

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MAY 10, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Bobby R. Snellgrove, Commissioner Frances M. Cook, Commissioner Phillip L. Forrester, Gary Sherrer, Attorney, Mark Pool, Engineer, and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark S. Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Rev. Kenneth Robinson, Pastor, Alabama Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported discussion of the increase in revenue from the city's sales taxes last month has been in the news. He pointed out as usually is the case, the county's was also. He reported the county's was up from the same period last year by approximately 7 percent. The chairman stated these would be March expenditures and April collections. The chairman reported the increase was higher than it was in 2007 and 2008. He stated it is the biggest increase the county has had in some time and the first increase since January. Chairman Culver reported it was good news and he hoped it would start a trend. He pointed out for the year the county is down 2 percent compared to last year which was down 4 percent from the previous year.

He reported on Saturday, May 15th, from 11:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., there will be a lunch to meet the candidates for those interested or involved in politics. Chairman Culver stated the event would be held at the Farm Center. He encouraged everyone to come out and meet and talk with the candidates.

Chairman Culver reported East Cook Road was opened last week. He stated this is the 52nd bridge that the county has opened and the last of the 52 bridges in Houston County that did not meet the requirements of the school bus crossing. The chairman reported according to the engineer, it took 15 years and \$14 million and no change orders on any of them to get to that point. He commended Mr. Pool and his staff, the commission, and the legislators who helped the county to get extra money in order to get these projects completed. Chairman Culver reported if the program that will be on the ballot in November passes, the county will get to use all of the funds for resurfacing and other projects as opposed to bridges.

The chairman reported on Thursday, Mr. Dempsey stated the county's bond rating had improved from an A-1 to an AA-2. He stated the rating scale had been changed and the county has gone two steps from where they were previously. Chairman Culver stated the citizens of the county should take pride in this because Houston County has one of the highest bond ratings in the state of Alabama for counties, and

when someone buys bonds, they can feel confident that the bonds are good quality bonds. He pointed out the importance to the commission as fiscal managers of the county's funds.

The chairman reported the census numbers for mail in have been completed and Houston County ended up at 71%. He pointed out in 2000, the county was at 66% and this year that is better but they would have liked it to have been 100%. The chairman reported the state average was 70%. He thanked the committee that did some work on it and got the word out about the importance of the Census. He reported the 29% will have to be counted and he stated the census workers would begin knocking on doors and he asked people to please cooperate with them in order to be counted.

Awards and Presentations

Chairman Culver reported the commission was honored to have a visitor, Magnus Lagergren, attending the meeting, and he then introduced him. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Lagergren is from Sweden and is part of a Rotary Exchange and has been in the U. S. for two weeks, and in Dothan since Friday. He stated his Rotary Club's district is hosting his team and they have also sent some people over to Sweden. He stated Rayne McKenzie from WTVY has gone over and is enjoying Sweden's hospitality while Magnus enjoys our area's hospitality. The chairman reported Mr. Lagergren is in government in Sweden and all of the team members are going to various locations for occupational day. He pointed out Mr. Lagergren would be spending the morning at the county and then he will be over at the city for the afternoon. Chairman Culver reported Mr. Lagergren is part of the elected body of his city, and they have a city parliament made up of 65 members. He reported the population of Mr. Lagergren's city is 140,000 which is quite larger than Dothan-Houston County. Chairman Culver presented Mr. Lagergren a pin on behalf of the county commission, and stated he appreciated him coming to Houston County and visiting.

Mr. Lagergren thanked the commission for having him. He reported his region is served by a Royal Governor and she is appointed by the King of Sweden. He reported it has been really nice to be in Alabama and he had never been in the U.S. He reported they came to Montgomery and travelled to Mobile and they were taken on a cruise to Cozumel, Mexico. He reported the Swedish team likes the weather in Houston County and he pointed out two days ago, it was snowing in Sweden. Mr. Lagergren reported the temperature reaches approximately 75 degrees in July. He stated they have cold winters and this past winter, it was 40 below zero. Mr. Lagergren reported they can live in Sweden because of the warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The chairman thanked him for attending the commission meeting.

