

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AUGUST 8, 2005

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Administrator.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order. Commissioner Harvey gave the invocation, and Commissioner Cook led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements.

Chairman Culver welcomed Commissioner Snellgrove back after his bout with an illness. The commissioner stated he was glad to be back. He also stated he was glad to have Commissioner Cook back and stated the commission would continue to keep her and Steve in their prayers.

The chairman congratulated the Dothan Ponytails on winning the World Championship Softball Tournament. He stated the girls did a great job of hosting the tournament and also of winning it, and he wished them the best.

Chairman Culver commended Mickey Segó and his staff along with the Master Gardeners for the excellent job they have done on the bed in front of the Administrative Building.

The chairman reported the parking lot in front of this building is for county parking except for the spaces on the far side and those belong to Scenic Productions. He pointed out the property line runs down the middle of the far lane. He asked that department heads inform their people not to park in that space, and also requested that people coming to do business with the county do not park in those spaces. Chairman Culver reported a sign is supposed to be put up stating that the right lane only is county parking. He pointed out an arrow will also be painted on the ground.

Chairman Culver reported he had been contacted by employees who stated they had been approached by pan handlers who are looking for money in the back parking lot. The chairman pointed out we had this problem several years ago and it went away. He pointed out he did not know if the county needed to get some security or lights. Chairman Culver stated he thought when the restaurant

is opened it might help with the activity. Mr. Roberts stated that last week was the first time he had heard anything about it in a long time. He pointed out by the time someone called him it was over. Mr. Roberts stated significant lighting had been added, but it was his understanding this is happening during the day in the front parking lot. The chairman requested that the panhandling issue be monitored in an effort to protect the employees and the citizens who come to this building.

Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the front was not off limits to employees for parking? Mr. Roberts stated there should be no employees parking other than handicapped. Commissioner Forrester asked if all of Scenic Production's parking was the line adjacent to their building? Chairman Culver stated that was correct and if you go straight out to Burdeshaw Street that belongs to Scenic also. The chairman stated they are considering putting up a curb and making that parking lot separate from the county's parking lot. Chairman Culver stated he wanted to let the Probate Office know to tell people coming in the building that they are not supposed to park over at Scenic Productions.

Chairman Culver advised everyone that Andy Savelle and Isaac Mitchell had gotten together and put approximately 100 historical pictures on the county's website. He encouraged everyone to click on the tab Historic Houston County. The chairman pointed out Mr. Mitchell has a tremendous collection of old pictures and he agreed to allow the county to put them on the website, www.houstoncounty.org.

The chairman then read a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hazelwood, residents of Hooper Cherry Road, commending the employee who mowed the right of way in front of their property earlier in the week. They said he did an excellent job. The chairman asked Mr. Pool to make the employee aware of the letter, and commend him for doing an outstanding job.

Chairman Culver reported due to the bad weather on Friday, the sirens will be tested at noon today. He pointed out they are normally tested on the 1st Friday of each month at noon. He asked the electronic media to get it out to the public.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated that Representative Joe Carothers is present and he thanked him and Senator HarriAnne Smith for getting Highway #53 resurfaced from Cottonwood to the state line. He stated it was a much needed project.

ITEM #1. Presentation to Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership – Representative Joe Carothers.

Chairman Culver reported it was an honor to have Representative Joe Carothers present, and he asked him and Mrs. Susan Trawick and Ms. Judy Guiler, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, to come forward.

Representative Carothers reported they had just completed a special session of the legislature where they approved the general fund budget, which contained money for the different programs outside of education. He pointed out part of the appropriation of the Department of Public Health contained a small amount of money for the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership. He then presented a token check in the amount of \$25,000 to Mrs. Trawick and Ms. Guiler to use in battling substance abuse in Houston County. Mrs. Trawick stated this money would be used toward a public health awareness campaign. She stated they wanted to change children's perception and once their perception is changed then they can change their behavior. She reported Ms. Guiler would be educating people in the county about the dangers of second hand smoke. Mrs. Trawick thanked Representative Carothers and Senator HarriAnne Smith for their efforts in obtaining the funds.

