

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
August 12th, 2019

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Ricky Herring, Commissioner Brandon Shoupe, County Attorney Pres Register, County Engineer Barkley Kirkland, and Chief Administrative Officer Peter Covert.

Acting-Chairman, Commissioner Siquefield, welcomed everyone to the August 12th, 2019, Houston County Commission Meeting and called the 10:00 a.m. meeting to order. He declared a quorum as all commissioners were in attendance.

Absent: Chairman Mark Culver

Vann Cooley, Pastor at First Baptist Church of Columbia, gave the invocation and Commissioner Doug Siquefield led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Harvey and seconded by Commissioner Herring. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Siquefield began by congratulating Commissioner Herring for his completion of the Alabama Governmental Training Institute Program for new commissioners. Commissioner Herring has now completed Level I and will continue into the next Level as the session begins. Commissioner Siquefield announced that the Dothan Ponytails won the Dixie World Series in Texas and he congratulated them on such an honor. He continued by reminding everyone that the ACCA Convention will be held next week beginning August 20th in Perdido and as Commissioners will be attending, the Administrative Meeting scheduled for the 22nd of August will be cancelled and will be combined with the Regular Meeting on Monday, August 26th. Commissioner Shoupe wished all the county students, starting back to school today, "good luck" and hoped they all have a great year. He added that buses will be out in the mornings and afternoons so he asked everyone to drive safely. He also reported that he had posted an article on Facebook about a great opportunity for students that are nearing their high school career and are trying to figure out what to do next. There are opportunities through the federal government with STEM programs. These programs allow the students to get paid while attending the program as long as they enter into a contract with them after the program is over. The program is called Top Secret Teens and information is available on the federal government website as well as the Facebook post that Commissioner Shoupe posted.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Request to approve the vacating of a portion of McCord Road

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the vacating of a portion of McCord Road and Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to appoint Spencer Bienvenu to fill unexpired term on Houston County Water Authority Board

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the appointment and Commissioner Herring seconded. Commissioner Siquefield added that this is an appointment by Chairman Culver to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Stan West who served on the Houston County Water Authority for many years and it was much appreciated. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Personnel Board to concur in the 2020 County Holiday Schedule – Ms. Sheri Garner, Personnel Director

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the 2020 County Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Request to elect Commissioner Brandon Shoupe as the representative for the 2019-2020 ACCA Legislative Committee

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to elect Commissioner Shoupe as the ACCA Legislative Committee Representative for 2019-2020. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion. Commissioner Siquefield stated that he had the opportunity to serve on this committee for the past six years and it is certainly an eye opener and an important role for the commissioner to serve in that position. There are sixty-seven commissioners that serve on this committee, one from each county, and that is one voice for the counties to be represented in Montgomery during legislation. After calling for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve joint bid with the City of Dothan for automotive, truck, and equipment filters – Peter Covert, Chief Administrative Officer

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the joint bid with the City of Dothan and Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Siquefield reported that this started about four years ago and it has been very beneficial for the county and the city by saving both entities money over a long term. Commissioner Siquefield then recognized an audience member and they asked to come forward to comment on this item. He stated his name as George Trotter and he began by commending the commission for this joint venture. He asked why this is only done for filters and why not for everything for the city and county in purchasing all equipment including asphalt. He stated that it is a great thing to have a joint venture to bid and it is a good reason for both entities to get a better bid.

When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve Interlocal Agreement between the City of Dothan and Houston County for the 2019 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award – Sheriff's Dept

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the JAG Program Award Agreement. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. Commissioner Siquefield stated that this is a normal and customary agreement between Houston County and the City of Dothan. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to eliminate one full-time Civil Document Server position (budgeted with benefits and currently filled with 2 part-time employees) and replace with one full-time Sheriff Deputy position – Sheriff's Dept.

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff's Department and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the resurfacing of Wicksburg Road from AL Hwy 92 to AL Hwy 123 – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the resurfacing of Wicksburg Road from AL Hwy 92 to AL Hwy 123 and Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Siquefield commented that this is a little different project, as discussed in last Thursday's meeting, as it is a joint venture. Engineer Kirkland stated that this is combined with Ft. Rucker and it could be next summer before this project begins. Commissioner Shoupe asked if the resurfacing could be held off and not performed during the school year if at all possible due to traffic issues. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on Stateline Road – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request to enter into a Construction Agreement for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on Stateline Road and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. Commissioner Siquefield commented that they are grateful to finally have this road opened as it has been a while and was a major project that included a lot of work and man hours. He thanked the Road and Bridge Department for all their hard work and overtime that they had to put in to complete this project. After calling for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

10. Request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on County Road 55 S – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on County Road 55 S. Commissioner Shoupe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on County Road 81 N – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on County Road 81 N and Commissioner Harvey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on County Road 95 N – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on County Road 95 N and Commissioner Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Request to enter into a Construction Agreement with the State of Alabama for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on Junction Road – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Herring made a motion to approve the request for the reimbursement of construction costs for emergency storm repairs on Junction Road and Commissioner Shoupe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Request to approve budget amendment for FEMA reimbursement – Road and Bridge

Commissioner Shoupe made a motion to approve the request for the budget amendment for FEMA reimbursement and Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Engineer Kirkland commented that this is just the first of FEMA reimbursements and they would like to apply this money to overtime. This does not cover all the overtime costs but it certainly helps. When called for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chief Administrative Officer – No Report

County Engineer – One closed Road; Willie Varnum

County Attorney – No Report but wanted to confirm that Agenda Item #1 was voted on. The commission concurred that it was and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.