

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 24, 2014

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Preston Register, 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 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. Due to the absence of Dr. Peter Wong, Commissioner Doug Siquefield gave the invocation. Commissioner Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver stated he hoped everyone was prepared for a thankful week as we celebrate a special week, and as we pause to give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us. The chairman reminded everyone to have a safe Holiday week, spend good quality time with their families, and to take the opportunity to get out and shop all of the Black Friday sales.

The chairman reported there would not be an Admin meeting on December 4th, due to the commissioners attending the ACCA Legislative Conference. He stated the next commission meeting would be on Monday, December 8th, at 10:00 A.M.

Chairman Culver reported there are several Christmas parades scheduled to include Ashford, Gordon, Columbia, Wicksburg, along with some others, and he asked everyone to participate in the ones in their area.

He stated the Downtown Christmas Festival is Saturday, December 6th, and he encouraged everyone to go downtown and be a part of it.

The chairman reported the Employee Appreciation Dinner will be December 9th at 6:00 P.M., at the Farm Center, and he urged all of the employees to come out and enjoy a fun evening.

Commissioner Shoupe stated that he would like to extend the commission's thoughts and prayers to the family of the Leon County Sheriff's Deputy that was slain over the weekend. Commissioner Shoupe reported he had the opportunity to ride with a Houston County Sheriff's deputy a couple of months ago and to see what they do. He stated there is a lot of bravery in our Sheriff's Department as well.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – "ZONTA says No Days" – Mrs. Leslie Hicks, President, ZONTA Club

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Leslie Hicks, ZONTA Club President, to come forward. Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring “ZONTA Says No Days” as prepared. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation declaring “ZONTA SAYS NO DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS,” and presented it to Mrs. Hicks and thanked her and the ZONTA club for all they do to bring it to the commission’s attention. He stated it is such a worthy cause and the commission cannot say enough about what ZONTA has done over the years for our community. Mrs. Hicks reported it is an amazing but a reliable statistic that 1 in 3 women worldwide will be victims of violence which includes rape, assault, and other forms of violence against women. Mrs. Hicks stated the ZONTA Club is very proud that the chairman and members of the commission are examples of good men who protect women and girls. She stated those who are with her are wearing orange to draw attention to get the message out that they can eradicate this violence against women. Mrs. Hicks stated this needs to be done in our community and she stated there is not a day that goes by that someone is not being tried or convicted for violence against women. She urged everyone to look for ways in the community that they can assist the ZONTA club in stopping violence against women. Mrs. Hicks pointed out ZONTA supports a number of agencies that are doing a great job with the resources they have, which include: The House of Ruth, The Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention, Healthy You, the Child Advocacy Center, the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center and the human trafficking efforts of the Love In Action Ministry. Mrs. Hicks reported people can help with financial contributions, and volunteering. Chairman Culver thanked Mrs. Hicks.

2. Proclamation – “National Diabetes Month” – Ms. Sambora Vaughn, ADPH Diabetes Ambassador

Chairman Culver asked Ms. Sambora Vaughn, ADPH Diabetes Ambassador, to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring November as “National Diabetes Awareness Month.” Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Vaughn. He thanked Ms. Vaughn for bringing it to the Commission’s attention, and particularly someone who has had family members with diabetes. Ms. Vaughn reported her sister was going to hand out pins to the commission. She reported diabetes took her grandfather’s life in 2007. Ms. Vaughn stated diabetes effects 510,000 Alabamians, which is up from 452,000 in 2012. She pointed out 77% of people with diabetes have high blood pressure, 74% of people with diabetes have high cholesterol, and 34.3% are overweight. Ms. Vaughn pointed out diabetes is a very costly disease in terms of dollars with a cost of \$245 billion in 2012. She urged everyone to eat healthy, exercise, and raise awareness to help prevent diabetes. Ms. Vaughn thanked the commission for helping to raise awareness.

3. Certification of Appreciation – Sanitation Department – Mrs. Kelly Crowell, Safety Coordinator

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Kelly Crowell, Safety Coordinator, and the members of the Sanitation Department to come forward. Chairman Culver reported the Sanitation Department has been doing a great job for a long time. He stated on behalf of the commission he wanted to present them with a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing the employees for their excellent safety record of 349 days

without a Medical case (11-6-13 to 10-22-14) He stated the guys should take a lot of pride in this honor. They received a round of applause.

Mrs. Crowell reported the Sanitation Department has the most physically demanding job in the county regarding the conditions they work in, extreme heat, rain, sleet, cold or whatever type weather it is they are out picking up the trash. She pointed out there are 400-500 homes on their route on an average day, and the potential for injury is great. Mrs. Crowell stated the award they recently achieved was done before the new automated trucks were received. She reported this is quite an achievement for this group and the county is so proud of them. They received a round of applause. Mr. Kirkland stated Mrs. Crowell summed it up but these guys do a tremendous job.

Mrs. Susan Herring, a resident of the county, asked about the feedback on the new system with the new receptacles. She stated she had noticed some problems in her area, and maybe it was a timing issue, and she stated she was not complaining. Chairman Culver stated it was not a time to complain. Ms. Herring reported she loved the fact that the new receptacles are tied to the house; however it could have been the driver and the can was not turned the right way. Chairman Culver reported so far the feedback has been great, but anytime you initiate anything new there are going to be some kinks to be worked out. He stated the feedback has been positive in any town that has gone to this automated system. The chairman reported it is going to be good from a fiscal perspective. Chairman Culver thanked her for her comments.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve and publish Annual Financial Statement.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve and publish the Annual Financial Statement. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as discussed on Thursday, this is done annually, and the commission is required by law to do it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution authorizing Chairman to execute documents.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute documents. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported the commission was asked by counsel to approve this. He stated he was told there are 3 places in the document where words have been changed on current law. Chairman Culver reported the county tries to make sure as law changes that the county's policies conform with the law. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request for a 070 – Retail Table Wine License (Off Premises Only) for Davis & Davis Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a/ One Stop Food Store, 6762 Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL 36301.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request for a 070 – Retail Table Wine License (Off Premises Only) for Davis & Davis Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a One Stop Food Store, 6762 Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL 36301. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if anyone

present was in objection to the license being issued? There was no one. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request for a 050 – Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) for Davis & Davis Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a One Stop Food Store, 6762 Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL 36301.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the request for a 050 Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) for Davis & Davis Enterprise, Inc. d/b/a One Stop Food Store, 6762 Cottonwood Road, Dothan, AL 36301. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if anyone was in objection to the license being issued? There was no one. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported today is the first day of the automated system. He pointed out they still lack 158 cans putting out for new customers or customers who have not been paying and are paid up and getting a can. He stated they are running 3 crews putting them out, and they have a total of 629 extra cans. He pointed out some of them are new customers and some of them are those who have not paid.

Commissioner Battles asked how the churches and volunteer fire departments would be handled?

Chairman Culver stated that they would check on it. Commissioner Sinquefield asked if the flags that were put out showing where the cans are to be placed, could be taken up? Mr. Kirkland stated yes.

Commissioner Sinquefield reported he had noticed a lot of cans on the right of way and he stated they needed to be moved. Mr. Kirkland reported if the cans are left, his crews would be going to pick them up because they are going to assume they are not being used.

County Attorney

The Acting County Attorney stated there was no report.

Chairman Culver asked if there were still political signs out on the county right of ways? He asked candidates and their supporters to please get the signs up.

Adjourn

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