

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2009
9:30 A.M. EST.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Commissioners present were Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Peggy Martin, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Also present were Attorney Robert Lane and the County Administrator LeAnn Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chairman Dudley requested an approval of the agenda. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Judd Stinson, Pastor of Summerville United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

Chairman Dudley welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

Chairman Dudley requested a motion for the approval of the January 28th, 2009 meeting minutes. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to amend the County Commission Vehicle. The second paragraph should be eliminated from the policy since a state law exists concerning the reimbursement of miles. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, no; District 6 (Dudley), voted yes; District 7, (Screws) abstained. The motion carried.

Peggy Seymour from the Revenue Commission requested approval for the annual resolution to collect Ad Valorem tax for the next taxable year. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

The Russell County Utilities Board appointment was presented by utilities manager, Roger Conner. Mr. Conner stated Mr. E.L. Tolbert has expressed a desire to continue to serve on the board. Commissioner Lee motioned to reappoint Mr. Tolbert to the utility board and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley), voted yes; District 7, (Screws) voted, yes. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lee motioned to table the book binding for the Probate Office until the County Administrator has presented the budget report. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

The County Administrator LeAnn Horne reported the County's 2008-2009 budget was continuing to improve. Due to family emergencies and the county offices moving, she has requested an approval to table a full budget report until the next commission meeting. She has worked on the requested budget reduction but would like to meet with department heads before bringing the report back to the commission for approval. Commissioner Martin motioned to table the budget report until the next meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to remove the book binding issue from the table and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Dudley stated: At the last work session we were presented with the issue of book binding, which is a continuing process in the Probate Office. In light of the budget reductions, we need to make a decision if this procedure should be discontinued or not.

Judge Harden explained: The only area he would be able to cut his budget was the binding of the books. That matter needs to be decided today instead of letting the process continue. Chairman Dudley acknowledged that he felt it was important to continue to take care of these records and hope it will continue. Commissioner Lee affirmed he had reviewed the budget and motioned to continue the book binding; if it should need to be cut in the future, ample time will be given to have it stopped. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

The Russell County Sports Complex Agreement was discussed by the interim County Attorney Robert Lane. The agreement has been established to protect the investment the County has made in Sports Complex, by requiring the leagues to take the responsibility of maintaining complex, until the County can afford to establish a recreation department. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agreement between the Russell County Commission and the Russell County Ball Association for one year. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Martin requested a copy of the liability insurance, which is required in the agreement, to be on file in the County Administrator's office. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lane presented the resolution renaming the court house and the new county offices. He recommended February 23rd, 2009 as the date to rename these buildings which will be the first full week of operation. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the resolution to rename the old courthouse The Russell County Judicial Center and name the new building the Russell County Courthouse was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

James McGill announced the concession stand at the Sports Complex will be landscaped before the April dedication.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.