1. Proclamation – "Law Enforcement Memorial Week" – Sheriff Andy Hughes

Chairman Culver asked Sheriff Andy Hughes to come forward. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming "Law Enforcement Week." Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read and presented the Proclamation to Sheriff Hughes. He thanked the Sheriff for always coming this week to pause and reflect on those law enforcement personnel who serve our county so well, and to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. He also recognized District Attorney, Doug Valeska.

Sheriff Hughes thanked the commission for issuing the Proclamation in observance of "Law Enforcement Memorial Week." He reported in the 107 years the Houston County Sheriff's Department has been in existence, there have been 4 deputies to die in the line of duty in Houston County. He stated they have been lucky to only have had 4 in 107 years, but if the county were truly lucky there would be zero to die in the line of duty. He reported in 1915, Deputy Grady Granger was shot and killed while serving as a Deputy Sheriff. Sheriff Hughes stated in 1916, Deputy Alvin North was shot and killed while performing his duties as a Deputy Sheriff. He reported in 1969, Investigator Garvious Snellgrove suffered a massive heart attack while in route to a burglary in progress call, and in 1980, Lt. Fred McClain suffered a heart attack while fighting an armed individual in the Pansey area while serving as a Deputy Sheriff. Sheriff Hughes stated these individuals gave the ultimate sacrifice by giving up their lives preserving order and serving the citizens in Houston County. At that time, he recognized the families of the four deputies and asked them to please stand. He stated they salute their family, their sacrifice, and their loved ones who gave their lives for the citizens of Houston County. Sheriff Hughes reported there have only been 4 to die in the line of duty and the men and women of the Sheriff's Department face danger on a daily basis. He stated unless someone is in law enforcement, they do not hear the particulars of things that happen and they are out fighting and digging and scratching to protect the citizens everyday. Sheriff Hughes stated as a citizen of Houston County and as the Sheriff he appreciated the sacrifices they make on a daily basis. Sheriff Hughes thanked the commission.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to approve the elimination of one Graduate Registered Engineer P.E. and create one position of Engineering Projects Supervisor with a decrease in funding of \$30,602.00.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to eliminate one Graduate Registered Engineer P.E. and create one position of Engineering Projects Supervisor with a decrease in annual funding of \$30,602.00. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to adopt Resolution approving Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for McLane Distribution Park.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Report for McLane Distribution Park. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

3. Request to award bid for bulk cement.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to award the bid for bulk cement to the low bidder meeting specs, Couch Concrete Materials, in the amount of \$160.00 per ton. Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

4. Request to award bid for thermoplastic pavement marking material.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bid for thermoplastic pavement marking material to the low bidder meeting specs, The Sherwin Williams Company, in the amount of \$890.00 per ton for Yellow Lead Free and \$890.00 per ton for Yellow Leaded Yellow Hydrocarbon Thermoplastic, and \$890 per ton for White Lead Free and \$890.00 per ton for White Leaded White Hydrocarbon Thermoplastic. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Pool to tell everyone what the material is. He stated it is the thermoplastic material that is heated to 450 degrees and is sprayed out on the road to make the yellow stripe. He pointed out it is not paint. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see Bid Summary Sheet in Minute Book)

5. Request to approve agreement with ALDOT for underwater repair to bridges on North County Road #9, Lucy Grade Road, and County Road #203.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the agreement with ALDOT for the underwater repair to bridges on North County Road #9, Lucy Grade Road, and County Road #203. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked if this was flood related? Mr. Pool stated yes. Chairman Culver stated the county is still making repairs from the flood impact over a year ago. Mr. Pool reported they had approximately 23 places left. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

6. Request from EMA to approve grant and the appropriate budget amendment for State Siren Allocation.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from EMA for a grant and the appropriate budget amendment for a State Siren Allocation. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked the amount of the budget amendment? Chairman Culver reported this was a 100% grant and it would be in and out. He asked if they knew the cost? It was reported the amount on the information sheet was \$57,975.69. Mr. Dempsey reported this would be a washout.

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer – there was no report

County Engineer – there was no report

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn.

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

