

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 27, 2008

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

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. He noted that Commissioner Harvey was not present due to illness in his family, and he asked everyone to keep him and his family in their prayers. Rev. Jeff Peacock, Pastor, Hodgesville Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Chairman Culver led in the Pledge of Allegiance due to the absence of Commissioner Harvey.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that the National Peanut Festival begins Friday, October 31st, with the gates opening at 4:00 P.M. and the Ribbon Cutting at 5:00 P.M. He reported the parade will be on Saturday, November 8th. He encouraged everyone to get out and participate in the activities and cautioned everyone to be careful if traveling on Highway #231 south.

The chairman reminded everyone to go and exercise their right to vote on November 4th. He pointed out Friday, October 24th, was the last day to register to vote, and there were over 1,000 people to come and register. Chairman Culver reported the Board of Registrars worked all weekend trying to get all of the names into the system. He pointed out they also expect several hundred in the mail that they have to enter into the system. The chairman reported October 30th is the last day to submit an absentee ballot application. He stated if someone needed to go vote in advance, they could go the 4th floor of the courthouse.

Chairman Culver reported because Houston County is the awarding authority for the statewide county bid program, the commission has to state that bids were opened on October 17th, and the bids will be awarded for that program on November 10th. He stated that has to be recorded in the minutes.

Awards and Presentations

1. Introduction of "Little Miss Houston County" – Ms. Kayla Champion
Proclamation – Recognizing "Little Miss National Peanut Festival" – Ms. Audrey Kent

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Champion and Ms. Kent to come forward. He introduced and recognized Ms. Kayla Champion, the newly crowned "Little Miss Houston County." He stated it is a big honor and it meant she represented 100,000 of the best people in the world. The chairman stated he did not want

her to hesitate to call on the commission at any time on anything they could do to help her carry out her responsibilities. Chairman Culver then presented her a Houston County pin. Ms. Champion then stated she was glad to be “Little Miss Houston County” and represent Houston County. She stated she knew it would be fun for her. Ms. Champion then received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver stated Ms. Audrey Kent was “Little Miss Houston County” and on October 11th, she was crowned “Little Miss National Peanut Festival.” He pointed out this is the first time in the history of the “Ms. Houston County” Program that there has been a “Little Miss National Peanut Festival” winner. He stated the commission wanted to recognize her for this accomplishment with a Proclamation.

Commissioner Cook then made a motion to approve the Proclamation as prepared. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation declaring October 31st as “Little Miss National Peanut Festival Audrey Kent Day” in Houston County.

Ms. Kent stated she felt surprised when she won “Little Miss Houston County” but now she has another title to take care of. She stated she knew somebody that would take care of “Little Miss Houston County” and now she has a friend named Kayla. Ms. Kent received a round of applause. He thanked Ms. Kent and congratulated her and stated he wanted her to have a great National Peanut Festival, and he thanked Ms. Champion and stated he wanted her to have a great year.

Commissioner Forrester thanked Mrs. Sue Hicks who has worked so diligently for so many years with the Altrusa Club on such events as this. Mrs. Hicks received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver reported “Ms. Houston County” was Third Runner-Up in the “Ms. National Peanut Festival” Program, and he congratulated her.

2. Presentation - Community Outreach – Sean Law, Houston County Veterans Service Officer

Mr. Law reported the VA office would be closed to the public October 31st, and moving to their new location at 1685 Ross Clark Circle. He pointed out it is the old headquarters building for the National Peanut Festival. Mr. Law reported they would be open for business on November 3rd at 8:00 A.M. He stated they were looking forward to the move and that he appreciated all that the commission had done to relocate them.

Mr. Law reported on November 7th the VA Office and Wallace Community College were hosting a Supermarket of Veterans Benefits. He pointed out it would allow veterans to go to one location and learn about any benefits they may be entitled to or any benefits they may have earned. Mr. Law reported Huntsville and Montgomery have held the benefit and this will be the third type benefit in the state. He stated this is not just for veterans who have gotten out of the service recently but also for veterans who are looking at long term health care. Mr. Law invited all veterans in the Wiregrass to come out on November 7th from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Law for the good work he and his staff do.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve the selection of Telephone System for Houston County Jail Inmates – Commander Keith Reed.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the selection of the Telephone System for Houston County Jail inmates. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove stated he thought the question on Thursday was the rate they were charging. He stated the commission has a rate schedule in their package. He asked if he was reading it correctly that it was zero per minute for a local call? Mr. Dempsey stated there was a connection charge plus zero per minute. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve Prim, Freeman, & Mendheim, LLC as the collection agent for past due sanitation collection fees.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grant the request to approve Prim, Freeman & Mendheim, LLC as the collection agent for past due sanitation collection fees. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is to help the county collect all the money they bill. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve Homeland Security Grants and the appropriate budget amendment.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Grants and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported these are 100% grants, and they are a pass through. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Budget Amendment in Minute Book)

4. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

5. Request to reject all bids on computers and re-bid.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to reject all bids on computers and re-bid. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

6. Request to approve low bidder for Fuel System (Public Works).

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the low bidder for the Fuel System, a public works project, Turner's Pump Shop, in the amount of \$36,770.52. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this was approved in the budget. Mr. Pool stated it was under budget. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Sheet in Minute Book)

7. Request to approve final plat for High Point Subdivision.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the final plat for High Point Subdivision. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked where the subdivision was located? Mr. Pool stated in Wicksburg on County Road #9. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to approve part-time employee for Board of Registrars and the appropriate budget amendment.

Chairman Culver stated he had been asked to take this item off the agenda. He pointed out they had handled it without having to make a budget amendment. Mr. Dempsey stated after talking with Mrs. Meadows, she was able to add it to contract services and offset it with office supplies. He reported the bottom line is that she was able to add the additional labor without having to increase her budget.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported they had been notified earlier in the day about the projected revenue for the Alabama Trust Fund this year. He pointed out the county had budgeted \$350,000 this year which was pretty much in line with what the county had last year. Mr. Dempsey reported with the current economic issues being what they are it is now down to \$196,000, and as a result the county is projecting to lose \$154,000. He also pointed out it will drop the county below the \$4 million mark in the fund balances.

Chairman Culver reported when Fob James was Governor, the State of Alabama started getting revenue from oil and gas leases on the coast, and the trust fund was set up. He stated it was set up to protect the money that was generated but in the trust fund the counties and cities in the state receive a certain percentage of the revenue generated from it. The chairman stated he thought the reason for the non-distribution this year was that there were not any revenues generated. Mr. Dempsey stated there were no revenues from investments and interest.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool stated everything was going well. He reported the price for regular gas is \$2.05, and diesel is \$2.48. He pointed out they had budgeted \$5.00 per gallon.

County Attorney – There was none

Adjourn.

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

