

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
May 24, 2021

PRESENT: Chairman Mark Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert and County Attorney Pres Register.

Chairman Culver welcomed everyone to the May 24, 2021, Houston County Commission Regular Session and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all of the commissioners were in attendance.

The invocation was given by Probate Judge Pat Davenport and Commissioner Ricky Herring led in the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sinquefield and seconded by Commissioner Shoupe. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Culver began by announcing that Mr. Matt Parker is under the weather and will not be able to attend the meeting to discuss his item. He asked to be placed on the next meeting agenda. He also stated that Mr. Covert has asked that an item be added to the agenda, with unanimous consent, and that would be to authorize the chairman to execute any documents required to accept American Rescue Plan Act Funds. He added that County Attorney Pres Register also wanted this to be added to the agenda. Chairman Culver stated that the county will start receiving those funds and the county needs to have a resolution or some type of document in place to allow him to execute whatever documents they may require. There were no objections to adding this item to the agenda so it will be labeled as item #6.

Chairman Culver reported that Monday, May 31st, is Memorial Day and the county buildings will be closed as well as on Monday, June 7th, as it is a state holiday too. The next commission meeting will be Monday, June 14th and the administrative meeting will be on June 10th. Chairman Culver announced that the annual county tax sale will be held tomorrow in front of the Administration Building at 10:00 a.m., for anyone that is interested in being part of that. Commissioner Harvey asked what kind of payment is expected and Starla Moss answered that they have three hours to come and pay with certified funds. Chairman Culver added that the Farmer's Market is held each Saturday on N. Foster St. behind the Administration Building and he understands that it is going well. He encouraged everyone to come out and purchase from the local vendors at this new location.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Wicksburg High School Skeet Team – Joanna Woodham

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Woodham to come forward to speak about the skeet team. Ms. Woodham thanked the Commission and introduced herself as a science teacher at Wicksburg High School and the skeet team coach. She stated that the skeet team we developed in 2016 as their first year and she is proud to say that this year they won 4-H State and will be going to national competition in Nebraska. She added that now they will represent the state of Alabama and travel to nationals June 19 – 26, which is an eighteen hour drive from here. Ms. Woodham said they are planning on the boys flying to Nebraska. She stated that this is a very unique opportunity because with once you go to compete at the national level with 4-H, you cannot go back as they consider that mastering a discipline and it is a once and done. Included is a tenth grader, eleventh grader and two seniors that make up the team. She added that the reason she is before the commission this morning is that in order for them to go \$12,000 is needed for the trip and 4-H regulations state that the boys have to have separate room due to COVID so the hotel bill alone is \$5,000 plus they have to cover the cost of meals and transportation. The participants could not attend today due to final exams at school. She reported that as of this morning they only have about \$4,000 so they are short of their goal. They do have some commitments but nothing has been given as of yet from the commitments. She said that typically you have time to prepare for a trip like this but from the time of winning state and the time to leave is less than six week time frame and they are trying their best to raise as much as they can so the boys can go and represent the state of Alabama and participate in nationals. Ms. Woodham added that the boys have every inclination of winning this event as the closest that Alabama has ever come to winning a national championship is 6th place as a team and typically other states pick an all-star team by picking the top four but in Alabama they take the top team and not the top four individuals. Fortunately, our four are in the top six of the state. Ms. Woodham said that the boys have stated that they are determined to go and determined to win and not only represent Houston County but represent the state of Alabama. They have the desire. Two of the four participants have already signed with colleges as Dawson Williams is going to Jacksonville University to be on their clay target team and Trevor Woodham has signed to go to Alabama to be on their clay target team. Ms. Woodham said she is asking for support if there is anything that Houston County could do to help out and they would appreciate it.

Chairman Culver stated that they have a request from the Extension Office for an appropriation. He suggest that the commissioners can make individual contributions but the Commission could consider this as an appropriation to the Extension Office if the commission would like to consider it at the next meeting. Chairman Culver added that we should be very

proud of these young men and that the commission talked about them at the last meeting of their accomplishments. He knows they will represent Houston County well and he appreciates her coming and speaking to the commission. Ms. Woodham thanked the commission and thanked Commissioner Shoupe for allowing her to come today. Commissioner Harvey asked if any girls participate and she stated that they have two young ladies on the team but in order to compete at National's, it is the top four scorers and the ladies are on the junior side as in 4-H you can begin participating at age nine and they are still learning. Commissioner Sinquefield asked what the deadline is to get the funds in and she answered that June 16th is the latest so it needs to be at the county office by June 14th.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to adopt resolution accepting new road at Sam Houston Industrial Park as an industrial access road and authorize Chairman to execute documents – Matt Parker, President Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the adopting of the resolution and Commissioner Sinquefield seconded. Chairman Culver stated that Mr. Parker could not attend today but he explained everything on Thursday and the reason for the commission to accept this road is to complete the work, obtain the funding and then turn it over to the city who will maintain it in the future once the work is complete. He added that this was already approved and this is an amended resolution. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to upgrade AutoMark ballot marking machines using HAVA funds – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to upgrade the AutoMark ballot marking machines and Commissioner Herring seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to hire part-time employee to be paid by probate special account 138 – Patrick Davenport, Judge of Probate

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to hire a part-time employee to be paid by the probate special account 138. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to approve emergency expenditure from the capital replacement fund for generator at the sewage treatment plant – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the emergency expenditure and Commissioner Harvey seconded. Chairman Culver reported that as discussed on Thursday, this is to continue with the proper operation of the sewage treatment plant and money has been spent on the plan during the last several months but it is at the age that repairs are needed. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to authorize Chairman to enter into a month to month extension agreement with the current jail communication vendor – Peter B. Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to authorize the Chairman to enter into a month to month extension agreement with the current jail communication vendor. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Request to authorize Chairman to execute any documents required to accept American Rescue Plan Act Funds – Peter B. Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Harvey seconded. County Attorney Pres Register commented that this is being done so that it is clear in the record that this is just not the process but giving the Chairman the authority.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – Closed roads; Cecil Varnum, Gilmore and intersection of Taylor and Campbellton and Pleasant Grove. They will begin to pave at the roundabout this week and then start on concrete work. Gilmore Road has about three to four more weeks as that was the largest project as it is the deepest. He added that Omussee Road has been paved but they are still working on the shoulders but should be completed in couple of weeks.

County Attorney – No Report

Meeting adjourned.