

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2016
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order, by Chair Peggy Martin.

The invocation was given by Alan Griffith, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Currington.

Chair Martin thanked the Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission meeting. She also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

The Commission roll was called. Members present were: Gentry Lee, Carl Currington, Peggy Martin, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the December 14th, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous. .

A proclamation was presented for the celebration of the 200 Year Alabama Bicentennial. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the proclamation that will be sent to the Bicentennial Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne presented legislative resolutions for review and consideration of past legislation that need amendments:

- The Probate Judge Alford Harden has requested that renewal for an existing fee to be extended for every 5 years instead of every 2 years.
- Lodging Tax collected goes directly to the Chamber of Commerce instead of the County. The County will have control of those funds and can make the decisions concerning how the money is spent for tourism.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve both resolutions with the deletion of and/or Chamber at the end of the 4th paragraph. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws discussed the Sewer Authority. He wanted to know how the Sewer Authority operates and if it isn't functioning the way it should, what is the Commission's option for taking the Authority over?

County Attorney stated the Sewer Authority should submit finance, customer and usage reports and suggested having a CPA give a certified audit on how many people are on the sewer line and how many are on the line that haven't paid a tap on fee. The Authority needs to supply a full functioning report to the Commission.

Commissioner Epps stated she thinks the Commission needs accountability.

Commissioner Lee suggested requesting a report first, and if the Commission didn't agree with the report, then request an audit.

More discussion took place before moving to business items.

Commissioner Reed requested to replace the current Wiregrass Resource Conservation and Development Council, Johnnie Robinson. Mr. Robinson was elected as a Phenix City Councilman. Commissioner Reed felt that this would be a conflict of interest if Mr. Robinson remained on the board as a county representative and requested Attorney Funderburk send a letter to the Councilman and ask him to step down.

Discussion took place and it was agreed that the position would come to term in October and at that time the Commission could appoint a replacement. No action was taken.

Administrator Horne reminded the Commission of their appointment of Wanda Hardie as the Sanitation Director and requested that they asked the Administrator to review the salaries of sanitation directors and discuss a salary for Mrs. Hardie. The salary has been budgeted at \$73,542, reviewing the pay structure that has been there and reviewing the duties that Mrs. Hardie has taken on. There were 2 assistants to the director and now there is only one assistant, so she has taken those duties as well. Administrator Horne requested to set Mrs. Hardie's salary at \$70,000. Commissioner Screws motioned to accept the recommended salary for Mrs. Hardie. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Commissioner Corbett asked what are other department heads making. He doesn't want to send a bad message to other departments. He knows that the EMA Director's salary is \$60,000 and the Sanitation Director is being brought in at \$70,000, should the EMA Director salary be adjusted or consider all the other department heads.

Administrator Horne said the EMA Director only has 2 employees and the Sanitation Director has 45 employees and she is in-charge of a \$5 million dollar budget which is operated separately. Salary information was also provided in the Commission packets on salary ranges for this position.

The Commission was polled. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements were made.

The meeting was adjourned.