

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

AUGUST 26, 2013

Present: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Melinda S. McClendon, Patrick Jones, Acting County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Harvey and Gary Sherrer, County Attorney

Chairman Mark Culver called the regular session to order at 10:00 A.M., declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Don Tew, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner McClendon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reminded everyone that Representative Martha Roby would be hosting a Town Hall Meeting on August 27th, at 4:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Chairman Culver asked Commissioner Siquefield, Commissioner McClendon, Kelly Crowell, and Barkley Kirkland to come forward.

Chairman Culver reported as everyone knows, last week there was no Administrative meeting due to the commissioners attending the Association of County Commissions of Alabama's Annual Conference. He stated this year several of the county's elected officials and employees were recognized. He pointed out sometimes the citizens do not know what goes on at the conferences, and he wanted to let the public know. The chairman then recognized the following:

He recognized Safety Director, Kelly Crowell, who was awarded a safety incentive dividend of \$1,000 from the ACCA Liability Self Insurance Fund for excellent three year loss experience. He reported this incentive was through her outstanding efforts as the Safety Director. The chairman pointed out under Mrs. Crowell's direction, the county's recordable medical cases have gone from 63 in 2008-09 to 20 in 2012-13. He reported the premiums for Worker's Comp and Liability insurance have gone from just over \$1.2 million in 2008-09 to just under \$900,000 in 2012-13. Chairman Culver reported through the efforts of Mrs. Crowell, Mr. Dempsey, and the safety measures taken by the department heads and employees they are to be commended and he felt it very appropriate that this recognition was received. He stated he wanted Mrs. Crowell to publically know how much the commission appreciates the job she is doing. Mrs. Crowell received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver recognized County Engineer Barkley Kirkland for receiving a Certificate of Designation as a Certified County Engineer. He reported Mr. Kirkland had to complete 12 seven hour courses including Overview of County Government, Ethics, Personnel Administration, and Finance and Revenue, in order to obtain the Certificate of Designation of a Certified County Engineer. He pointed out Mr. Kirkland will be required to participate in ongoing continuing education. Chairman Culver reported he actually received this at the annual meeting, but he re-presented the certification to Mr. Kirkland. He thanked him for getting the training in order to make him a better engineer and Houston County a better county. Mr. Kirkland received a round of applause.

The chairman then recognized Commissioner Melinda McClendon for receiving certification for completing the legally mandated education requirement for county commissioners. He pointed out that was passed in 1994 by former Commission Chairman, Robert Crowder, during his tenure as ACCA President. Chairman Culver reported the newly elected commissioners are required by law to complete 50 hours of training in county government in their first two years in office. The chairman reported he knew of no other organizations of electeds or other government positions that have legally mandated courses for training requirements as those of county commissioners. He stated Commissioner McClendon has completed the required courses through the Alabama Local Government Training Institute including courses in County Government and the Commissioner, Ethical and Legal Issues,

Financial Administration, and Road and Bridges. The chairman reported Commissioner McClendon joins the other three commissioners in completing the requirements, and some of who are working on the graduate training which is the next level. He stated Commissioner Harvey has completed the graduate training. Chairman Culver reported there is no doubt that there has been an increase in the ability, knowledge, as well as caliber of county commissioners around the state since the passage of this law. The chairman reported through all that time, the group in Houston County has led the way. He congratulated Commissioner McClendon on completing the training and on behalf of the Board of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, he presented her with her award. Commissioner McClendon received a round of applause.

Chairman Culver then recognized Commissioner Doug Siquefield who was elected unanimously by his peers to serve as a member of the ACCA's Legislative Committee representing District 11. He stated District 11 is composed of 9 counties in SE Alabama. The chairman reported the Legislative Committee is charged with planning and pushing the legislative program with some new planning strategies they plan to implement this year to be more active in the process to make the ACCA effective in addressing its issues and stopping those things that are harmful to county government. He pointed out Commissioner Siquefield's recognition by his peers is well deserved and he congratulated him. Commissioner Siquefield received a round of applause.

Commissioner Siquefield reported a lot of awards were given at the ACCA meeting, and he was glad to be a part of the award that was given to Chairman Mark Culver for the "Outstanding Contribution to County Government." He reported this is an annual award given to an individual whose years of contribution to county government have far exceeded the requirements of his job. Commissioner Siquefield reported Chairman Culver was presented the award as recognition of the impact and contribution that he has made throughout the state during his 26 years of service. He stated this is the highest award presented each year by the ACCA. Commissioner Siquefield extended his congratulations. Chairman Culver received a round of applause.

He stated he was not going to mention it, but he was quite surprised and honored. The chairman reported that he used to serve on the awards committee years ago and they voted on the award each year. Chairman Culver stated that he had hoped one day that his peers would say to him that he has done things that would warrant receiving the award. He reported that the award is usually given to someone who has passed away or retired or something, and he really was not planning on going anywhere unless the citizens decide otherwise. Chairman Culver reported it has been his life and he really appreciated the association doing it. He congratulated everyone and thanked them for their commitment to Houston County. A photograph session was held.

Regular Agenda

Chairman Culver stated since there was no Admin meeting, the rules allow for discussion before a motion is made.

1. Request to amend trial Sanitation Program.

Chairman Culver reported the commission has already approved a trial automated Sanitation program that involved purchasing trucks and they are contemplating changing that. Mr. Kirkland reported rather than buying a truck and 3,000 cans they are going to use a truck with tippers and purchase 300 cans for the new trial program. He stated residents inside the Town limits of Madrid, and those living on Decatur Road, Stateline Road, Rambo Mill Road, and B. J. Mixon Road would be asked to put their cans out on the same side of the road for a trial of two months beginning sometime in January. It was pointed out that this trial will save the county a significant amount of money. Chairman Culver reported there is no doubt that the program will work. He stated the county's concerns are for the feedback from the citizens and they feel a less costly trial period would be more cost effective. He stated everyone would be provided with one can and if it gets damaged the commission will replace it, they need to decide about the placement of the cans, and what to do about our senior citizens. Commissioner McClendon made a motion to approve the request to amend the trial Sanitation Program. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to approve final plat for Orchard Park Subdivision.

Mr. Kirkland reported the developers had met all the requirements by the county. Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the final plat for Orchard Park Subdivision. Commissioner McClendon seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to award bid for Janitorial Services for county buildings.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to award the bid for Janitorial Services for county buildings to Southern Management, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$245,757.71. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked when the bid would go into effect? Mr. Curtis reported it was October 1st. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dempsey reported the commission had held a work session on the budget and they are continuing to work on it to have it ready to present at the September 9th meeting. He reported there were a couple of things that have changed including notification regarding the employee health insurance would change from 8% to 5%. He also reported the county received \$30,000 in state excise taxes and they had projected \$70,000.

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported they had completed the cross drain work on Fortner Street, and paving should begin on Judge Logue Road in the next 2-3 weeks.

County Attorney

Acting County Attorney Patrick Jones had no report.

Adjourn

Commissioner Battles made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.