

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 26, 2007

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Myer Holloway, Engineer, and Roy Roberts, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Mark Pool, Engineer

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Steve Trail, Pastor, First Freewill Baptist Church, gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Snellgrove.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver stated he was glad to see everyone back, and hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving Holiday.

The chairman reported Dothan's Downtown Christmas would be held November 29th through December 1st, and he encouraged everyone to attend the celebration.

He also reported the City of Ashford's Christmas Parade would be Saturday, December 8th at 5:00 P.M.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to enter into an agreement with the City of Dothan to reduce the jurisdiction of the city's planning jurisdiction from the statutorily authorized five miles past the city limits to the city limits.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to enter into an agreement with the City of Dothan to reduce the jurisdiction of the city's planning jurisdiction from the statutorily authorized five miles past the city limits to the city limits. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion.

Chairman Culver reported he wanted to be sure everyone understood the request. He showed a map defining the five mile area and stated he thought it was so reasonable to not expect the city to have to put their jurisdictional efforts into an area that broad. He pointed out it goes almost to Madrid, Cottonwood, the other side of Ashford. Chairman Culver reported that is not an area the city is

interested in. He stated as has been pointed out several times, State law now provides that the City of Dothan has jurisdiction in that area. He reported it is most of the county. The chairman reported what the county is proposing does not really take away anything from the city; they will have the authority in this agreement because it states "we shall incorporate their comments into any approval in the designated areas they give the county." He reported the main thing this agreement will do is to make it easier on the citizens the county serves. He stated it should be about what is the best for the citizens we serve. He stated in growth areas, the city should be involved, and that has been incorporated into the agreement. Chairman Culver reported some of the comments he read from last week is that the city is concerned about the county's staff. He stated the county has 4 certified engineers and he would put the engineering staff up against any in the state. He stated any plans outside the city limits have to come to the county engineering office now because the city has to enforce the most stringent of both sets of plans. Chairman Culver reported it makes it extremely confusing for developers, and the citizens we should be serving. He stated the comment about the county not having the staff is not a realistic excuse not to do it. The chairman pointed out the county does not hire consultants to do their work. He reported people are hired who can do the work and it is done in-house. Chairman Culver stated he had also heard about the concern of the quality of the subdivisions. The chairman stated this certainly would not lower the quality of any subdivisions. He pointed out the city and the county have made a lot of changes to ensure their subdivision regulations are as close as possible. He stated Thursday, the engineer reviewed the subdivision requirements and most of the differences that are left, are more stringent on the county's behalf. He reported this agreement allows the city to include their most stringent areas if they want to. Chairman Culver reported the agreement gives them flexibility that they do not necessarily have. He stated just because the city does not want to enforce jurisdiction, they do not have the ability to say that they are not going to enforce jurisdiction. Chairman Culver reported they can choose not to but the city's planning commission cannot transfer jurisdiction; only the city commission can do that. He stated it makes logical common sense to make it easier on the people the county commission and the city commissions serve. Mr. Culver stated the city and county commissions are elected bodies and they should be about doing what is right for the people they serve. He stated if someone has a plan that is inside the city limits, you go to the city, and if you have a plan outside the city limits, you go to the county. The chairman stated, additionally, the city does not have the enforcement ability that the county has. He reported there is no enforcement ability in that entire area. The chairman pointed out the city will continue to have review and the ability to make changes in the designated area per the agreement. Chairman Culver stated he was discouraged about the comment in the paper about them coming over here. The chairman stated this is a public building, and members of the planning commission, city commission or any other citizen can come to a county commission meeting at any time they want to. He reported based on the comment, the city wants the county to come over on their turf and he stated he

does onto have a problem with that. He stated he felt they should all sit down and act like grown-ups and try to work this out. He referred to the map and stated he believed it showed why the agreement is needed. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Culver stated he thought at this time, the item will be on the city's admin meeting on Tuesday, December 4th. He reported he and the mayor had talked about having a meeting between them and the head of the planning commission in advance of that. He pointed out it will be a public meeting and everyone would be invited.

