

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
JULY 10, 2006

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 Roy Roberts, Administrator

ABSENT: None

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

Chairman Culver stated there was a correction on the "Called" meeting minutes. He reported Commissioner Forrester walked in just as the meeting was being adjourned but the commission is going to give him the benefit of the doubt since he came in before the meeting was adjourned. The chairman stated he thought the motion should be for the minutes of the preceding meetings as amended if there were no other corrections. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the preceding meetings as amended. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comment from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver reported the commission had adopted the Resolution to approve participating in the Sales Tax Holiday on the first weekend of August. He reported the proper resolutions were sent off to the State Department of Revenue and AlaTax. He encouraged everyone to come to Dothan/Houston County and buy their back to school supplies and items on August 4th-6th. Chairman Culver reported the school supplies as stipulated in the law will be absent any sales tax in the City of Dothan and Houston County. He stated he did not know what some of the other municipalities had done. Mr. Roberts reported the list of items should be on the website by the end of the day.

The chairman stated work was continuing on the parking lot and he asked Mr. Pool for a report. Mr. Pool reported they would be putting down the asphalt this week if the weather cooperated.

Awards and Presentations

1. Employee Recognition – Community Corrections/Work Release

Mr. Gary Knight, Director, reported they have a special employee who has worked with them for approximately two years. He stated that she has worked as

an administrative assistant and had begun work as a case file manager with the women in the Community Corrections Program. He pointed out she had exhibited extreme professionalism as well as positive and christian values. He then recognized Ms. Rachel Ford for her excellence and dedication in her job performance. Ms. Ford thanked Mr. Knight. She stated she was thankful for the opportunity she had been given and was excited about the experience she was about to approach and the opportunities that these will open up for the female inmates. Ms. Ford received a round of applause.

2. Employee of the Month – Road and Bridge Department.

Mr. Pool stated he was not present but would be in attendance before the meeting was adjourned. The chairman stated he would delay this item.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint an alternate to SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission's Board of Directors.

Chairman Culver reported Thursday when they met he had a couple of options and it turns out that neither of those would work. He requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request to raise maximum amount paid to part time employees under the Employees Retirement System.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to raise the maximum amount paid to part time employees under the Employees Retirement System. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts asked the effective date for the increase? Chairman Culver reported he thought it should be made effective the next payroll if there were no objections. The chairman stated when an employee has participated in the State Retirement Program the state will only allow you to make a certain amount of money and participate in that program. He reported in the past, it is beneficial to the county for the quality of work and from a cost perspective to hire people who have been in the retirement system, and have always passed this increase. Chairman Culver reported this increase will go from \$19,000 to \$20,000. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Liquor License Request – Club Liquor-Class II (For Profit Club) – Bobby Smith, Inc. d/b/a The 500 Club – 71 Marshall Road – Houston County.

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to approve the license request for a Club Liquor-Class II (For Profit Club) for Bobby Smith, Inc. d/b/a The 500 Club – 71

Marshall Road, Houston County. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from Revenue Commissioner – annual approval of Errors, Insolvents, Litigations, Supplements and Escape reports.

Chairman Culver reported this is done annually. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Revenue Commissioner to approve the annual list of Errors, Insolvents, Litigations, Supplements and Escape reports. Commissioner Cook seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Board of Education to dispose of 1983 International dump truck.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from the Board of Education to dispose of a 1983 International dump truck. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the Board of Education is going to dispose of the truck or if they wanted permission to take care of it themselves? Mr. Pool reported the Board of Education has already sold it on the Woods Auction site for \$350.00. Chairman Culver reported the reason the commission is involved in it is because evidently this was an exchange or swap that was done a year or so after he came into office. He stated he did not remember it. The chairman reported the truck has belonged to the Board of Education but the commission held the title on it, and this is basically transferring the title so they can get rid of it. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request from EMA to purchase one laptop computer.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request from EMA to purchase one laptop computer. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Culver reported this would be through a grant.

7. Request to approve Final Plat of Garden of Eden Subdivision as a private road subdivision. (Subdivision is in the Town of Kinsey).

