

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
February 10, 2020

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 February 10, 2020, 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 Jimmy Cook, from Eddins Road Pentecostal Ministries, gave the invocation and Commissioner Doug Sinquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER

Chairman Culver began by stating that next Monday, February 17th, is President's Day and all county offices will be closed. He also reminded everyone that this Friday is Valentine's Day so be sure to remember that special someone.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – "2-1-1 Day" – Mike Walton, Board Vice President – Wiregrass 2-1-1

Chairman Culver proceeded to the podium and asked Mike Walton and David Duke to come forward. Commissioner Shoupe made the motion to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Walton and thanked him for his services and for all they do at Wiregrass 2-1-1. He added that 2-1-1 is one of the "quiet" organizations that is invaluable and provides services that the community could not get along with and that during disasters and times of need, 2-1-1 has stepped up and been a resource that we could not do without. Mr. Walton commented that 2-1-1 was initiated in 1997 and approximately 95% of the population in the United States has access to 2-1-1. The Dothan center has been in operation for twelve years and operates for seven Wiregrass counties. During this time,

107,267 calls have been answered and 300,484 referrals were provided to help people in our communities. Mr. Walton concluded by thanking the community and the commission for their support.

2. Presentation – Weather Sirens – Chris Judah, EMA Director

Chairman Culver introduced Chris Judah and he came forward for his presentation. Mr. Judah began by introducing his intern/assistant, Cole Raley. Cole is a senior at Rehobeth High School and is a very talented young man that is interning with the EMA this year and he will be joining the Marine Corp in September. He attended the Houston County Career Academy where he completed the fire fighting and EMS courses. Cole is a product of the great students we have in Houston County Schools.

Director Judah began by speaking about the outdoor alert systems (weather sirens) and stated that there is a lot of confusion concerning the sirens on what they are and where they are located in the county. The sirens are Audible Outdoor Warning Systems and they are located all over the county and they are used mostly to indicate severe weather. In Houston County, there are 75 sirens with 13 of those maintained by the county, 20 are maintained by the City of Dothan and Plant Farley maintains 42 of them. Houston County EMA is responsible for all of their use, maintaining required reports and analysis of each siren as well as setting off the sirens in the case of an emergency or severe weather. Severe weather alerts are based on information from the National Weather Service and after verification, the EMA is responsible for setting the sirens to alert the public. Director Judah added that in the case of a nuclear emergency, the EMA is also responsible for setting off the sirens for that type of emergency. He continued by stating that the 42 sirens that Plant Farley maintains, they are split in the east and west directions. There are two different tones, one being for weather alert and the other for nuclear alerts. More information on those tones can be obtained on the EMA website. Director Judah stated that the outdoor warning sirens were put into place in the 60's and 70's as outdoor warning alert systems. These were meant to be heard when the public is outdoors and he stated that they are not meant to be heard while indoors. The sirens are to alert the citizens of the county to go inside and take shelter and be prepared for the emergency that is being alerted. He encouraged citizens to be ready in case of an emergency and to have a plan in place for your home and family because if the sirens are sounding, there is an emergency and you need to be prepared and heed shelter. He encouraged everyone to go to the EMA information website located on the www.houstoncounty.org website.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to reappoint Sharon Kelley and Ashley Carroll to the Dothan Houston County Library System Board – Cynthia Plesner, Director, DHCL

Commissioner Brandon Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to reappoint Sharon Kelley and Ashley Carroll and Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver announced that Director Plesner was present and would like to make a few comments. Mrs. Plesner came forward and reported on the upcoming events that the Library has to offer and she encouraged the public to utilize all they have available. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve annual Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board License Fees for Houston County

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the fees. Commissioner Shoupe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to adopt resolution for the implementation of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for AEMA Division B and approve accompanying budget amendment – Scott Farmer, Executive Director – SEARPDC

Commissioner Herring made a motion to adopt the resolution and approve budget amendment for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to adopt Resolution and Order Authorizing Certain Action with Respect to General Obligation Warrants of Houston County – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Herring seconded. Chairman Culver stated that, as discussed in Thursday's meeting, this item is a large effort by this commission to proceed with getting the roads into shape quicker with this bond issue being approved. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve budget amendment for the purchase of certain real property located in Houston County

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver commented that this is a \$100,000 budget amendment and then called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to adopt Ordinance to amend subdivision regulations for Houston County – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to adopt the Ordinance. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. Request to award bid for the Wicksburg Road Resurfacing Project (RB-0769) to the lowest bidder meeting specs – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the bid for the Wicksburg Road Resurfacing Project and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to award bids for herbicide, signs, sign-making materials, and sign faces to lowest bidder meeting specs – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request to awards the bids and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – 3 closed roads; Day Rd., Littlefield Rd, and County Road 81

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.