

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

APRIL 10, 2017

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. He stated the commission always enjoys having the Houston County Queens to come and be recognized, and it is one of their favorite meetings. Chairman Culver called on Commissioner Doug Siquefield, who requested Rev. Clint McBroom, Pastor Highland Park United Methodist Church, to please pray for the family of James Otis Whitehurst, the Marine whose remains were found on Gilbert Island from the Battle of Tarawa Atoll. Rev. McBroom then gave the invocation. Commissioner Jackie Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### Announcements and Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported this is Holy Week and he asked people to take part in the many activities related to the week with the culmination of Good Friday and Easter. The chairman encouraged everyone to remember the true meaning of Easter.

Chairman Culver reported the Commission would not meet on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> because the state and county offices would be closed for a holiday. He stated the Commission meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

He reminded everyone the 8th Annual Elected vs. Media Softball Game would be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00 A.M., at Colby-Bottoms Field. He reported this game benefits the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank, and he encouraged everyone to come out and bring a can of food or non-perishable item, or a cash donation, and he promised them they would have a good time for a worthy cause.

The chairman reported April 29<sup>th</sup> is the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit of Service Day. He pointed out this is a day to get out in the community and help someone in need doing clean-up or be a part of the many projects scheduled. Chairman Culver reported there will be a clean-up project at the Forever Wild Trail. He stated Spirit of Service Day evolved as the brain child of Robert Crowder, and he reported this will be the first year he will not be in attendance. The chairman stated over the 28 years, there have been hundreds of projects done in our city and county that have benefitted so many. He reported if anyone has a project they would like to do, or if anyone would like to participate with another group of individuals to contact Ms. Linda Kelley, at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Culver reported Houston County Gives Day would be on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Eye Outfitters. He stated 30 non-profits would be participating.

Commissioner Siquefield reported along the lines of Spirit of Service Day, he was passionate about working with the PALS Program, People Against a Littered State. He pointed out the county has been fortunate with having the support of Tony Weber, Community Corrections, the Sheriff's Department, and the Jail with a program where inmates go out and pick up litter on Fridays and Saturdays in designated areas of the county. He stated although this program has helped with the litter problem in Houston County, we still have a long way to go to keep it clean. The commissioner reported the State's Spring Clean –Up Week is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated he had tried to get out information to the schools, and pointed out Ms. Jeannie Mitchell is the campus coordinator for the schools throughout the state. Commissioner Siquefield pointed out there are 2 kinds of litter – criminal and highway. He requested the media's assistance in getting the information out to the public. He stated if anyone

needed additional information, they could call the commission office and talk with Ms. Linda McGhee, and she would have the contact numbers.

Chairman Culver stated earlier, this is the commission's favorite day of the year when they have the opportunity to recognize the pretty ladies who represent Houston County. He called on Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, Houston County Pageants, Inc., and all of the queens to come forward. Chairman Culver reported he could not say enough about Houston County Pageants and what they have done for this pageant, and those who participate in the Miss Peanut. Mrs. Hall thanked the chairman and commission for allowing them to come, and she pointed out they could not do what they do without the commission's support. She stated they wanted the girls to grow their character by helping to serve out in the community, to see the needs, and get involved. Mrs. Hall pointed out the queen's float in the National Peanut Festival had won the Presidential Award for the last 3 years.

Chairman Culver then introduced the following queens, and presented each of them with a Houston County pin: Future Little Miss - August Kate Henderson, Little Miss – Emmie Haywood, a student at Northside Methodist Academy, Young Junior Miss – Kayleiegh Richard - a student at New Brockton Elementary, Junior Miss – Reagan Valenzuela – a student at Rehobeth Elementary, Teen Miss – Holly Driggers – a student at Providence Christian School, and Miss Houston County – Katelyn Vinson – a student at Houston Academy. Each of the queens had an opportunity to speak and they were all thrilled to represent Houston County and were looking forward to their reign. Chairman Culver wished Ms. Haywood and Ms. Vinson good luck in the National Peanut Festival competition. He thanked them and wished them the best of luck during the coming year.

## 2. Proclamation – “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week” – Mr. Chris Judah, Director EMA

Chairman Culver asked Mr. Chris Judah, Director, EMA, to come forward. Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.” Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. Mr. Judah asked his staff and the telecommunicators to come forward. Chairman Culver read the Proclamation declaring April 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week,” and presented it to Mr. Judah. Mr. Judah thanked the chairman and the commission for the Proclamation. He reported these ladies do such an important job and often go unnoticed because they are working behind the scenes but they serve as the link between the sheriff's deputies, police officers and firefighters providing them information and insuring their safety everyday. Mr. Judah thanked Captain Tony Gonzalez, Captain Bill Rafferty, and Bart Blackmon, who also work with the telecommunicators. He pointed out they will soon be moving into the new Communications building, and are looking forward to it. Chairman Culver thanked Mr. Judah for bringing this to the commission's attention, and he stated the commission appreciates this group for the important job they do.

## Regular Agenda

### 1. Request to approve amendments to the Houston County Subdivision Regulations.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the amendments to the Houston County Subdivision Regulations as presented. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Chairman Culver pointed out the amendments include 2.5 acre lots with 250 feet of road frontage in the unincorporated areas of the county. Commissioner Sinquefield thanked Engineer Kirkland for helping to get these changes. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

### 2. Request to approve budget amendment increasing expense budget for County Buildings – Bill Dempsey, CAO.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the budget amendment increasing the expense budget for County Buildings. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Request to approve the purchase of 400 grass carp @ \$7.00 each for Chattahoochee Park and the appropriate budget amendment – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Sinquefield made a motion to approve the purchase of 400 grass carp @ \$7.00 each for Chattahoochee Park and the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to award bid for reflectorized thermoplastic pavement marking material – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to award the bid for reflectorized thermoplastic pavement marking material to the low bidder meeting specs, Ozark Striping Company. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals – Road and Bridge Department.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Sinquefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer –

Engineer Kirkland reported there were 2 spots on Eddins Road that they were working on and they hoped to have it completed in the next 4 weeks.

County Attorney – there was no report

Commissioner Battles asked Mr. Kirkland about the new Assistant Region Engineer? Mr. Kirkland reported they would be working with him on projects out of Montgomery. He pointed out they have had several retirements and promotions.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded; and carried unanimously.