2. Request from Personnel to approve additional funds to cover temporary employee while Personnel Specialist is out on medical leave.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Personnel to approve additional funds in the amount of \$2,000 to cover a temporary employee while the Personnel Specialist is out on medical leave. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to award bids and renew bids for the Alabama County Joint Bid Program.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to award bids to the low bidder meeting specs and to renew and reject various bids for the Alabama Joint County Bid Program. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated since the Alabama Statewide County Bid Program has been in existence, Houston County has been the awarding authority. He stated they are awarding some bids and some had options to renew at the old price. He pointed out there are a couple that have been rejected, and will have to be re-bid, and they will be awarded later. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Sheet Summary in Minute Book)

4. Request from Sheriff to transfer vehicle to the Alabama State Probation and Parole Office.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to transfer a 1997 Ford Crown Victoria to the Alabama State Probation and Parole Office. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. The chairman stated he thought this was an old vehicle that was going to be put out of service and if it is transferred to the state that will include the transfer of all of the maintenance and expenses related to the vehicle. Chief Deputy Donald Valenza reported it is one of the older cars they had with over 200,000 miles on it. He pointed out the State Probation and Parole has worked with them well and the Sheriff felt like they could transfer that vehicle to them. Chief Deputy Valenza stated he did not know why the state did not provide them with vehicles. It was reported the City of

Dothan has also furnished them some vehicles in the past. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Maintenance to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$11,788.00 for utility bodies for 2 trucks.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from Maintenance for a budget amendment in the amount of \$11,788.00 for utility bodies for 2 trucks. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated the funding for this item involved no new money; the funds would be moved around. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

6. Request to approve budget amendment in the amount of \$5,770.00 to replace fire alarm panel for the Jail.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,770.00 to replace the fire alarm panel for the Jail. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver stated this item was discussed at budget time, and they chose to put it off hoping it would last. It was reported the commission does not have a choice. Chairman Culver pointed out this request involves new money. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

7. Request to abolish one position of Engineering Aide II and create one additional position of Engineering Aide I (yearly savings of \$3,224.00)

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to abolish one position of Engineering Aide II and create one additional position of Engineering Aide I for a yearly savings of \$3,224.00. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously.

8. Request from Road & Bridge to approve budget amendment to transfer funds in the amount of \$31,000.00 for construction of office building.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request from Road and Bridge for a budget amendment to transfer funds in the amount of \$31,000.00 for construction of the office building. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if this is old money? Chairman Culver stated the money was budgeted last year and the project was not completed last year. He stated it was transferred over into the fund balance but it was not transferred over as a line item. He reported that this will make it a line item and make it a little bit of additional money to that line. The chairman stated he thought Mr. Pool stated it would not be new money either. Mr. Roberts reported it was an increase of about \$20,000 over the original project. Mr. Roberts reported Mr. Pool had

stated he had money from other sources that he plans to move. He stated the money is not in there for the project but Mr. Pool has money elsewhere he plans to use. Mr. Roberts stated he had asked Mr. Pool where he will get the other money and they do not have the budget amendment yet. He stated Mr. Pool is supposed to be getting it up. Chairman Culver asked if a stipulation needed to be placed on the request? Mr. Roberts stated nothing other than the fact that the engineer has indicated he will transfer funds from other accounts to cover it. The chairman stated he would assume if they do not get the information from Mr. Pool then the transfer will not be made. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to award bid for trailer mounted bituminous machine.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to award the bid for the trailer mounted bituminous machine to Jace Chandler & Associates, Inc., low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$16,495.00. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is the last piece of the joint striping project with the three counties. He stated the county would be reimbursed for two-thirds of the cost. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

Reports from Staff:

- a. Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report
- b. County Engineer – the resurfacing project on Headland Avenue is about to be completed.
- c. County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Forrester reported he had received phone calls from people with children who attend Highlands School about the time lines for the temporary bridge over the creek on South Brannon Stand Road being put in use. He stated they want to know if it will be put in use prior to school being out this year or be put in use prior to the actual work on the main bridge? Mr. Holloway stated he understood it should be in place before the project starts, which is scheduled to begin when school is out. Mr. Holloway stated he would say it will be put in use when construction begins on the bridge when school lets out this summer. Mr. Forrester stated it would not be put in use until South Stand Brannon Road proper is closed. Mr. Holloway stated that was correct. Chairman Culver stated the county needs to be sure that it honors its commitment to the property owners that gave the easements on both ends of the bridge that the property is put back in the state it was before the project began.

Adjourn.

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