

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
APRIL 24, 2007

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Pat Jones, Acting Attorney, Myer Holloway, Acting Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, Attorney and Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Todd Thorpe, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Ashford, gave the invocation. Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported there were some changes on the agenda from the administrative meeting. He stated that a Proclamation for Small Business Week had been added, and Mr. Clark Matthews had requested the item regarding EMA be taken off.

The chairman commended everyone who was involved with Spirit of Service Day on April 21st, and especially Ms. Linda Kelley, who spearheads this project for the Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Culver reported Older Americans Day would be May 2nd at 9:00 A.M. out at Eastgate Park, and he urged senior citizens aged 65 and older to attend. The chairman reported it is a great event every year.

The chairman commended Mr. Mickey Segó on the beautiful flower beds and landscaping he and his crews had been doing in front of Justice Park and the Courthouse and the other county buildings and parks. He reported Mr. Segó and the City of Dothan and others are doing an excellent job in improving the looks of our community.

Awards and Presentations

1. Resolution – Ashford High School Girls' Basketball Team

Chairman Culver reported as part of the commission's ongoing effort in recognizing those who have exceeded expectations and who have had accomplishments that are noteworthy of recognition, the first item on the agenda

is a Resolution for the Ashford High School Girls' Basketball Team. At that time, he asked Coach Teri Grey and Coach Sherrill Hicks to come forward with the team. He also asked Mr. Willie Brinkley, Chairman, Alabama USA Youth, to come forward. Chairman Culver also recognized Mr. Bob McClain, who has worked with the commission on this. He reported Alabama USA is an organization that is working hard to help develop youth particularly in the areas of athletics, but basically to give youth some pride in what they do. Chairman Culver stated he hoped the commission was going to adopt the Resolution, and then plaques for the girls from Alabama USA would be presented. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to adopt the congratulatory resolution for the Ashford High School Girls' Basketball Team. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Resolution and presented it to Coach Gray. Coach Gray thanked Chairman Culver for the recognition. The coach stated they started off the season with a lot of goals and the goal was to reach Birmingham. She reported then they decided not to just reach Birmingham, they wanted to play the last possible game they could play in this year. She stated they were very proud of them. Coach Hicks reported it was a good season and they are a group of fine young ladies who have represented the county and school well.

Chairman Culver reported Mr. Brinkley, Chairman of the Alabama USA Youth, and a graduate of Houston County High School, also serves in the military. He thanked him for his service to our country and county. Mr. Brinkley stated a lot of times graduates from small county schools go unnoticed but there are good ball players everywhere. He reported during his military career he has played against people from everywhere. He stated the player's hard work and dedication would take them a long way not in just basketball; but in their career, and he encouraged them to keep up the good work.

He then passed out the plaques to the following: Ms. Christina Rogers, Ms. Leslie Morrow, Ms. Kara Brooks, Ms. Bethany Hornsby, Ms. Kathren White, Ms. Chywanna Marshall, Ms. Jasmine Smith, Ms. Tamara Williams, Ms. Qweetta Ward, Ms. Navina Bigham, Ms. Ebonee Cook, and Ms. Daishu McGriff. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Brinkley for all he does to help the youth, and he thanked the girls for all of their hard work. The chairman was presented a basketball with all of the girls' signatures. The girls received a round of applause. (Please see in Resolution Book)

#2. Proclamation – “Small Business Week” – Ms. Rona Miller, Mrs. Debbie Pilcher, and Dr. Steve Turkoski.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring May 7th-11th as “Small Business Week.” Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Rona Miller on behalf of the commission and the citizens of Houston County who know the importance of small business in our community.

He stated he appreciated Ms. Miller and her committee as well as the Chamber of Commerce for taking a week every year to recognize the small businesses. Ms. Miller reported it is an honor to work with the Chamber of Commerce to put on Small Business Week every year because it recognizes the businesses that really support the community and the workforce. Ms. Miller recognized Mrs. Debbie Pilcher, Small Business Week Committee member.

She then introduced Dr. Steve Turkoski, the Chamber of Commerce's Director of Workforce and Small Business Development. She reported he has a total wealth of knowledge on anything that has to do with small business. Ms. Miller reported the Chamber of Commerce works very hard for the business community, and she encouraged everyone to take advantage of the vast knowledge they have. Dr. Turkoski reported the chamber might not have all of the knowledge, but they know where to find it. Dr. Turkoski reported the proclamation covered many of the aspects of small business and accomplishments of small business. He defined small business as companies with less than 500 employees. He pointed out the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy had just released a report on the economic impact of small business. He stated small businesses produce over 50% of the gross domestic product for the country, and there are several of the 16 sectors they analyzed that over 80% are small business, and in 6 other sectors, 50% of those are small business. Chairman Culver thanked them for attending the meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bids on cement, motorgrader blades, bituminous coated drainage pipe, and repairs to wrecked garbage truck.
2. Request to extend bid on solid waste disposal for a period of twelve months at Rosehill Landfill, L.L.C.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bids on cement, motorgrader blades, bituminous coated drainage pipe, and repairs to the wrecked garbage truck to the low bidders meeting specs in each category, and to extend the bid on solid waste disposal for a period of twelve months at Rosehill Landfill, L.L.C. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. (Please see Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to enter into new agreement with AlaTax.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to enter into a new agreement with AlaTax. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Mr. Roberts reported he had checked with the examiners and in the past, this agreement has been for three years, but if the commission

