

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2017

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Sinquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, Pres Register, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and Bill Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present and welcomed everyone. Rev. Lyle Peluso, Pastor, Dothan Vineyard Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported he would like to add an item if the commission was in unanimous consent. He reported after the meeting on Thursday, a review of the proposals for engineering services for the Folklore Brewery and Meadery, LLC, was held. He stated he would like to add a request to adopt a Resolution for engineering services for the CDBG project as Item #7. There being no objections, the Chairman reported the request would be added to the agenda.

Awards and Presentations

1. Presentation of Annual Financial and Operations Report for 2015-2016 – Bill Dempsey, CAO

Chairman Culver called on Mr. Dempsey. He stated this report covered the Fiscal Year that ended September 30, 2016. He pointed out the following significant occurrences in Fiscal Year in 2015-2016:

The County's one cent sales tax collections increased from \$17,848,753 in 2014/15 to \$18,269,361 in 2015/16, resulting in a 2.3% increase. Mr. Dempsey pointed out sales tax collections for the county are at record highs and exceed the 2007/08 pre-economic slump collection of \$16,563,808 by 10.2%.

The county entered into a ten year cable franchise agreement with Comcast, Time Warner, WOW, and Troy Cable Vision.

Accepted the donation of three buildings located near the corner of West Man and Oates Street to be used for storage.

Transferred county property located on Ross Clark Circle across from Wiregrass Rehab to the Industrial Development Board to be used for the expansion of Wayne Farms.

The Peggi James Park area was transferred to the ownership of the county.

Work began on the architectural design related to the renovation of the Houston County Court House basement.

Approved the sale of property located at Redmond and Flynn Road to the United Methodist Children's Home.

Donated a house and property to the Town of Cottonwood. Property will be developed as a park area.

Commission approved the sale of alcohol after 1:00 P.M. on Sunday's in all areas of the county outside the Dothan City limits. This proposal was voted on by the citizens of Houston County in the November 2016 Election and approved.

Approve the expenditure of \$1.7 million for the purchase of communication equipment for the Sheriff and Houston County emergency responders. Equipment will include radios, construction of a communication tower and purchase of related equipment.

Mr. Dempsey covered the major projects for Road and Bridge in Fiscal Year 2015-2016:

6.63 miles of resurfacing on two county roads

13 miles of shoulder work

From December 2015 storm: Completed 36 FEMA damaged sites including 16 cross drain replacements, and 3 box culvert repairs. Completed 3 FHWA damage sites.

Performed major culvert repairs on 5 culverts

Performed major bridge repairs on 1 bridge

Cleared 4 acre lot and built building pad for AG Building for Houston County Schools

Next Level Apparel, Ashford: Demolished and hauled away building, improved drainage, built roads

Glassstream: site work, building pad

Bearing pad replacements on 2 bridges

Town of Cowarts: Site work at the Senior Center, building pad

Completed 1,376 work orders, sprayed 3,732 miles of roads for vegetation control, replaced 68 cross drains, graded 468 miles of dirt roads.

Striped 202 miles of county roads, placed 9,931 reflective pavement markers, placed 2,378 linear feet of stop bars

Mr. Dempsey reported Houston County's population has grown to 104,173, a .06% increase since 2015.

The CAO stated the Fund Balance for (county budget funds only) as of September 30, 2016, was \$10,631,254 and the total of all other funds was \$96,872, for a grand total of \$10,728,126, for all county funds . Mr. Dempsey pointed out the total was \$4 million more than forecast. The CAO gave a breakdown of the revenue sources. He reported labor makes up 50% of the budget and operations comprises 48% of the budget, and capital is 2%. Mr. Dempsey stated 34% of the county's budgeted funds are allocated to Law Enforcement (Sheriff, Jail, CC, and Juveniles), and 24% of the funds are allocated to Road and Bridge. The CAO gave a breakdown of the funding for the other departments. Mr. Dempsey covered the Long Term Debt Payment Schedule for bonds and leases, and reported the county is in great financial condition. Mr. Dempsey reported Worker's Compensation has dropped as well as Liability Insurance. He stated the county has saved over \$500,000. Mr. Dempsey reported the county received the ACCA Liability Fund's First Place Safety Award for Large Counties in the State of Alabama. He stated Houston County has the best Safety Program in the State.

Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Dempsey for the good report. He thanked the Accounting Department and the department heads for their efforts to stay within their budgets. The chairman reported the department heads treat those monies as if it was their own, and without them they could not operate as efficiently. He also pointed out the commission receives a good, clean audit each year and that would not be possible either without the department heads staying on top of their budgets.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve Revenue and Expenditure for Communication Center Console – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the Revenue and Expenditure for the Communication Center Console. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is an in and out for the funds E-911 committed. He pointed out this was discussed at length on Thursday. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

2. Request to approve 2016-17 County flooring contractor – Sean Curtis Maintenance Manager.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve McCord Contract Flooring, the sole bidder, as the 2016-17 flooring contractor. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Curtis stated by doing this on flooring and on the next item, he feels it will save the county time on bids as well as money instead of having to bid everything separately. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve the 2016-17 County painting contractor – Sean Curtis, Maintenance Manager.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve Ben Darley Painting, low bidder, as the 2016-17 painting contractor. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

4. Request to sell surplus wrecked vehicle to ALFA Insurance for \$5,550.14 (2010 Crown Vic) – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the sale of a surplus wrecked vehicle (2010 Crown Vic) to ALFA Insurance for \$5,550.14. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this is a settlement with the insurance company of the other party. He called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request to award bids for sign making materials, sign faces, signs, herbicides, MC70 prime, and hot plant mix 424 to the low bidders meeting specs – Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to award bids for sign making materials, sign faces, herbicides, MC70 prime, and hot plant mix 424 to the low bidders meeting specs in each category. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded the motion. Commissioner Shoupe asked if the cost of the hot plant mix is basically influenced by the oil prices, and has it come down? Engineer Kirkland stated no. He pointed out they are now saying they have to haul aggregate to our part of the state because we do not have any rocks. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

6. Request to waive charges for limb pick-up from storm damage.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to waive the charges for limb pick-up from storm damage. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Mr. Kirkland showed a map of the areas where the storm damage occurred. He asked everyone who might have large trees, to cut them into 6 foot sections, and get it out to the roadway, and they would pick it up at no charge. It was pointed out that tin, sheet metal, and wood from barns would not be picked up. Mr. Kirkland stated everyone in the storm damaged areas would be given 2 weeks to get their debris out to the road, and then they would start picking it up. He reported the county would need to pick up the big trees with a rubber tire excavator and citizens with those trees need to be patient because they would not be picked up at the same time as the smaller limbs. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to adopt Resolution for engineering services for CDBG for Folklore Brewing and Meadery, LLC – Mrs. Emily VanScyoc – SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Mrs. VanScyoc reported this project will extend the sewer lines for Folklore Brewing and Meadery, LLC. She stated 3 proposals were received and were rated, and CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc. is determined to be the most advantageous. She stated by adopting the Resolution, the county will enter into an agreement with CDG Engineers, Inc., for the engineering services. She pointed out the project's next step will be to bid it out, and it will come back to the county commission for approval as the awarding authority because the project is located in the county. Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to adopt the Resolution to enter into an Agreement with CDG Engineers and Associates, Inc. for engineering services for the Folklore Brewing and Meadery, LLC's CDBG project. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and it carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Mr. Kirkland reported the following 4 roads were closed: St. Mary, Huskey, Blackman, and Edsel Deese. He stated they were currently working on 3 of those roads that were damaged by the storm. He stated there was not much damage; just a couple of cross drains. Commissioner Sinquefield asked if there would be a need for additional overtime? Mr. Kirkland stated he did not think so, but if it became necessary, he would let the commission know.

Chairman Culver reported that Engineer Kirkland was going to give a report on the ATRIP 2 Program. Mr. Kirkland reported this is a \$1.2 billion program for the state and Houston County's portion would be a little over \$22 million. He pointed out this is a great program and that the money can be used to resurface off system roads. Mr. Kirkland reported if this program is not approved, there is no other option. He stated the bids can be let locally, and work can begin quickly. The engineer reported the roads are graded annually, and he stated there are grades of 12, 13, 14, and 15 roads. He stated those with a Grade 12 are the worst, and need immediate attention. Mr. Kirkland reported some counties are digging up some of these roads and making them dirt. He showed a breakdown of the roads by Grade, and he stated if the ATRIP 2 Program is approved, the roads with a Grade of 12, 13, and 14 could all be resurfaced, and 43 miles of Grade 15 roads could be done. Commissioner Shoupe asked if in 20 years would the county not be back in this situation again? Commissioner Sinquefield reported when this \$1.2 billion program was set up, it was for 15 years. He pointed out we will have growth and increased traffic during that time. It was reported in 12 years, a road loses its quality. He stated the cost to resurface is \$125,000 per mile. Mr. Kirkland reported he has heard the ATRIP 2 Program would cost a driver an average of \$1.50 more per month in Houston County, and after 14 years, the charge would drop off. He stated they will be coming back to the Commission with a Resolution in support of the program.

Chairman Culver reported they have talked about this for the last 3 years, and the proposal is coming from the Legislature and ACCA. He stated there will be some type of public information meeting in the next few weeks. The chairman pointed out Houston County has had the best roads in the state for several years, and it has to be addressed. He reported as has been stated many times, the commission's number 1 priority is creating job opportunities for the people of Houston County. Chairman Culver reported this is a very good program, and not only would it take care of resurfacing a lot of the roads, it will also create jobs locally. Commissioner Sinquefield asked Mr. Kirkland if this is approved, would the \$125,000 per mile rate include installing cross drains, and other type work? Mr. Kirkland stated no, it did not include any of that.

County Attorney – there was no report.

Adjourn

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