

Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2010
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public Comments were made by: Arthur Bickerstaff, Owen Ditchfield, Antonio Carter, Mel Long, Dr. Janet M. Jackson and Roger Martin, who were opposed to the construction of a proposed landfill in South Phenix City.

Hugh Sorrell spoke in favor of the landfill's construction.

The Russell County Commission meeting was called to order. Members present were: 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 the Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin stated due to a family emergency Barbara Scott who was to present the (GIS) Delta Grant is not present and requested to place her item on the next Commission Meeting agenda. Chair Martin requested an approval of the agenda as amended. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Jimmie Hobbs, Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiances was led by Commissioner Pugh.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the November 10, 2010, meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The Farm-City Week Proclamation was read by the Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioners Dudley and Epps. The vote to approve the Farm-City Week Proclamation was unanimous and presented to Caroline Batcheldor, Ted Gilbert and Trelle Cavallaro.

Commissioner Reed gave an update on the E 911 System.

Hugh Sorrell requested approval to hold a public hearing in the Commission Chambers.

Commissioner Lee stated he would like for the hearing to be scheduled for a different time, not before a work session. Due to the nature of the hearing, time should be allowed for all public comments.

Commissioner Pugh stated he was not opposed to the hearing being held prior to the regular Commission Meeting and afterward going into the business meeting. This should prevent duplication of public comments.

Commissioner Dudley agreed with Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Pugh; the meeting should be held so there will be ample time for all comments and information to be heard.

Chair Martin stated she understood the hearing could be set at the Commission's convenience in January.

Commissioner Lee suggested holding the meeting the week before the Commission Meeting, January 4th, 5th, or 6th before the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Screws also approved of setting a separate date.

Commissioner Pugh stated if a public date is not set within 90 days, then Earth Services, LLC can go ahead with construction of the landfill.

Commissioner Epps is in support of the public hearing, but would like as suggested earlier during public comments to have someone with un-bias information in this area to educate the public as well as the Commission so informative opinions could be formed. Commissioner Reed agreed with her statement.

After more discussion concerning the date and time a motion was made Commissioner Epps motioned to set the public hearing January 10th, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to hold the public hearing January 10th, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. prior to the work session. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) abstained, District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 6 votes yes and one abstention, the motion passed.

Chair Martin appointed a Sports Complex Hiring Committee which consists of Commissioner Screws, Max Wilkes and herself. The purpose of the committee is to set a job description and review applicants for the Russell County Recreational Manager. The first meeting of this committee will be held in December 2010. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the committee. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Engineer Larry Kite presented a request from the Alabama Power Company for the Commission to grant an easement on Meadow Park Drive. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin stated the Commission had received a memorandum from the Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, which states she is granting additional Christmas Holiday time for all UJS Officials and Employees. The addition is ½ day December 23rd, and 1 full day December 31st, 2010; to their already scheduled December 24th Christmas Holiday. Commissioner Screws motioned to accept the Christmas and New Year's Holiday leave as presented by the Chief Justice. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The annual election of Chair and Vice Chair was preformed. Commissioner Reed nominated Commissioner Martin as Chair. Commissioner Pugh nominated Commissioner Dudley as Chair. Commissioner Reed motioned to close the nominations and was seconded by Commissioner Epps.

3 Votes were taken for Commissioner Dudley. 4 votes were taken for Commissioner Martin. Commissioner Martin will remain the Chair for 2011.

Commissioner Pugh nominated Commissioner Lee as Vice Chair. Commissioner Dudley motioned to close the nominations and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. There were 6 votes for Commissioner Lee; therefore he will remain Vice Chair for 2011.

Chair Martin announced County Offices will be closed November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned.

November Checks
General Fund 001

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