chooses to do so it can go up to five years. The chairman asked the administrator for his recommendation? Mr. Roberts stated he did not have a problem with entering into a five year agreement. He reported the only option the commission has is to go back with the state collecting the monies and he would not recommend doing that. The chairman asked Mr. Roberts if the commission goes into a five year agreement would they be locking in the rate they have negotiated now. Mr. Roberts pointed out the commission has been at this rate for six years now. Chairman Culver reported he had noticed that the City of Dothan had this on their agenda also and he asked Mr. Roberts if he knew the terms or anything? Mr. Roberts stated he did not know, but when he negotiated this rate he got the same rate for the City of Dothan. The chairman stated the commission needed to make an amendment to the motion as to whether they wanted to go three or five years. Commissioner Cook stated she felt the commission needed to go to a five year agreement based on Mr. Roberts' recommendation. Commissioner Cook made a motion to amend the previous motion to state for five years. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver called for discussion on the primary motion. There being none, the chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to publish semi-annual financial statement.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the semi-annual financial statement. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Cook stated she hoped this was the last time the commission had to do this. The chairman stated the commission did not have any choice but to publish this, but the commission did hope this would be the last mid-year one. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Maintenance to approve budget amendment on phone expense - \$9,763.00.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Maintenance department to approve the budget amendment on the phone expense in the amount of \$9,763.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

3. Request from Farm Center to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$3,785.00 for the purchase of a new Ford F-350 crew cab pickup truck.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Farm Center's request for a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,785.00 for the purchase of a new Ford F-350 crew cab pickup truck. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the truck is \$23,900.00 but because the Farm Center manager has been able to sell some equipment he has enough money to cover

the cost except for \$3,785.00. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

Reports from Staff:

a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts asked if the commission wanted to consider an item affecting an employee's pay? He stated the commission does not meet again for three weeks. The administrator reported when the Rabies Control manager was selected, he already had a duty with the water lab and he assumed additional duties. He stated the Personnel Board had met and had approved a grade change for him. He reported he had received a letter earlier in the day indicating it would be effective upon approval of the budget amendment by the commission to fund the change. Mr. Roberts reported he went from a Grade 19 to 20, and it would involve approximately \$2,150.00 to carry out the balance of the year. He stated if the commission is willing to address it then it can be put into effect; otherwise, it could be placed on the next agenda. Chairman Culver stated if the commission decided to approve it, then the motion could be made to make it effective the next payroll in order to make it easy for payroll. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Clark is supervising two people, and he is doing a great job. Mr. Roberts pointed out they did anticipate the re-evaluation and they put monies in the budget so the \$2,150 is less than what the change would be in his pay. He reported they knew at budget time, they were looking at problems with rabies control so they did not know what the pay would be. The chairman asked Mr. Roberts if he needed a budget amendment? Mr. Roberts stated yes. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Personnel Board to upgrade the rabies control manager to a Grade 20 through the appropriate budget amendment in the amount of \$2,150.00 effective at the beginning of the next pay period. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if this would take him through the end of this year? Mr. Roberts stated yes. Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Roberts who takes this request to the Personnel Board? He asked if the department head did it or was it something the Personnel Board decided to do themselves? He asked where it is initiated when it is brought the commission to make a change in any position? Chairman Culver reported this particular employee went to the Personnel Director and asked about the duties. He stated Mrs. Howard and the employee came up and asked. The chairman reported the typical procedure is that the Personnel Board evaluates those positions and they will determine if there is an adjustment in pay warranted. He stated if there is, then they come before the commission as an agenda item to approve the funding. Chairman Culver reported they have the authority to approve positions but they do not have the authority to approve funding. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

b. County Engineer

Acting Engineer Holloway reported McEachern Road has been paved, Bell Lane and Guy Branch Road have both been cleared. He stated there was some earthwork going on at the Rehobeth Volunteer Fire Department and the SARCOA Building.

c. County Attorney

Acting Attorney Jones had no report. It was pointed out Mr. Sherrer was in a hearing.

Adjourn.

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