

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JANUARY 8, 2007

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer Attorney, Justin Barfield, Acting Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark Culver called the meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Mark Berry, Pastor, First Church of the Nazarene, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone on Monday, January 15th, all county offices would be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

He congratulated the Houston County Lions of Columbia, for winning the recent Downtown Dothan Hoops Classic.

The chairman reported Mr. Clark Matthews, EMA Director, announced last week that the county has some grants available that go toward emergency shelters. He thanked the media for the good coverage they gave. Chairman Culver reported those grants are available to those people who are interested in having one of the shelters. He pointed out there is a 75/25 match and to get involved people need to contact the EMA office at 794-9720 by January 18th, to be placed on the list. The chairman reported the intent is to build 15 of the shelters. He stated if there are more than 15, there will be a drawing of some sort to determine who the 15 will be. Chairman Culver reported with the 75/25 match process, up to \$3,500 goes toward the shelter and the total cost for each shelter is \$4,000-\$8,000.

1. Comments from Sheriff Lamar Glover

Sheriff Glover expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their service to him and the people of Houston County over the last 12 years. He reported he has always received good, productive service from this commission. He reported the administrator also helped him along when he needed it. Sheriff Glover stated through the service given his department they have been able to have one of the best offices in the southeast. He stated they have a record that he did not think

would be surpassed, and without the commission's help he would not have been able to do that. Sheriff Glover stated he had enjoyed his county service and working for the commission, and there have been 4 other commissioners who are no longer serving that were just as supportive. He thanked the commission for granting him the time to tell them how much he appreciated them. The sheriff received a standing ovation.

Chairman Culver reported as a rule, county commissions and sheriffs normally do not get along very well. He stated our county has done a great job and has set an example across the state on how to get along with sheriffs. The chairman commended Sheriff Glover and the commission for that. He thanked the sheriff for that and the example he has set for all other sheriffs across the state. Chairman Culver stated from the commission's perspective, they plan on that continuing in the future.

Awards and Presentations

1. Swearing-In of Veterans Affairs Officers

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sean Law, Veterans Affairs Officer, to explain. Mr. Law reported the main thing is to introduce the two assistant Veterans Service Officers who were hired December 18th. He then introduced Mrs. Susan Sigler, retired Chief Master Sergeant from the Air Force serving 29 years. Mr. Law reported she is originally from Michigan and living in Dothan. Mr. Law introduced Davy Dorriety, retired Master Chief from the Navy serving 30 years. Mr. Law reported he is originally from Samson, and currently lives in Wicksburg.

Chairman Culver stated it is his understanding that this swearing in can be done by an elected official and this is the first time the commission has been asked by the Veterans Affairs or anyone else to do the swearing-in. He stated the commission appreciated the opportunity and they have attempted to support and continue to attempt to support the VA office. The swearing in was then performed. Chairman Culver congratulated them and thanked the VA for allowing the commission to be part of the ceremony, and stated the commission looks forward to working with them for many years.

2. Employee of the Month – Road and Bridge

Mr. Justin Barfield, Acting Engineer, presented the Employee of the Month Certificate to Mr. Kenneth Odom. He reported Mr. Odom began work in the Sanitation Department as a Refuse Truck Driver in 2001. He stated he is a conscientious employee and always willing to do anything he is asked. Mr. Barfield reported he always does an outstanding job and has had perfect attendance for the past 5 years. Mr. Odom thanked the commission for the job they do. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Odom for the great job he does.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid on Herbicides.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the consent agenda to award the bid on herbicides to the low bidder meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request for budget amendment in the amount of \$3,000 for flower bed.

Chairman Culver reported this item needed to be taken off because they found where it will be paid for without having to make a budget amendment.

2. Liquor License Request – Retail Liquor License – Class 1 – Richard D. Ellis d/b/a RICK-E-D'S, 14805 Highway #84 West, Wicksburg, Houston County, Alabama.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the liquor license request for a Retail Liquor License-Class 1 for Richard D. Ellis d/b/a RICK-E-D'S, 14805 Highway #84 West, Wicksburg, Houston County, Alabama. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Maintenance – approve prices for cameras and screens for Commission Chambers.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve prices for cameras and screens for the Commission Chamber. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is part of the long range plan to allow the commission to be more user friendly for the public. He pointed out this plan would be for a double sided screen in front of the commission so that when presentations are made everyone in attendance can see the same thing the commission does. The chairman stated the current screen is hard to see from certain areas of the commission chambers. Chairman Culver pointed out this is a budgeted item. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to approve final plat for Serenity Cove Subdivision in Ashford (formerly Whaley Development).

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the final plat for Serenity Cove Subdivision in Ashford (formerly Whaley Development). Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to condemn right-of-way for intersection project at Murphy Mill and Brannon Stand Road.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to condemn the right-of-way for the intersection project at Murphy Mill and Brannon Stand Road. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

- a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported on Item #3 regarding the cameras and screens it was discussed in the budget, but it was felt the county could get some grant money and it was not funded. He pointed out approval of that would require the funding of those cameras through a budget amendment. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Harvey if his motion included a budget amendment? Commissioner Harvey stated yes. The chairman asked Commissioner Snellgrove if his second to the motion included the budget amendment? Commissioner Snellgrove stated yes.

Mr. Roberts stated the Annual Financial Report is normally done the last meeting in January and he asked if it could be done the first meeting in February after the cameras and screens are installed? The commission stated that would be okay.

- b. County Engineer

Acting Engineer Barfield reported the bridge on Paul Lamp Road is now open. He pointed out Headland Avenue is closed but should be open by January 11th. He reported due to Mark Pool's absence, Assistant Engineer Myer Holloway needed the Commission to authorize him to sign a final plat for a subdivision located in the City of Dothan. Chairman Culver asked if everyone from the City of Dothan had signed it? Mr. Barfield stated yes. Commissioner Forrester asked where the subdivision was located? Mr. Holloway stated if he remembered correctly it was located just off North Shady Lane, and it contains 3 lots. Chairman Culver reported by law, the County Engineer has to sign all subdivision plats in Houston County inside and outside of cities. He stated since the county does not have any enforcement capabilities, the policy with the city is once all of their people sign off on it, then it is just a formality that the County Engineer signs off on it. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion due to Mark Pool's absence, to authorize Assistant Engineer Myer Holloway to sign off on a final plat for a subdivision located in the City of Dothan. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

- c. County Attorney – There was no report.

Chairman Culver reported he had a request from the Board of Pardons and Paroles. He reported the state is not purchasing them any vehicles and they are asking if the county would allow them to use one of the spare vehicles they no longer use. Chairman Culver reported he had a note from Sheriff Glover that states his department has a number of cars that are no longer used and that he would be willing to let them have one. Chairman Culver stated he brought this up at Sheriff Glover's request while he is still in office, and not wait until the next meeting when he will not be in office. He then asked if the commission had any objections to considering the request at this meeting? Commissioner Snellgrove asked Chairman Culver about the request? Chairman Culver stated the county was going to give the Board of Pardons and Paroles one of its older vehicles that is no longer being used. Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the maintenance and the fuel? Chairman Culver stated the county would not be responsible. Commissioner Forrester asked about ongoing expectations for the future? Chairman Culver stated that would be up to any future commission or the current commission. Chairman Culver stated there are some old cars that the Sheriff has that would be put in the auction. He reported the bottom line is that the county would have one less vehicle in the auction. Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the maintenance and liability? Chairman Culver stated when the vehicle is given to the state it is their car and the county will not be responsible. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to authorize the Sheriff's Department to transfer one of the older vehicles that is not being used to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snellgrove and it carried unanimously.