

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AUGUST 27, 2007

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Matt Albritton, Pastor, Ashford United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Phillip Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and it carried unanimously.

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported last week there was no administrative meeting due to the commissioners attending the annual meeting of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. He stated that a lot of good information was passed along regarding the County Modernization Act which relates to what the commission does. The chairman pointed out some of the things they have been doing impacts the budget process, impacts what responsibilities some of the people in the audience have for spending over their budgets, and various things such as the closing of buildings, etc. He reported there were also several other topics that were very informative.

Chairman Culver congratulated Commissioner Snellgrove who was elected to the ACCA Board to represent District 11 during the next year. The chairman stated he is also on the board as a Past President.

Chairman Culver reported before the commission meets again they will be advertising for a new administrator. He pointed out one of the things in the County Modernization Act is to change the name of the position from administrator to Chief Administrative Officer. He asked that the name be changed on the web site, and he stated the Personnel Director had already changed it in the advertisements. The chairman reported that the position per law will be known as Chief Administrative Officer.

The chairman congratulated the Rehobeth Fire and Rescue for the opening of their new fire building. He stated it is a tremendous asset to that community and they did a great job on the building. Chairman Culver reported the county crews

did the grading per the county's policy where the commission helps volunteer fire departments.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Matt Parker and the people at Qualico Steel and their affiliate for bringing almost to fruition the new industry at the industrial park that will bring 250 jobs to our community. He stated that is always good news and one of the ultimate goals for the commission is to create jobs for our citizens. He reported when the county does work for economic development, the intent is to do it to create jobs. The chairman also thanked the state for their participation and the commission for their commitment.

The chairman recognized Mr. Athon Fleming, who was not present and did not know that his name was going to be mentioned. Chairman Culver reported he works in the Rabies Control office. He stated that he had received a call from the ladies who work with the cats at the city's animal shelter. He reported they called and noted Mr. Fleming assisted them in some manner in his job one day last week and stated that he was extremely courteous and appreciated his professionalism. Mr. Culver reported the county does not receive many calls like that and he wanted to take a moment to commend him for representing the county in that way.

Consent Agenda

1. Appointment to fill vacancy on Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership – Joe Easley.
2. Nominations for Houston County Board of Equalization

Chairman Culver reported the Board of Equalization is composed of 3 members. He reported the County Commission, the City of Dothan, and the Houston County Board of Education each submit 3 names to the Governor, and the Governor will pick one from each of the lists. The chairman then reported the following names had been recommended: John N. Taylor, James M. Hickey, and Gene Burnett. He stated if approved, those names will be submitted to the Governor and he will select one to serve on the board. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include the appointment of Mr. Joe Easley to serve on the Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, and to submit the following names to the Governor who will select one to serve on the Houston County Board of Equalization: Mr. John N. Taylor, Mr. James M. Hickey, and Mr. Gene Burnett. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

1. Request from Probate Judge to approve Check Subscriber Agreement.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant the Probate Judge's request to approve the Check Subscriber Agreement with Tiger Tranz. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. The chairman reported two weeks ago, the commission discussed this and asked for the evaluation of various things. He stated the evaluation has taken place and the commission believes what was initially recommended is the proper thing to do. He asked Mr. Roberts if that was correct? Mr. Roberts stated yes. Judge Cooley reported they looked at the system where the check was turned back in and it was astronomically expensive, and it was not feasible for the small amount they do. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from Houston County Board of Education for assistance with installing pipe and filling in ditch behind Ashford Elementary School, the Board will pay for materials.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Houston County Board of Education for assistance with installing pipe and filling in the ditch behind Ashford Elementary School according to the county's policy where the Board will pay for materials. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove reported this is a much needed project and he thanked Mr. Pitchford for making this process work. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

- a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported the commission is in the final stages of the budget preparation and pending only a few minor adjustments between now and September 10th, at which time the presentation will be made for the adoption of the budget.

The chairman reported the county's new logo is behind the commission and he thanked Mr. Curtis for taking care of it.

- b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported his department is going to change the way they do some of their work when they have base failures. He stated that they have put an asphalt zipper in the budget and because of that they are going to purchase a small dump truck which will be loaded with cement that will be placed on the road before it is ripped up and all mixed in together. He reported they had \$68,000 in the budget for a new one. Mr. Pool stated that he had found one on GovDeals.com that he would like to try and purchase. Chairman Culver reported this is in the proposed budget and has not been approved yet. It was reported

the auction is in 16 days. He asked the engineer if he was asking the commission to bid up to a certain amount? Mr. Pool stated yes, and that he thought they could get it for less than \$25,000. The chairman stated if the commission did that it would impact the budget presentation in that it would be \$68,000 less next year and approximately \$25,000 for this year. Mr. Roberts stated that was correct. The chairman asked Mr. Pool if the truck is in good shape? Mr. Pool reported it is from the Huntsville Utility Department and he stated they plan to check it out. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the money in the Road and Bridge Department's budget and to authorize the Engineer to buy the truck at a cost of no more than \$25,000.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Cook stated she felt any time the county could save money they need to do it. Mr. Roberts reported they will adjust the numbers in the budget, and if things change, then they will do a budget amendment after the new year starts. Mr. Roberts stated they will do a budget amendment on the current year budget for \$25,000 and adjust the new budget for next year by \$68,000 and they will do accordingly what they have to do after October 1st. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

c. County Attorney

There was no report.

Adjourn.

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