

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
July 22nd, 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 July 22nd, 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.

Chairman Culver recognized Judge David Money who is in attendance for today's meeting. He added that Judge Money will be assuming the presidency of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama in a few weeks and congratulated him.

Pastor Larry Flowers, from The Harbor, 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 Herring. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER

Chairman Culver began by apologizing for not wearing a coat to the meeting today but he recently had surgery to fix a shoulder problem and he hoped within the next couple of meetings he will be able to wear a coat again. He reminded everyone that a week from Friday will be Foster Fest for the month of August in Downtown Dothan and he encouraged everyone to take part in the event as well as the farmer's markets that take place on Saturday mornings in various communities. Commissioner Siquefield commented that he would like to congratulate three local teams that have won their titles starting with Cottonwood, led by Coach Dustin Morris, 12U Baseball Team has won the Dixie Youth Ozone Division II state title and will advance to the Ozone World Series in North Carolina. Coach Brandon Dyer's 13U Dixie Boys Team, from Dothan, will be advancing to their World Series in South Carolina. Commissioner Siquefield ended by announcing that the Dothan National Ponytails have won the state tournament and will advance to the World Series in Texas. He wished all of them the best in their upcoming tournaments. Chairman Culver added that it seems that every year the city and county have teams that advance to national tournaments and the coaches are very much appreciated as they take time to assist with these great athletes.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – Bay Springs Baptist Church Youth Group Adopt-A-Mile partners

Commissioner Shoupe came forward to the podium and reminded everyone that a few months ago the commission challenged themselves and the community to step-up and do a better job of cleaning up the roads of Houston County as this is their number one complaint. He added that there are no problems that money can't solve, but the county just does not have the money to pay people to pick up litter and there are reasons that we cannot get the inmates to do this anymore. The challenge was to get five Adopt-A-Mile partners and the first partner is Bay Springs Baptist Church Youth Group, led by Cliff Morrison. Commissioner Shoupe stated that he is thankful for them to step-up to this task. He continued by stating that twice a year the group will pick up on S. Bay Springs Road between Bay Springs Baptist Church and US Hwy. 84 and even though this is just a small portion of Houston County, it goes to show that if everyone will do a little that we would have a much more beautiful county as a result. He thanked Mr. Morrison and extended thanks to the kids participating in this endeavor. Mr. Morrison commented that they appreciate the opportunity to serve and anyway they can serve the church, the community, or the county, they just desire to do so. He continued by stating that the youth group could not attend as several are out of town and several are at football camp and that they will be the ones picking up the litter and not just him. He thanked the commission for all they do.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to make appointment to the City of Dothan-Houston County Communications District Board

Chairman Culver stated this appointment would be Ms. Jennifer Stanley, who is present today. Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to appoint Ms. Stanley and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Before moving on to the next item, Chairman Culver asked Mr. Ricky Stokes to come forward and he acknowledged that Mr. Stokes had served for four years on the Communications District Board and he has served the county well. Chairman Culver then presented Mr. Stokes with a certificate of appreciation for his dedication to the county and the Communications District Board.

2. Request from Wiregrass Area Food Bank to spray for weeds in parking lot and along fence line – David Hanks, Executive Director

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request from the Food Bank to spray for weeds. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Request from Industrial Development Authority of Houston and Henry Counties to support rail infrastructure improvements – Matt Parker, President

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request from the Industrial Development Authority and budget amendment. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported that Matt Parker was in attendance but he would be remised if he did not give Judge/Chairman David Money the opportunity to come forward and speak. Judge/Chairman David Money came forward

