

MINUTES OF HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 28, 2005

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 Culver called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order and after establishing a quorum was present welcomed everyone. Mr. James Etheridge gave the invocation. Commissioner Snellgrove led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairman and Commissioners

Ms. Cathy Cole, Executive Director, The Downtown Group, addressed the commission on A Downtown Christmas. She pointed out The Downtown Group and the City of Dothan are partnering to bring the event which is scheduled for December 2nd and 3rd. Ms. Cole invited everyone downtown to participate and stated this would be family oriented. She stated she hoped it would be the beginning of many good things to come downtown.

Chairman Culver reported the commission had been notified of two Christmas parades. He stated that the Ashford Christmas Parade would also be held on December 3rd. He stated that Mrs. Becky Alloway and her group from the Ashford Chamber of Commerce had worked very hard on the event. The chairman invited anyone interested to attend.

The Chairman reported the Town of Gordon's Christmas Parade would be held on December 10th at 12:00 Noon and invited anyone who wished to come.

Consent Agenda

1. Request to award bid for 9 vehicles for Sheriff's Department to low bidder meeting specs (8 white and 1 black)
2. Request to award bid for track mounted excavator with hydraulic bucket thumb to low bidder meeting specs.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached Bid Summary Sheets in Minute Book)

Regular Agenda

1. Request to adopt Resolution renewing franchise agreements in Houston County.

Chairman Culver reported there were a couple of drafts on this and Attorney Sherrer had arrived at one he was comfortable with on the county's behalf. He stated that he had e-mailed it to the 3 cable companies that provide service to Houston County and asked for their input, and he had not heard from any of them. He reported Mr. James Etheridge, GraCeba, is present. Chairman Culver stated he would go on the assumption that the agreement is satisfactory to all 3 cable companies. The chairman stated it was his understanding from talking with our attorney, that the county has authority only in unincorporated areas of the county no matter where the county's roads are. He stated if the county chose to do so they could enter into negotiations with the city for them to give the county the funds they are collecting on the county's roads. Mr. Culver stated that he thought it would be through an agreement between the county and the city. He reported the county's authority does not go into any city limits only in the unincorporated areas. Chairman Culver asked Mr. Sherrer if the county was adopting the resolution and not the agreement? Mr. Sherrer reported resolution is a franchise resolution. Commissioner Cook made a motion to adopt the resolution renewing the franchise agreements in Houston County. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded the motion. Mr. Pool asked Mr. Sherrer why is this only for cable television? Mr. Pool asked about water lines? Mr. Sherrer stated it was for cable tv because that was what was presented to him to have done. He reported a separate type of arrangement would be needed for water lines. He stated he has not looked into the law regarding the water lines. Chairman Culver reported that this particular act only relates to cable companies. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see in Resolution Book)

2. Request to approve pass through for RC&D funding for Columbia.

Chairman Culver reported the local 7 county RC&D Board approved a project for the Town of Columbia to do some recreational work. He stated because the county made the request, the county also has to be the receiving entity. Chairman Culver stated the county would do the things necessary to accept the money and pass it through to the Town of Columbia and pass it through for their recreational facility. He pointed out two other projects that were funded—a recreational project in Gordon and a project at Hidden Lake Elementary School. Commissioner Snellgrove stated the money will not be paid until the receipt of the invoice is received. Chairman Culver reported they had changed the method in that they will only pay up to 50% of the project cost. He pointed out they do it only after the invoices have been paid. The chairman reported 3 or 4 years ago, the county received \$2,000 to go toward the sign at the distribution park. He

stated that money was provided up front and it took the county a while to finalize the sign. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the pass through for RC&D funding for Columbia. Commissioner Forrester seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request to approve position for Maintenance Secretary at a grade 14.

Chairman Culver reported it would be a budget amendment to approve the position at a grade 14 instead of a 13 which was approved in the budget. He stated that the request came to the Commission at budget time at a 13 and having gone to the Personnel Board it should have been a grade 14. Chairman Culver stated the commission may have to come back and make an additional monetary adjustment depending on how the advertising goes. He reported this would get the position to the right scale. Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the request to approve the position for Maintenance Secretary at a grade 14. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Snellgrove asked if the position would be advertised in-house first and then outside advertising? Chairman Culver reported the Personnel Director is present and she stated inside advertising would be done first. Chairman Culver called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request to receive December 23rd as a Holiday and to discuss 2006 Holiday schedule.

Chairman Culver reported this could be done in one motion or two. He reported historically the commission has given Christmas Eve off to the county employees as does the state and other entities. He pointed out this year, Christmas Eve falls on Saturday and the request would be to allow the employees to be off on Friday, December 23rd. Chairman Culver reported the county will be closed December 26th, in recognition of Christmas Day which falls on Sunday. The chairman reported the Personnel Board establishes the county's holiday schedule, and in the past have had various holidays different from the state. He stated since the county is an arm of the state and most everything the county does, from Probate to Revenue, Community Corrections, the Courthouse and various offices, everything relates to the state. He asked the commission to consider sending a letter to the Personnel Board that the county adhere to the state holidays except for Mardi Gras. Mr. Culver reported that would mean two or three additional holidays for county employees. He stated as discussed on Wednesday, it is difficult for many of the departments to get anything done on days the state is closed. The chairman reported in addition, the courthouse is always closed which creates additional confusion. Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve December 23rd as a holiday and to ask the Personnel Board to establish the county's holidays as the same as the state with the exception of Mardi Gras. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request to approve preliminary plat for "Garden of Eden" Subdivision on Walden Drive in Kinsey.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for "Garden of Eden" Subdivision on Walden Drive in Kinsey. Commissioner Snellgrove seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Request to approve preliminary plat for "Southern Hills" Subdivision, Phase 2, on County Road #203 in Rehobeth.

Commissioner Cook made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for "Southern Hills" Subdivision, Phase 2, on County Road #203 in Rehobeth. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to allow J.M. Wood Auction Co., Inc. to sell one Mack dump truck at auction.

Commissioner Snellgrove made a motion to approve the request to allow J.M. Wood Auction Co., Inc. to sell one Mack dump truck at auction. Commissioner Harvey seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports from Staff:

County Administrator

There was no report.

County Engineer

There was no report.

County Attorney

Chairman Culver asked the status of the Courthouse closure? Mr. Sherrer reported he had met with the architect earlier in the day and he has received some wording on the warranty for the moisture control. He reported he would be meeting with the architect sometime in the next couple of days to try to look behind the wording. He asked the commission to keep in mind that Great American, the bonding company's lawyer, is from New York and there may be some additional delays in getting that from him. Mr. Sherrer stated the county's part should be completed this week and sent to the bonding company's attorney. He stated some of the language received was solicited from the bonding company and they are already participating. Chairman Culver reminded Mr. Sherrer there will be one meeting in December and if it is not done by the meeting date, then it will be 2006 before it is done. He asked Mr. Culver to follow up with the bonding company's attorney.

Commissioner Snellgrove stated he thought the discussion on the courthouse smoking had some impact because when he came by earlier there was no one out there smoking. Chairman Culver stated he had some conversation with Judge Anderson and he pointed out if there is a "No Smoking" sign down there it is not big enough to let people know that the smoking area is around to the north. He asked Mr. Curtis to make the smoking area more aware.

Adjourn.

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