

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2009
9:30 A.M. EST

Public Comments made by:

- Hayward Hudson, Vice-president of the Russell County Democratic Conference discussed inaction of the Commission for Jimmy Lee Long and Hovet Dixon, who were fired from the Engineering Department several years ago.
- Ben Baker discussed issues concerning the Rabies Officer from Shelby County.
- Sheriff Boswell thanked and welcomed back Deputy Tim Watford, who has returned from deployment in Iraq.
- Commissioner Epps asked the County Attorney to address comments made by Mr. Hudson.

County Attorney Funderburk stated this case is pending in Federal Court and Mr. Hudson knows this is not the proper forum for trying of the case. The law does not allow the Commission to hire or fire employees within the Engineering Department.

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

A quorum was established.

Chairman Dudley added the results of the Owens Road Public Hearing as a Business Item to the agenda and requested a motion to approve the agenda with the added item. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Dan Deliz, Pastor of Sunderland Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Heath Taylor.

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

County Administrator LeAnn Horne recommended, due to the meeting length, that November 12, 2009 meeting minutes be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Betty Wilson, Caroline Batchelder and Mr. Gilbert from the Russell County Extension Office were present to receive The Farm City Week Proclamation. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve a proclamation to be presented to the Trinity United Methodist Church at the December 6th, Dedication Ceremony. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the recommendation of vacating a section of Owens Road with a written easement by owner as discussed in the Public Hearing prior to the regular Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Boswell presented a request to approve a maintenance expense requisition for the jail. The requisition is for painting the fence surrounding the

exercise yard and is in the amount of \$8,120. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the requisition. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws motioned to reappoint Rick Perry as the District 7 Planning Commission appointment. Seconded By Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Dudley opened the floor for the 2010 Commission Chairman nominations.

Commissioner Pugh nominated Commissioner Dudley as Chair.

Commissioner Reed nominated Commissioner Martin.

Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nominations and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Votes for Commissioner Martin were: District 1 (Lee), District 3 (Martin), District 4 (Reed) and District 5 (Epps). Commissioner Martin became Chair for 2010.

Votes for Commissioner Dudley were: District 2 (Pugh), District 6 (Dudley) and District 7(Screws).

Commissioner Dudley opened the floor for Vice-chair nominations.

Commissioner Reed nominated Commissioner Lee as Vice-chair.

Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nominations. With no opposition Commissioner Lee became the Vice-chair for 2010.

Commissioner Reed presented a certificate of recognition to M.L. Harris for community contributions.

Commissioner Martin thanked her fellow Commissioners for their vote of confidence making her Chairman for the upcoming year.

County Administrator Horne thanked Commissioner Dudley for working closely with her staff and looking after the interest of the Citizens of Russell during his term as Chairman.

Commissioner Pugh thanked Bill Friend for his diligence in resolving the Ladonia safety issue concerning the car wash which was discussed at the last Commission meeting.

Chairman Dudley adjourned the meeting.