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Final Plat of the Garden of Eden Subdivision as a private road subdivision located in the Town of Kinsey. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove stated there have been questions about this and he asked for an explanation. Mr. Pool reported the contact person for the subdivision could not come up with the bond to produce the two year warranty the county requires, and they want to go private. He stated they have said that later they will buy the bond and then it will go back to a public road but they will have the two year warranty at that point. Commissioner Snellgrove asked Mr. Pool if the county was going to look at

changing some of the subdivision regulations because of this situation? He asked if it was going to bring on some changes to probably prevent this from occurring in the future? Mr. Pool stated his staff had a list of some minor technical things to possibly change. He stated he thought in the future that the county probably needs to eliminate having private roads. He asked the commission to think about it. He reported in 30 years if the developer is gone, and there is no maintenance on the road, there could be major problems with the residents needing garbage and emergency services. He stated he thought when the road needs to be resurfaced they would come back to the county. Mr. Pool reported if the county had been doing some maintenance all along the road would have had a longer life. Mr. Pool pointed out this is the first time this situation has occurred and they never anticipated anyone going public and going through the whole process and switch back to private. He reported the subdivision meets all of the county's regulations. Commissioner Snellgrove stated his concern is that the county has spent quite a few man hours and it escalates into dollars for the road and bridge department. He reported now the developer wants it to be a private subdivision and the county has done work for a private individual. He reported his concern is that the subdivision regulations be changed in the future where they put up a bond to pay the county for the work that is involved from the road and bridge department if they do withdraw from the county's subdivision regulations and go back to a private road. Mr. Pool stated that if the county eliminates private roads, the problem will be solved. Commissioner Snellgrove stated there is a serious problem in the Wicksburg area that the county has been facing the last several years and trying to determine what to do with it. Chairman Culver reported he felt it is an issue the commission needs to talk about.

Mr. Blair, Garden of Eden Subdivision, reported they did go through the process of having this subdivision as a public subdivision with a public maintained road. He stated the last stipulation required was a maintenance bond, and his company has run into barrier after barrier where there is not a company that is issuing that type of bond. He stated that is the problem; not that they did not want the bond or could not get the bond to secure the road. He reported the alternatives were that they could either secure the bond for this road with cash or a surety bond. He stated the option that his company was taking was to do the bond, and after a nation wide search they did not secure the maintenance bond. He reported as an investor building the subdivision he did not have a window of opportunity to continue to pursue a maintenance bond to get the road approved while he waited to sell lots. Mr. Blair reported his agenda is to get the homeowners in who do want to buy lots and when his window of credit opens up again he will go back through the same process with the road that was built to the county's specifications and turn it back over with a surety. He stated he did not have any intention of selling a subdivision and abandoning the road. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Request to grade road for Troy University to transmitter site.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to grade the road for Troy University to the transmitter site. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this road is located in Wicksburg, and the county has done this in the past. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Request to approve preliminary Plat of Taylor Crossing Subdivision.
(Located in the Town of Taylor).

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request to approve the Preliminary Plat of the Taylor Crossing Subdivision located in the Town of Taylor. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Request to approve tower space lease in Webb.

Chairman Culver reported this is located on the tower at the old WTVY building. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the tower space lease in Webb. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

a. County Administrator

Mr. Roberts reported the county had another good month on sales tax revenues in the nine and ten percent range. He pointed out it pulls the average up but it is not as good as in '02-'03, '03-'04, and '04-'05. Mr. Roberts reported the additional revenue will help the school systems and will help to offset a shortfall in road and bridge revenues in the gas tax.

b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported they would be concentrating on completing the parking lot this week.

c. County Attorney – there was no report

It was reported the Road and Bridge Employee of the Month was present. Mr. Pool asked Mr. Charles Hooker to come forward and presented him with the "Employee of the Month" Certificate. Mr. Pool reported Mr. Hooker started with the county in 1997 as a laborer and had worked up to an Operator II. He stated he does an excellent job. Mr. Hooker received a round of applause and thanked Mr. Pool for the award.

Adjourn

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