Chairman Culver recognized incoming District 5 City Commissioner, Taylor Barbaree, and congratulated him on being elected. He stated the commission looked forward to working with him in the public sector.

ITEM #2. Request to approve hiring firm for audit for Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Chairman Culver reported part of the agreement with the Volunteer Firefighters Association on the funds they receive is to have those funds audited annually, and furnish the commission with an audit. Mr. Roberts reported they had requested prices from various agencies and the lower price is \$2,750.00 from Bevis, Eberhart, Walker, and Stewart. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to hire Bevis, Eberhart, Walker, and Stewart to perform the annual audit for the Volunteer Firefighters Association in the amount of \$2,750.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #3. Liquor License Request – Restaurant Retail Liquor – Theresa Dean Wadsworth – 109 Bar & Grill, 4542 State Highway 109, (Highway 109 South Graceville Cutoff, Houston County, AL).

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request for a restaurant retail liquor license for Theresa Dean Wadsworth, 109 Bar & Grill, 4542 State Highway 109, (Highway 109 South Graceville Cutoff, Houston County, AL). Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #4. Request to approve agreement to install signals, bells, gates, legends, and pavement markings at Wallace Buie Road, 1157 (X-R). 100% Federal and State Funded.

Mr. Pool reported they were going to put lights up at the railroad crossing. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the agreement to install

signals, bells, gates, legends, and pavement markings at Wallace Buie Road, 1157 X-R, 100% federally and state funded. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

ITEM #5. Request to approve EWP Grant, \$119,850.00. (100% Funded)

Chairman Culver reported this will be used to rectify several drainage problems out in the county. Mr. Justin Barfield then showed a map of the locations in the Wicksburg, Lovetown, Southern Junction, and Hodgesville areas. Mr. Pool reported these will not be done this fiscal year but will be started after October 1st. He stated they are working on a \$285,000 project. Chairman Culver reported the Natural Resources Conservation Service had been proactive in working with Houston County under their current leadership. He thanked the current staff for getting the funds as well as their cooperative spirit. Chairman Culver reported there are drainage issues out in the county that are off the right of way that the county cannot address and at times Soil Conservation can come to the county's rescue. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the EWP Grant in the amount of \$119,850.00 with 100% funding. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #6. Request to award bid for large garbage truck.

Chairman Culver reported the low bidder meeting specs is Gulf Coast Truck and Equipment Company, in the amount of \$152,533.83. Chairman Culver stated this bid will be for delivery next budget year and the money will be in next year's budget. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the request is for a large garbage truck and he asked if it is bigger than the county has currently? Mr. Pool reported they run four 30 cubic yard trucks each day, and one small 20 yard truck on short streets and dirt roads. He stated it will replace one of the big trucks. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to award the bid for a large garbage truck to Gulf Coast Truck and Equipment Company, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$152,533.83. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

ITEM #7. Administrator's Report.

Mr. Roberts stated the budget hearings are tentatively set for August 17th and 18th. Chairman Culver stated he would have to check his calendar.

Mr. Roberts reported he had received the sales tax report and it was 8.9%. Chairman Culver reported they had talked about it being a good month earlier because of the hurricanes and hosting a lot of tournaments. Mr. Roberts stated the month before was 7.9%.

ITEM #8. Engineer's Report.

Mr. Pool stated he had just turned in his budget and he noticed the county's gasoline taxes are down. Chairman Culver stated when you bring in more and it costs you more it means you will do less. Mr. Pool reported they are doing the best they can with the rainy weather. He pointed out the grass is growing and they are behind on mowing. He stated all of the dirt work on the dirt road paving is at a halt.

Chairman Culver stated that the weather was probably impacting the activity at the Chattahoochee County State Park. Mr. Pool stated most of the activity is on the weekend and on a rainy weekend the revenue drops 80%. The chairman encouraged people to use the park so that we can continue to have it open here in the county. Mr. Pool reported the state is down there logging but it will not interfere with the public. Mr. Pool reported the current state record for shellcracker was set in 1962 at Chattahoochee Park.

ITEM# 9. Adjourn.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Harvey and it carried unanimously.