the Houston County Dept. of Human Resources Board

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to appoint Ms. Lampkin. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Request to eliminate Auto/Heavy Equipment Master Technician position and create an Asst. Garage Superintendent position – Barkley Kirkland, Engineer

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – 3 closed roads; 1st Av e. in Ashford, Omussee Road, and Ball Rd.

County Attorney – No Report

Request to convene executive session

Chairman Culver stated that at this time, with a motion by the commission, they would be going into executive session and there would not be any action taken after the session.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion that, pursuant to and in compliance with the provisions of the Alabama Open Meetings Act, this Commission convene an executive session for the following limited purposes:

1. To discuss the consideration the Commission is willing to offer or accept when considering the purchase, sale, exchange, lease, or market value of real property.

Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and, upon said motion being put to a vote, the following vote was recorded:

YEAS 4

NAYS 0

The Chairman then announced that said motion passed and the Commission was now convened in executive session.

Motion to reconvene was made by Commissioner Sinquefield and seconded by Commissioner Herring. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously.