

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 24, 2005

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

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, Attorney

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Mike Pearson, Pastor, Lafayette Street United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Cook 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 reported he had already received a letter from the Salvation Army about the Christmas Kettle Community Project. He stated last year, the county challenged the city to raise money at the Kettle Drive, and there is a traveling trophy. The chairman reported the Salvation Army wants the commission to pick a date between November 18th and December 24th to adopt a kettle. He stated whichever department raises the most money can keep the plaque. Chairman Culver asked the commissioners to check their schedules and let their friends know when they would be ringing the bell and try to raise the most money.

The chairman reported that he had received a letter from Paula Todd, President and CEO of the Jackson County Mississippi Chamber of Commerce, thanking the commission and everyone in our community who was involved in the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

Chairman Culver reported the public has seen press conferences on the Envision Project and he encouraged everyone to go to the website www.envisiondothan.com, and fill out the survey. He reported they wanted everyone who lives in the county to participate in the process and have input on the direction our community takes. Chairman Culver reported there will also be hard copies for anyone who wishes to fill them out. He pointed out the copies will be available in the Commission office as well as some of the surveys will be brought down to the Commission Chambers on meeting days.

The chairman reported the Chattahoochee State Park has had logging activities, and he asked the public to be patient as they get the park back in the condition it

needs to be and prepare it for disabled deer hunting. Chairman Culver reported they hoped to have safe conditions for the hunters within the next two weeks.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid on garbage truck.
2. Request from Sheriff to take bids on vehicles.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the consent agenda to award the bid on the garbage truck to the low bidder meeting specs, and to approve the request from the Sheriff to take bids on vehicles that are within the budget. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached bid summary sheet in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Appointment – Houston County Department of Human Resources.

Chairman Culver reported he had spoken with Mrs. Suzanne Geiger over the weekend and she is interested in serving and will do a great job. He stated she had a couple of questions and he had tried to call her back with the answers and she was not available. Chairman Culver reported he told her he hoped the Commission would go ahead and appoint her, and if she did not like the answers to her questions she would not have to accept the appointment. Commissioner Forrester made a motion to appoint Mrs. Suzanne Geiger to the Houston County Department of Human Resources Board. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to enter into NACO Prescription Drug Discount Program Contract.

Chairman Culver reported at this point, the commission would be signing the contract and getting it back. He pointed out this is a discount program through NACO, National Association of Counties, and it will help some people get discounts on drugs in our community. He reported there will be no cost to the commission nor to the citizens. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to enter into the NACO Prescription Drug Discount Program Contract. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve lease with SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Chairman Culver reported the SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission has been a tenant for 10 years in the administrative building on the fourth floor. He stated it is time to renew the lease. Chairman Culver pointed out the commission has asked for an increase and their outgoing director thinks it is

reasonable. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant the request to approve the lease with SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Houston County In-Home Service to hire a senior aide on a permanent basis.

Chairman Culver reported they discussed on Thursday the difficulty in providing the service in a certain area of the county. He stated they have someone who is currently doing that but the way the Senior Aide Program works this individual is supposed to be rotated off to another job after a certain period of time, and that time is up. He pointed out Mrs. Mary Lou Strickland, In-Home Service, has been unable to find someone to fill that position. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Houston County In-Home Service to hire a senior aide on a permanent basis. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated if this is done an accompanying budget amendment will be needed in the amount of \$16,900. Commissioner Cook asked if anything extra was budgeted? Chairman Culver stated no. Commissioner Forrester asked if this was to replace someone who has been doing the job on a volunteer basis? Chairman Culver stated this is to hire the person who has been doing it under the Senior Aide Program. He reported it is not voluntary but it is paid through a program. He pointed out the requirements of the other program are that after a certain length of time, that person is either to be hired or he rotates into a different job. The chairman reported the purpose of the Senior Aide Program is to find employment for the seniors who are willing to work. Commissioner Cook asked if this is in addition to the one that was approved in the budget? Chairman Culver stated yes. He reported about six months ago the commission approved one aide that was in an area that they were having a hard time getting someone and this would be an additional person. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Roberts how many paid positions would this be? Mr. Roberts stated in the budget the director is full time and they have two people who appear to be included as part-time. Chairman Culver stated the amount of \$16,900 seemed to be high. Mr. Roberts was informed it would not be full time and he stated it would be half the amount, \$8,450.00. Mr. Roberts stated if they work no more than 39 hours then they will not have any benefits other than the taxes. He stated it would be around \$6,500 - \$7,000. Chairman Culver asked if they could make the budget amendment not to exceed \$7,000 and find out about the hours? Mrs. Mary Lou Strickland reported the hours would be 19 hours a week. Chairman Culver reported it would not be for the whole budget year. Chairman Culver reported there is a motion to approve the request from Houston County In-Home Service to hire a senior aide on a part time permanent basis and the accompanying budget amendment not to exceed \$7,000. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the county was going to amend the budget for \$7,000? Mr. Roberts reported he quoted the \$16,900 because he thought it was a full time position. Mr. Snellgrove asked Mrs. Strickland how many people she has that

volunteer to do the same service? Mrs. Strickland stated she did not have any at this time. He asked if this couple would cover the entire county? Mrs. Strickland stated they cover Cottonwood, Ashford, Gordon, and Pansey. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if those who cover the other areas of the county are paid or are volunteers? Mrs. Strickland stated they were paid. The Chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request from Sheriff – amend budget.

Chairman Culver stated this is a corrective action, and he asked Mr. Roberts if he knew the amount? Mr. Roberts did not know the exact amount but stated he thought it would be less than \$.25 per hour. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff to amend the budget. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request from Landmark Park to use Omussee Creek Park as public boarding location for The Chattanooga Star.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the request from Landmark Park to use Omussee Creek Park as the public boarding location for The Chattanooga Star. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. William Holman, Executive Director, Landmark Park, announced that The Chattanooga Star will be back this year providing rides on the Chattahoochee River. He stated over the last 3 years they have had over 7,000 school children to ride on the riverboat. He stated they are asking to use Omussee Creek Park as the public boarding location for the rides which will primarily be on the weekends for the public and during the week for the school children. He reported last year they had over 2,500 people ride The Chattanooga Star. Mr. Holman reported the rides will begin the first Saturday after Thanksgiving and go through the beginning of the year. He reported there will be some evening charters and they will have to be in the park after hours. Chairman Culver reported it will be basically the same as it has been over the past 3 years. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Holman to advise Mr. Pool on the dates and he would advise the person who oversees the park. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he was out at Landmark on Saturday and anyone who was unable to attend missed a fun time. Mr. Holman thanked the commission for their support during the year. The chairman then called for the question on the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. Request to install groundwater monitoring well on county property.

Chairman Culver reported this procedure is requested by ADEM on the former fuel dispensing location across the street. He pointed out CDG Engineers & Associates did it previously, and they did a great job, and ADEM has asked them to put in another well. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the

request from CDG Engineers & Associates to install a groundwater monitoring well on the county's property. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sean Curtis to coordinate the installation of the well with the representative from CDG Engineers & Associates. The chairman then called for the question on the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve budget amendment from Gasoline Fund, Misc. Equipment for \$600.00 to Gasoline Fund, Communications Equipment for the purchase of two GPS Verifying Tracking Devices @\$300.00 each.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$600.00 transferring from the Gasoline Fund, Misc. Equipment for \$600.00 to Gasoline Fund, Communications Equipment for the purchase of two GPS Verifying Tracking Devices @\$300.00 each. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

Reports from Staff:

County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported he had attended his 40th class reunion over the weekend and he was glad to get to see all of them.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported they had paved the parking lot at Rehobeth's City Hall, and they had completed the paving on McNeil Road. Mr. Pool stated they were working on the intersection at Beverlye and Prevatt Road and they were getting ready to start on the Rehobeth Volunteer Fire Department project.

County Attorney.

There was no report.

Chairman Culver congratulated Ms. Dothan, Ms. Ka'lea Lisenby, who won the National Peanut Festival pageant, and thanked Ms. Houston County, Ms. Lindsay Shirley, for the outstanding job she did in representing us in the National Peanut Festival Pageant.

Chairman Culver reported the following public hearings will be held for comments concerning issues with the polling places they are looking at:

Thursday, November 10th, from 9:00 A.M. -10:00 A.M., in the Commission Chambers prior to the next administrative meeting.

Monday, November 7th, from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M., in the small building at the Houston County Farm Center.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated some of the people in the Dupree, Harmon School area, and Lovetown had contacted him over the weekend to request a public hearing in a more central location than where they are located. He asked if it would be possible to relocate from the Farm Center to the Lovetown Volunteer Fire Department building? Chairman Culver stated he thought it had gone too far at this point. He reported it was discussed on Thursday and the consensus was to have it at the Farm Center.

Adjourn.

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