

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 29, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Acting Attorney Patrick Jones, Mark Pool, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark S. Culver, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Siquefield gave the invocation. Commissioner Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver stated it was his distinct honor and pleasure to introduce everyone to those who did not know Mrs. Melinda McClendon. He reported she was recently nominated to be the Republican candidate for the District 4 seat, and he extended congratulations. The chairman reported there is no Democratic candidate and barring an upset of epic proportions on July 10th, she will be elected as the District 4 Commissioner. He stated the commission looked forward to working with Mrs. McClendon. Chairman Culver stated he had not discussed the swearing-in with Mrs. McClendon, but it would be on Wednesday, July 18th. The chairman reported the commission was glad to have Mrs. McClendon, and he congratulated the other three that ran a very positive race. Chairman Culver reported the commission was glad Mrs. McClendon ran without a runoff because it saved the county about \$15,000 - \$20,000.

Chairman Culver reported he was glad everyone had a safe Memorial Day, and he hoped people spent time with their families. He thanked Robert and Toni Byrd for having the sixth Memorial Day Ceremony out at Sunset Gardens. The chairman reported it was an outstanding service and it gave the citizens an opportunity to thank the families that have lost loved ones fighting for our freedom, which this community does not take lightly.

Commissioner Siquefield reported the County's High School Graduations would be held on Friday, June 1st.

Chairman Culver thanked Commissioner Harvey for chairing the Admin meeting in his absence.

Awards and Presentations

1. Certificate of Appreciation – Mr. Paul Clark

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Paul Clark to come forward. The chairman reported Mr. Clark has gratefully and wonderfully served the citizens of Houston County for the past 23 years as the IT Director. He

stated anyone who knows about IT is keenly aware how that department and anything dealing with IT has changed over the last 23 years. The chairman reported Mr. Clark has kept up with the changes and kept the county at the cutting edge of what the county needs to do to make sure our county and those that depend on the IT Department can count on the services that are available. Chairman Culver reported he had built a staff that is responsive on weekends, holidays, and when people have tried to get into the county's system that they did not want in the system. At that time, the chairman presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his leadership and dedicated service. He reported Mr. Danny Cumbie would be taking over as the IT Director, and he knew that Mr. Clark had trained him well. The chairman thanked Mr. Clark on behalf of the commission, the employees and the citizens for his service to the county. Chairman Culver wished Mr. Clark well on his retirement. Mr. Clark received a round of applause.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint Charles Owen to the Houston County Improvement District.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to appoint Charles Owens to the Houston County Improvement District. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Chase Givens' term expired the end of this month, and this term will be effective June 1st. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Town of Columbia for site work at the new Senior Citizens Center.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Town of Columbia for site work at the new Senior Citizens Center. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mayor Lovett was in attendance as well as James Brannon from PolyEngineering. He reported they had met with the county's staff and he stated about a year ago, a Letter of Commitment was issued to go along with the grant that was submitted on behalf of the Town of Columbia. Chairman Culver pointed out in the letter, the county agreed to do preliminary site work, assist in the paving, and the town would provide the construction materials. He reported the request now also included actually building the pad. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Pool had been out there and it was not a problem for the county to do it in order to help with the cost. He stated the only issue in the letter is the curbing. Mr. Pool reported they had redesigned the parking lot and the curbing was not there anymore. Chairman Culver reported he wanted to be sure in the minutes it was understood that the motion did not include curbing. He stated the motion would include that the county would build the pad, prepare the parking lot according to the redesign with the materials being provided by the Town of Columbia, and do what preliminary site work was needed. The chairman asked Mayor Lovett if that was what everyone understood? Mayor Lovett nodded her head in the affirmative. Chairman Culver stated he was glad to see the project reach this point because the seniors were missing their old center. He pointed out the old center was damaged by a storm with strong winds, and was deemed inhabitable. Chairman Culver reported they have been cramped into the old city hall, and it has affected them. He stated the new center will be a benefit, and the commission is always glad to help the seniors. He

