

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MARCH 12, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, Acting Engineer, William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Mark Pool, County Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver reported the commission was operating under unusual circumstances, and they were going to start the meeting a little bit early so everyone could get to Mr. Forrester's funeral. He then called the meeting to order, established that a quorum was present with all commissioners in attendance, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Troy West, Pastor, Northside Assembly of God Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Siquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver stated it was a very difficult day. He reported just after the Administrative meeting on Thursday, he received a call from Miriam Forrester around noon that Commissioner Forrester had passed away. He stated he thought it was symbolic that he passed away on an Admin meeting day and was going to be buried on a Commission meeting day, and felt it said a lot about how the Lord took care of things. Chairman Culver reported the commission has received a tremendous outpouring from the community of well wishes and remembrances. The chairman reported he thought it interesting because when a person starts hearing from so many people; they start hearing common threads. He stated the media, friends, and people in the community have described Mr. Forrester as a good man, kind man, and a caring man. Mr. Culver reported Commissioner Forrester has been on the commission since his appointment in 1997 to fill the vacancy that resulted when he was appointed chairman. Mr. Culver reported Mr. Forrester was quiet and you did not hear a lot of conversation, but he was very cognizant of the issues, and very attentive to the things the commission had going on. Chairman Culver reported until Mr. Forrester's last minute, he really wanted to be back sitting in his chair in the commission meetings. The chairman described Commissioner Forrester as a statesman, an old fashioned guy who was a true gentleman. He also reported Commissioner Forrester was a champion for the causes he loved such as the Library, Landmark Park, the Downtown Group, and the Botanical Gardens. Chairman Culver reported Commissioner Forrester was a leader, and had been a friend of his all of his life, and he would be missed.

Chairman Culver asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence, and then he asked Commissioner Harvey to say a prayer. Chairman Culver reported he and Commissioner Harvey had been on the commission with Mr. Forrester about the same amount of time and they were all very close. Chairman Culver asked everyone to please bear with the commission and understand during the rest of the meeting.

Announcements and Public Comments from the Chairman and Commission

Chairman Culver reported Tuesday, March 13th was the Primary, and he urged everyone to please go and exercise their right to vote. He stated the ballot would include the presidential candidates, a few statewide races, and one local race that is extremely important to everyone in the county.

Awards and Presentations

1. Alabama Wildlife & Outdoor Expo – Angela Wade Turner

Chairman Culver reported the commission was honored to have Mrs. Angelia Wade Turner to talk to the commission about the Alabama Wildlife and Outdoor Expo. At that time, he asked Mrs. Turner to come forward. Mrs. Turner offered her condolences to the commission and to Commissioner Forrester's family. She stated he was a wonderful part of the community; and it gave everyone another reason to step up and be good citizens and support our community. She stated she appreciated everything the leaders do for the citizens.

Mrs. Turner reported March 30th-April 1st, the Alabama Wildlife and Outdoor Expo would be held at the Dothan Civic Center. She stated the Murals Committee had hired her firm to help them to raise funds for their next mural which would be a Wildlife Mural. Mrs. Turner reported the mural would be a three panel phase located on the Old Mayer Electric building downtown on North Foster Street. She pointed out the mural would be very interactive and would contain a lot of the wildlife from the area as well as some areas where the children could go and find the animals and have games and things. Mrs. Turner reported this would be the 23rd mural and would be a nice addition. She pointed out the Expo would help raise funds for the mural for the next three years. Mrs. Turner reported Justin Martin, who has a show, "The Season", on the Outdoor Channel, Tombo Martin from "Buck Commander" on the Outdoor Channel, and the Ultimate Air Dogs, which is a dock jumping competition are coming to the Expo. She stated there would be a lot of entertainment, exhibits, and vendors for all hunters, fishermen, and outdoor persons, and she invited the commission and everyone to come and be a part of it. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Turner for coming, and stated the commission would do all they could to support it. He reported the Mural Program is very important to the downtown area, and the more it can be expanded the better.