and stated that while sitting here it becomes evident that Henry County shares some of the same problems as Houston County such as the Adopt-A-Mile Program. He continued by stating that two years ago he and his wife adopted the road in which they live on to pick up litter but that it was 2.2 miles as you go 1.1 mile one way and then 1.1 mile back. (Laughter by all) He pointed out that it is an ongoing problem. Secondly, he appreciates what Houston County has done with E-911 as they (Henry County) are trying to do things now to unify their 9-1-1 dispatch and he stated that it is not an easy job. Judge Money continued by thanking the commission for their support, encouragement, guidance, and especially for their financial assistance given to this project. He reported that ten years ago there were 1300-1400 people that worked in that building and it closed. While he traveled to work each day, he passed the 500,000 square foot building sitting there empty and he and others began to wonder what would happen and what their future was. Local people stepped up and bought the building and he and Mr. Parker worked on several projects that did not materialize, but this one has. Judge Money stated that it was February of 2018 that they met in Executive Session to discuss what their involvement would be and if people would ride by the building now they can see that progress is being made. The grand opening/ribbon cutting is planned for August 27th and he invites their partners and friends of Houston County to attend. Judge Money ended by stating that this is just another example of county helping county and he reminded everyone that Houston County was once a part of Henry County and that he appreciates all Houston County has done. He recognized Mr. Matt Parker and stated that he is just phenomenal and they are glad to have him as an adopted citizen of Henry County.

Chairman Culver commented that the county is very excited about this project and he hopes it is not the last one they work on with Henry County and he appreciates the willingness of Judge Money to be a partner on a regional basis. He thanked Judge Money for his friendship and his collaboration on things that are done in the region and thanked Mr. Matt Parker. Chairman Culver called for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to enter into finance agreement with Regions Bank for (3) Mack LR64 Chassis Garbage Trucks – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request to enter into finance agreement with Regions Bank and Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Commissioner Siquefield commented that there are a total of six garbage trucks and this will be replacing three. He asked when the other three trucks would be ready to be replaced. Engineer Kirkland stated that they will be in next year's budget and Commissioner Siquefield asked what the expected selling price would be for the three being replaced and Engineer Kirkland replied that they would bring in about \$90,000 each. Commissioner Siquefield commented that when the original trucks were purchased they asked the citizens to please bag their garbage in garbage bags and what they are seeing now is that some of those loose lightweight bags are coming out and littering the road side. He added that he and Commissioner Shoupe are concerned about the litter in the county and he thinks that the design of the trucks is the way it needs to be and he again asks the public and the media to put out the word to please bag all your garbage before putting in the garbage bins. He feels that this will help to eliminate some of the garbage blowing out of the trucks (from the lightweight bags) and he does not think it is the trucks but the loose

garbage in the garbage bins and it creates more litter in the county that is not needed. Engineer Kirkland added that it is in the policy that all garbage be bagged before putting in the garbage bins and secondly, that on the old trucks, as well as the new trucks, there is an option to buy door slides and they were ordered on the trucks, but if there is still loose garbage it will blow it. Commissioner Shoupe stated that previously it was discussed about adding an additional route and will this get the department to where they can add this. Engineer Kirkland commented that this purchase replaces half the force and in next year's budget they will replace the other half and then they will keep an old truck as a spare and may have to add an additional route on Monday and Tuesday but that is a few months down the road. Chairman Culver reported that this was talked about at the budget hearings but later decided to defer that for a while. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Houston County Personnel Board to approve funding for job reclassification for the Position of Assistant Chief Administrative Officer – Peter Covert, CAO

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request from the Personnel Board and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve emergency expenditures from the Capital Replacement Fund for (3) HVAC systems – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request to approve the emergency expenditures and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request for budget amendment for inmate meals – Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request for the budget amendment for inmate meals. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Request for budget amendment due to insurance reimbursement – Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request for budget amendment due to reinsurance reimbursement and Commission Harvey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Request to enter into a lease agreement with Holland Motor Sports for (3) Harley-Davidson Motorcycles with all expenses to be paid by Sheriff's Funds – Bill Rafferty, Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to enter into a lease agreement with Holland Motor Sports and Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Request to sell (4) vehicles for the Sheriff's Dept. on GovDeals – Road and Bridge

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Four closed roads; State Line, Jordan Ave., Lanier, and Indigo Pond. Tomorrow Cumbie Road will be closed to replace cross drain.

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.