

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 22, 2007

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, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: None

Chairman Mark Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, established that a quorum was present, and welcomed everyone. Chairman Culver gave the invocation, and Commissioner Forrester led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting and the minutes of the Executive Session. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Chairman Culver extended congratulations to the newly crowned Ms. National Peanut Festival Queen, Ms. Madison Wester of Grand Ridge, Florida. He stated it was his understanding she is the first queen from Grand Ridge to have ever been selected as the peanut queen. He also congratulated Ms. Houston County, Ms. Ashley Silavent, who was selected First Runner-Up, and Ms. Dothan, Ms. Ashley Davis, who was selected Third Runner-Up.

The chairman reported Houston County is the awarding authority for the county bids for the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. He stated bids were opened on Friday, and they will be reviewed and evaluated and will be awarded at the second meeting in November.

Chairman Culver reported he had met with the Houston County Rescue Squad Friday afternoon and they looked at the Maintenance Department's vehicle that would be replaced. He reported he had talked with Mr. Paul Grimes earlier that morning and he was going to get back with the chairman about the vehicle. The chairman stated he had told Mr. Grimes they could also look at an Expedition the county will be replacing located out at the Road and Bridge Department. Chairman Culver reported in addition to that, the county is evaluating the cost they had on new vehicles to see if the county can assist them in getting a better price. The chairman reported he had made a couple of calls to try to get them some funding for a new vehicle. He stated the process is ongoing and will continue as the commission tries to assist the Houston County Rescue Squad.

Awards and Presentations

1. Proclamation – “Red Ribbon Week” – Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Youth Partnership, Ms. Beth Ford, Youth Council Coordinator, and Thomas Mann – Youth Council Co-President

Chairman Culver asked Mrs. Susan Trawick, Executive Director, Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Youth Partnership, Ms. Beth Ford, Youth Council Coordinator, and Thomas Mann, Youth Council Co-President, to come forward. Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring October 23<sup>rd</sup> thru October 31<sup>st</sup>, as “Red Ribbon Week.” Commissioner Forrester seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Culver then read the Proclamation and presented it.

Mrs. Trawick thanked the Commission for their support and invited them to the “Red Ribbon Week” kickoff at the Dothan Civic Center at 6:30 P.M. She stated they looked forward to what they hoped would be many years of a community wide kickoff event.

Ms. Beth Ford thanked the Commission for the Proclamation, and introduced Mr. Thomas Mann-Co-President of the Youth Council. Mr. Mann thanked the commission for issuing the Proclamation and he stated “Red Ribbon Week” affords their organization the opportunity to try to influence and encourage the youth in the community not to use drugs. He stated drugs affect everyone in large cities as well as rural areas. Mr. Mann stated by proclaiming “Red Ribbon Week” the commission is taking part in efforts to bring an end to drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. He thanked the commission for all of their support.

Chairman Culver congratulated Mrs. Trawick again for all the work their organization does in helping our youth. He stated Mr. Mann and the many others who serve on the youth council give great hope for the future of our youth.

#### Regular Agenda

1. Request to award bids on three laptop computers for EMA, 1 laptop computer for Commission, and patrol cars for Sheriff’s Department.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to award the bids on three laptop computers for EMA to Howard Computers, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1,370.00 each, 1 computer for the commission to Tech Depot, low bidder meeting specs, in the amount of \$1,420.20, and for the patrol cars for the Sheriff’s Department to Bondy’s Ford, only bidder, in the amount of \$21,303.55 each. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Roberts about the laptop for the commission? Mr. Roberts stated it is for annual reports, budget work, and it will also be used by other departments in the Commission Chambers. Commissioner Snellgrove asked for the number of patrol cars? It was reported there were 7. The chairman called for the question;

and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

2. Request to adopt Resolution granting 2007 retiree longevity bonus.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the Resolution to grant the 2007 retiree longevity bonus. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked about the cost? Mr. Roberts reported there were 135 retirees, and he stated the average was about \$200 each totaling approximately \$30,000 to \$32,000. Chairman Culver reported this was discussed Thursday, and rather than give a cost of living increase to retirees this year, they passed a law based on years of service that they would receive a bonus. He reported the bonus does not impact the retirement system's costs, medical costs, and other things and they will save money long term. The chairman called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see Resolution in Minute Book)

3. Request to approve Memo of Understanding between Houston County and the City of Dothan regarding water projects.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to grant the request to approve the Memo of Understanding between Houston County and the City of Dothan regarding water projects. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported as the commission has discussed, this is a big water project and is also a big step toward the goal of a county-wide water system to serve our citizens and be available for the fire departments to provide service. He reported in this particular case, the City of Dothan has agreed to share in this project with the county that will basically cover the northern half of the panhandle out to Wicksburg and an area southeast of Dothan below Cowarts. Chairman Culver stated he appreciated the city partnering with the county assuming they approve it at their meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The chairman pointed out in the next couple of weeks, the commission would also be discussing another pretty significant project that Taylor is proposing. The chairman pointed out this is only their second year of efforts to put in lines. He reported with these two projects along with a grant application that the county has submitted to run some lines below Ashford, they have really made some good strides toward a county-wide water system. He then commended the commission. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from the Jail to extend Food Service Agreement for an additional year.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Jail to extend the food service agreement for an additional year. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts reported it was an increase of 1.63 cents per

meal. He pointed out it is based on the southeastern region change in the Consumer Price Index for food which was close to a 2% increase. Chairman Culver called for the motion; and it carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

5. Request from Sheriff to change one of 3 LPN positions from part-time to full-time through the appropriate budget amendment.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Sheriff to change one of three LPN positions from part-time to full-time through the appropriate budget amendment. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Chairman Culver reported this budget amendment was not for additional money; but to change the position. He stated there is enough money in the budget to cover it and he stated he thought the intent was for this to be full-time in the beginning. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached budget amendment in Minute Book)

6. Liquor License Request – Retail Beer (Off Premises Only) - Pansey Grocery BP Bait and Tackle LLC d/b/a Pansey Grocery – 13076 U.S. Highway 84 East – Ashford, AL

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the Retail Beer License (Off Premises Only) for Pansey Grocery BP Bait and Tackle LLC d/b/a Pansey Grocery located at 13076 U. S. Highway 84 East, Ashford, Alabama. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Staff Reports:

- a. Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Roberts reported October 21<sup>st</sup> was Mrs. Joan Clark's birthday, and he wished her a Happy Birthday.

- b. County Engineer

Mr. Pool reported work would begin on Headland Avenue on October 24<sup>th</sup> provided there was good weather. Chairman Culver reported the commission appreciated the media helping to notify the public. Mr. Pool stated the work would be ongoing for approximately a month. He pointed out for about two weeks there would be some delays because there would be only one lane open to traffic. Chairman Culver asked everyone to be careful and pay attention to traffic flow as they go and come out of Headland Avenue.

- c. County Attorney – There was no report.

Chairman Culver stated he failed to recognize Mr. Pool's birthday at the last meeting. Commissioner Snellgrove reported October 22nd was Commissioner Harvey's birthday, and the commission wished him a Happy Birthday.

#### Recess

Commissioner Forrester made a motion to recess the regular meeting and to reconvene at 1:30 P.M. to go into Executive Session to discuss the general reputation and character, physical condition, mental health, and job performance of an individual. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

#### Adjourn.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn from the Regular Session and the Executive Session at 3:35 P.M. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.