2. Proclamation – "Kick Butts Day 2012" – Judy Guiler, Tobacco Prevention Manager, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, and Casey Crozier, Youth Council Member, DHS

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Judy Guiler, Tobacco Prevention Manager and Ms. Casey Crozier, Youth Council Member, Dothan High School, to come forward. Commissioner Siquiefeld made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring March 21, 2012 as "Kick Butts Day 2012." Commissioner Battles seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Crozier, and he thanked her for her efforts on the youth council. Ms. Crozier thanked the commission for allowing them to attend the meeting, and for the Proclamation. She reported "Kick Butts Day" is a national day where the youth of America can stand up and educate the public of the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke. She reported every 72 seconds, someone in

Alabama dies from a tobacco related disease. She pointed out last year, 820 Alabamians died from secondhand exposure. Ms. Crozier encouraged all of the youth of Houston County not to become one big tobacco statistic. She asked everyone to remember that tobacco is the number one preventable death in America. Chairman Culver thanked Ms. Crozier for the great example she sets.

Mrs. Guiler reported according to the latest figures, 600,000 middle school students and over 3 million high school students are smokers in the U.S. She pointed out in Alabama, 18.6% of all high school students are smokers and 19.1 percent use smokeless tobacco. Mrs. Guiler reported through education, stronger city and county ordinances, and events such as "Kick Butts Day" they hope to help stress the importance of not smoking. Mrs. Guiler thanked the commission and stated their hearts and prayers were with the Forrester family. Chairman Culver thanked them for coming and stated the commission appreciated their partnership with the Substance Abuse Partnership.

Regular Agenda

1. Liquor License Request – 110 – Wholesale Table Wine & Beer Combined – United Distributing Company, LLC d/b/a United Distributing Company – 1158 Jordon Avenue, Dothan, AL 3630

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request for a license for a 110 – Wholesale Table Wine & Beer Combined for United Distributing Company, LLC d/b/a United Distributing Company – 1158 Jordon Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman asked if there was anyone present in objection to the request? There being none, he called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Road & Bridge Department to approve budget amendment.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the budget amendment as requested by Road and Bridge. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed on Thursday and about possibly amending it. He stated as a result of Commissioner Siquefield's suggestion on Thursday, the lawnmowers were looked at. He stated the bottom line is all of the amendments on the sheet are accurate and one of the older models from the Farm Center will be taken out to Omussee instead of buying one, and the Farm Center will be getting a much needed new mower. He pointed out the Farm Center uses theirs for mowing all over the county. The chairman thanked them for making a good adjustment on Thursday. Commissioner Siquefield reported he had noticed in the budget amendment request that in the revision that was made, the increase of fuel had gone from \$600,000 to \$608,000 and in the other miscellaneous supplies, the lawnmower was taken off, and software was added. He asked if that mattered? Chairman Culver stated he had talked with Mr. Pool, and there should not be any change to this as discussed on Thursday. The chairman reported the motion is for the budget amendment that the county received on Thursday to only be amended for the lawnmower. He stated the money would be taken from Road and Bridge and transferred to the Farm Center, and those other items Commissioner Siquefield had just mentioned would not be increased from the original budget request on Thursday. He reported he had talked to Mr. Pool and he stated that was what he intended to send to the commission. It was pointed out it looked as though the money for

the lawnmower was transferred into fuel. Chairman Culver reported what he stated is the intent of Mr. Pool and he thought that of the commission. It was pointed out the fuel needed to be reduced from \$608,280 to \$600,000. Chairman Culver stated that was correct. The chairman reported the approval was for as it was stated; not as it was presented. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see Budget Amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request to extend bid for an additional six months with Contech Construction Products for metal pipe.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to extend the bid for an additional six months with Contech Construction products for metal pipe. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer –

There was no report.

County Engineer –

Acting County Engineer, Barkley Kirkland had no report.

County Attorney –

There was no report.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.