

Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2011
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order in the County Commission Chambers at the Russell County Courthouse. The following Commissioners were present: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Also present were The County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne kept the minutes of the meeting.

County Administrator Horne established a quorum was present.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Invocation was provided by Tommy Poole, Pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Chair Martin welcomed department heads, elected officials, media and visitors.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the September 28th, 2011 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee stated because the Commission received the minutes this morning and with a quick reading he could see some wording may need to be changed, therefore he motioned for the minutes be tabled until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced Veteran's Appreciation Day will be held Saturday October 15th at the Fort Mitchell Fire Department and Community Center. In honor of this day a proclamation was created. County Administrator Horne read the proclamation. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed honored members of the Giving Back Social Club by presenting certificates of recognition to each of them for their service to the community.

Probate Judge Alford Harden Jr. discussed the Alabama's Immigration Law and the impact it has with services provided in the Courthouse.

Commissioner Epps was unable to stay for the entire meeting. Before Mrs. Epps left, she announced she will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the Mount Olive Primary School October 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Judge Harden stated RDS, Revenue Discovery Systems, which is under contract for the collection of unpaid business license for the last 2 years. During the process they have collected 2011 business license fees which do not fall under the contract. Judge Harden requested that the Commission approve to waive the late fees for the businesses that fees were collected by RDS. Commissioner Lee motioned to waive late fees for those who bought their 2011 license from RDS, if they can show the business license was bought before the due date. Commissioner Pugh requested Judge Harden to provide an estimate of the amount collected by RDS for business license fees. Commissioner Lee withdrew his motion since there was not a second.

Paulette Colbert requested approval for the Tag Office annual software maintenance contract with S&W for the Tag Office. This contract was included in the 2011-2012 budget. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the contract and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott also requested an approval for the S&W contract for the Revenue Department. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne also requested approval for the annual S&W Contract for the Mapping /Appraisal Department. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed presented an Attorney General's Opinion for the Commission's review. Commissioner Reed stated though there was not enough time to complete the redistricting process before the March 2012 elections, the district lines can be approved now.

Commissioner Lee motioned to postpone the redistricting process until after the General Election in November 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) left the meeting earlier; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 1 no vote the motion passed.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend requested a permanent injunction against Crawford Appliance due to the numerous filed complaints, 15-20 verbal warning, as well as 10 health violations.

Commissioner Lee motioned to table this item until the next meeting, since the District 6 Commissioner was unaware of the complaint against the business which is located in his district. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented the results of the September 15th, 2011 Uniform Rental Bid. Mr. Kite recommended the bid be awarded to G&K Services, who was the low bidder. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Kite's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the 2012 holiday schedule. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee asked for an amendment to the motion stating the Commission will adopt the State Holiday Schedule since the State will sometimes add days to the schedule. Commissioner Dudley agreed to adjust the motion and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

The vote was called to accept the 2012 State Holiday Schedule with any changes the State may make to their schedule. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne also presented the 2011 Bank Depositories for approval. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the bank depositories and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk distributed a draft of the Utility Board Contract and board appointment method. In attempt to correct the Utility Board Contract, a resolution has been created authorizing the Utility Board to modify the 1979 resolution in which the Chairman of the Commission was also the Chairman of the Utility Board.

Mr. Funderburk suggested the Chairman of the Commission become an ex officio officer, a nonvoting position, who will have the function of calling and conducting all the board meetings.

Another change to the contract is to clarify that this is contract for services and will be operated under a separate ID number and also to distinguish which employees fall under the contract. If this draft is approved it will be presented to the Utility Board's attorney, Rick Chancey for review by the Board.

The third change is the authorization of two additional board members, whose appointment must have the majority vote of the Commission. Mr. Funderburk also discussed the terms and qualifications of the nominees.

Commissioner Pugh suggested this is a topic to be discussed at a work session to clarify what is being voted on.

Commissioner Lee stated he did not understand why this is being done. There was a minor procedure problem that has since been corrected. The board has been operating and is financially sound. Why change it?

Mr. Funderburk stated this was also at the request of the Utility Board's attorney, Mr. Rick Chancey.

Commissioner Dudley motioned to present this at a work session in great detail before a decision is made. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Mr. Funderburk asked if the Commission would prefer this discussion to be in an executive session or work session.

Commissioner Dudley stated he felt it should be at executive session to be fair and thorough.

Commissioner Lee suggested the Utility Board and their attorney should be present at the executive session.

The vote was taken by the Administrator Horne. The vote was unanimous.

The new Manager of the Russell County Utilities, Kevin Dabbs, was present at the meeting and introduced himself to the Commission.

Chair Martin announced Phenix City will host it's 3rd Annual Veteran's Day Parade, November 12th at 10:00 a.m. The route will be the same as the Christmas Parade beginning in Phenix City and ending in Columbus. The City has requested that businesses participate by decorating their store fronts with patriotic themes, signs and the donation of small flags to be passed out to onlookers. Phenix City will decorate the intersections with yellow ribbons. Decorations are to remain up for the entire week of Veteran's Day. The City is also requesting citizens to participate.

Commissioner Pugh requested a proclamation for a private citizen who has donated approximately \$50,000 in usable equipment to the county, to be presented at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Pugh announced he would run for District 2 Commissioner, again.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.