thanked Mayor Lovett and Tom Solomon and his staff for working with them on the grant to make this happen. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to award bid for Package Treatment Plant Upgrade at the Houston County Industrial Park pending state verification.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for Package Treatment Plant Upgrade at the Houston County Industrial Park to Martin Construction, LLC, low bidder meeting specs, pending state verification. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported he needed to explain the pending state verification. He pointed out the commission has been working on this project for over a year. Chairman Culver reported the State of Alabama has a Rest Area down Highway 231 south, and for years and years, they have used a septic tank system. He pointed out they have had significant issues with the septic tank, and with PolyEngineering's help, they approached the commission about hooking on to the county's sewage treatment facility at the Houston County Industrial Park. He stated the county was in agreement with it. Chairman Culver reported the agreement was that the state agreed to run all of the lines down to the county's plant, which they have done, and they would pay for the required expansion of the county's facility to handle their waste. He pointed out the bid request is for the expansion. The chairman reported this is where the verification part comes in. He pointed out the county has a letter dated April 8, 2011, stating that the State of Alabama will pay three annual payments of \$20,000 for the county's costs associated with increasing the treatment plant. The chairman reported according to the bid sheet in the package, the cost will be \$71,300.00. He recommended that the bid be approved and pending state verification that the county needed another letter from the State of Alabama agreeing to pay one-third of the actual cost. Chairman Culver reported the cost would be a little more than the \$20,000; it would be one-third of \$71,300, and he felt the letter needed to be in hand before starting work on the project. Chairman Culver reported he felt this letter was needed to cover the commission. He stated he had checked with Mr. James Brannon, PolyEngineering, and there is a shut-off valve. He reported if they do not pay the county, they can be shut off. Chairman Culver stated he did not think it was going to be a problem because they have put in a lot of infrastructure, but he did not want the county to come up on the short end.

He asked Mr. James Brannon, PolyEngineering, Inc. to come forward. Mr. Brannon reported the project will actually be more than \$71,300 because in the past, they have included their fees and that number will be a little higher. He stated the county should not be out any money. Mr. Brannon pointed out in April, they had an emergency situation, and they have already hooked onto the county's system. He reported the county should be receiving revenue shortly. Mr. Brannon reported he would notify the state that the commission awarded the bid subject to ALDOT approval with the increased cost. He pointed out the increased costs are due to ADEM. Mr. Brannon reported ADEM sent a directive that the discharge point must be moved. Chairman Culver reported he did not think it would be a problem but the commission needed to be sure they are covered. The chairman reported he would also like for the letter to include that the first payment will be due October, 2012, so that it will be in the new fiscal year. He pointed out the letter in hand states that a formal agreement between ALDOT and the commission must be executed before any payments can be processed. Chairman Culver stated as part of the

motion, the chairman needs to be authorized to enter into that formal agreement once it comes forward. Chairman Culver assured the commission it would cover all of the county's costs before he signs it. Mr. Pool asked Mr. Brannon if there was any chance of any overruns? Mr. Brannon stated he did not anticipate any. Mr. Brannon reported he would include something in the letter about contingencies. Chairman Culver reported the way he stated it was they agreed to pay one-third of the cost, whatever the amount. Mr. Brannon reported they would put an estimated cost but also state due to construction it could change. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Brannon when the project would be completed? Mr. Brannon stated once the agreement or a letter is back, and everyone is in agreement, then they will go ahead and proceed to get the contracts executed. He stated once a notice to proceed is issued, it will take 30-45 days. Mr. Brannon stated it should be completed by the end of August. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Brannon. The chairman called for the question on the motion to include authorizing the chairman to enter into the agreement when appropriate; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

4. Request to adopt Resolution for the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Pool reported this is an ADEM requirement for the annual report. The chairman called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please See in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer –

Mr. Dempsey reported on June 13th, at 1:30 P.M., the first round of budget hearings will be held. He stated they would be discussing manpower and capital and non-capital over \$5,000.00.

County Engineer –

Mr. Pool reported County Road #81 is almost completed, and they will be striping it this week. He stated they will begin work in Columbia this week also.

County Attorney –

Acting Attorney, Pat Jones, stated he had no report.

Commissioner Battles asked about the status of Mr. Jerry Richards' contract? Mr. Jones stated he did not know. It was reported Mr. Sherrer had been working on it and it should be ready either this week or next.

Adjourn.

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

