

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2010
9:30 A.M. EDT

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission meeting was called to order and a short Veteran's Day observance was held.

The Russell County High School ROTC presented colors and led The Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was led by Chair Martin and County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk.

The invocation was given by Judy Hay, Pastor of Sherwood Presbyterian Church.

The program was closed by the Russell County ROTC Color Guard retiring the colors.

Public comments:

Pastor Johnnie Robinson invited the Commission to attend a meeting on November 20, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. EDT in the old Columbus Visitor's Center on Victory Drive. The speaker is the Director of the V.A. Hospital in Tuskegee; who will discuss the location of the new V.A. Hospital. The community is also invited.

Chair Martin presented proclamations honoring the oldest veterans in our area, Commander Elmer L. Garnett of the VFW Post 5797 and Adjunct Carson Mitchell from the American Legion Post 135.

The meeting began with the roll call of Commissioners. Members present:: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Also present were County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and the County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

Chair Martin requested approval of the agenda. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the October 13, 2010 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Pugh stated he spoke to the County Attorney and the Administrator prior to today's meeting and would like for the Attorney to address this.

Attorney Funderburk stated:

- Paragraph 5, if the Administrator should be discharged before the expiration of her contract that this means she would receive the balance of her year.
- There were two paragraphs which stated the same issue; one will be deleted.

Commissioner Lee stated, with that interpretation of the Administrator's contract for the official minutes I move to approve the October 13th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the October 27th, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Jail Administrator Lt. Loetta Holland requested to let bids for the Annual Jail Food & Supply bid, to be opened December 10, 2010 in the Commission Chamber at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the bid request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Homeland Security Director William Alexander announced Russell County has awarded a grant through the Alabama Department of Homeland Security for a school bus tracking system. This system will allow children to be tracked boarding and departing from the school buses as well as track the buses. He requested to let bids for the tracking system and opening those bids on December 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Bids will be brought before the Commission for approval on December 22, 2010. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the bid. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Six Commissioners voted yes with one abstention from Commissioner Screws. The motioned passed.

Hecht-Burdeshaw Architect Scott Holmes presented the contract approval for the Judicial Center Renovation Project. MWC Construction Company was the low bidder for the project at the amount of \$6,312,000 which was over the budget, so he recommended accepting deductive alternate # 5 (\$44,000) which will delete the locking system for the holding cells. Therefore, this will decrease the amount to \$6,268,000. All bonds and insurance requirements have been met by the contractor. If the Commission approves this contract, notice of the approval will be sent to MWC and work will begin as soon as possible. The completion date of the Judicial Center project is approximately January 1, 2012 and the contractor has agreed to the completion date. County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated,

because the contract is very lengthy, a copy will be available for Commissioners to review in the Commission Office. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the contract and for the Chair to execute documents. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed announced Russell County has been awarded a grant for the Russell County Sport Complex in the amount of \$250,000 with no match. He also thanked Mrs. Horne for submitting and obtaining the grant funds for the County.

Commissioner Screws concurred with Commissioner Reed and extended appreciation to: James McGill, Carla Thomas and Mik Cole for their contributions.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne requested approval for the 2011 Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the schedule and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Horne announced the Courthouse will be closed November 11th, 2010 in observance of Veteran's Day also; the Governor has given all State and County Offices November 25th and 26th Thanksgiving holidays; therefore, the Courthouse will also be closed those days.

Commissioner Epps stated November 18th and 19th a community food and clothes give-a-way will be held at St. John's Methodist Church.

Bill Friend announced Ft. Mitchell Fire Department will hold a benefit breakfast Saturday, November 13th, 2010 to raise funds for their Department.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.