

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 23, 2009

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Pastor Lyle Peluso, Dothan Vineyard Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported that the Farm City Week Banquet was held November 19th, and he thanked everyone that was involved. He stated it was a very interesting meeting, and he pointed out there are some people who are in the farming community who missed their calling because they should have been stand up comics. He pointed out it was quite an entertaining meeting.

The chairman reported on December 3rd, the commission would be out bell ringing in competition with the City Commission, and he encouraged everyone to come to the Southside WalMart at the food entrance and do their part with the Salvation Army's kettle drive. He stated the ringers would be there from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Culver asked everyone to stop and thank the Lord for the many blessings the community has. He stated the people of the community are blessed with resources and tremendous people and families that support and take care of each other. He pointed out there are people throughout the world who are in much worse situations than Houston County, and in spite of the issues going on in Washington, Montgomery and everywhere else, we live in the best place in the world.

Chairman Culver expressed condolences to Commissioner Harvey and his family on the death of his father-in-law.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to award bids for the Alabama County Joint Bid Program.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bids for the Alabama County Joint Bid Program. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this was normal and customary and it is a state wide bid. He pointed out the commission is the awarding authority and does not have anything to do with the bids and specs. Chairman Culver reported the list they had before them was a

little different than the one in the package due to some minor changes. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Minute Book)

2. Request to issue keys to Safety Director.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to issue keys to the Safety Director. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the Safety Director was in attendance at the administrative meeting and he hoped everyone got the chance to meet her. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to change a Hiring Freeze to a Position Freeze.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to change a Hiring Freeze to a Position Freeze. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion.

Commissioner Snellgrove requested Chairman Culver to explain it to the general public. The chairman stated when the commission did the budget process they implemented what they called a hiring freeze. He stated they probably should have thought more and not called it a hiring freeze because there is no way the county can actually do a true hiring freeze like the private sector could. He pointed out the county has services that have to be provided and the county has to have someone to fill those positions such as E-911 dispatchers, deputies, sanitation workers who pick up garbage, or other positions of a nature that cannot go unfilled, the county has to fill them. He stated the commission is asking that the hiring continue to be monitored and Personnel advise them when there is a position to be filled. Chairman Culver reported the commission wants to continue to work with the department heads on trying to get by without filling it to delay it. or if it has to be filled, then do it. He stated since the commission cannot put in a hiring freeze then they need to change it to a position freeze. Chairman Culver reported there will not be any new positions filled, and otherwise, the discussion will be held at every meeting. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Probate Judge to approve budget amendment for HAVA Grant funds to improve polling facilities.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the Probate Judge's request for a budget amendment for HAVA Grant funds to improve polling facilities. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated he thought this was a smaller amount than what has been received in the past. He thanked Judge Cooley for working to get these funds. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

5. Request to extend Lease Agreement with Mr. Rex Buntin for land rental at State Line Industrial Park for one year.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to extend the Lease Agreement with Mr. Rex Buntin for land rental at State Line Industrial Park for one year. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for pass through funding from the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture for the Tri-States Junior Beef Expo - \$3,250.00.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce for pass through funding from the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture for the Tri-States Junior Beef Expo in the amount of \$3,250.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this has been done each year for many years. He pointed out the Tri-States Beef Expo is the longest running beef cattle show of its kind east of the Mississippi. The chairman reported the show is held at the Farm Center and is a huge success each year. Chairman Culver reported the Department of Agriculture has always helped by paying the entry fee for some of the participants. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to award bid for the electrical upgrade to Court House.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for the electrical upgrade to the Court House to the low bidder meeting specs, Thorn Electric Co., Inc., in the amount of \$60,800.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the project came in \$14,200.00 under budget. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

8. Request to approve items to be sold on Govdeals.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the items to be sold on Govdeals. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

9. Request to award bid for 2010 crew cab pick-up truck for Survey Crew.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for the 2010 crew cab pick-up truck for the Survey Crew to Solomon Motor Company, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$21,564.50. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. It was pointed out the other two bids not meet specs. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

10. Request to award bid for resurfacing South Brannon Stand Road from North of State Road 52 to North of Fortner Street, and resurfacing of Jordan Avenue from U.S. 84 to East of Glenn Lawrence Road.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for resurfacing South Brannon Stand Road from North of State Road 52 to North of Fortner Street, and resurfacing of Jordan Avenue from U.S. 84 to East of Glenn Lawrence Road to the low bidder, Lewis, Inc. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the monies are 100% Stimulus Funds through the MPO. He stated both projects are much needed. Mr. Pool reported this project is \$105,000 under his budget and they are going to use that money and switch it to Fortner Street and take the \$105,000 and move it to the intersection of Fortner Street and Brannon Stand Road which will make Fortner Street to have to be let

on time. He pointed out the State is moving projects back, but because stimulus money is being put on the Fortner Street project it will have to go. Chairman Culver asked if there needed to be a called meeting of the MPO in order to make all these projects happen? Mr. Pool stated very soon, and he also stated the chairman needed to request the meeting. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported the meeting with the banking representatives was held for Banking Services for the next three years beginning in January. He stated 14 requests for quotes were mailed out and they have received the following 5 quotes: BBNT, BBVA/Compass, Regions, Service First, and Wachovia. Mr. Dempsey reported they are evaluating the quotes received and hope to have it finished within a week.

Mr. Dempsey reported a total of 68 companies responded on the lawn care services for the county. He stated on November 17th, 27 companies showed up for on-site visits. Mr. Dempsey pointed out the number had been decreased by 40 by the first visit. He reported Wiregrass Transit Authority allowed the county to use a couple of their buses to transport everyone for the on-site visits in town, and he expressed his appreciation to Jon Sorrell. Mr. Dempsey reported on November 18th, 18 companies showed up to look at the parks. He stated there are 18 companies that are interested in the work. Mr. Dempsey reported there were questions and answers on the tours and they will be mailed out this week. He pointed out the bids are due back December 9th.

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Dempsey if he advised all of these companies about the county's process? Mr. Dempsey stated yes. He reported all of the guidelines were in the bid specs, and he told them that this information is to compare with the in-house cost and it may or may not be outsourced. Mr. Dempsey reported they emphasized if a company was to be considered, they had to be at both visits, and in the end there were only 18 companies.

County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported it was still raining. He pointed out they had 86 flood sites with repair work to be done, 5 roads to be paved, and the Ardilla Intersection. He stated in looking back to 1997-98, they are down 20 employees.

County Attorney – there was no report.

Chairman Culver reported he had received a letter, and he commended the Road & Bridge staff on the work they have done since the nice discussion with FEMA occurred. He stated he thought they had come around and from the county's perspective after they determined there was a problem, their work with the county is appreciated. Chairman Culver reported they have been very cooperative and a lot of things have gotten done. Chairman Culver stated FEMA is fussed at when there are problems, and he thought it appropriate that they be thanked when they work with us.

Chairman Culver commended Mr. Segó and the Farm Center staff for handling the Farm City Week Banquet once everything was in place.

He extended congratulations to Gary and Sharon Knight on their recent marriage.

Chairman Culver stated he hoped everyone had a Wonderful and Safe Thanksgiving.

He announced Color Day would be Wednesday, November 25th, and he encouraged all county employees to wear their team colors.

11. Adjourn.

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