

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2011
9:30 A.M. EST

A short program in recognition of Black History Month began: The Russell County JROTC Color Guard presented the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commission followed by the invocation given by Marvin Minton, Pastor of Crawford Road Baptist Church. The Warrior Voices of the Russell County High School sang two songs recognizing Black History Month. The program ended with the JROTC retiring the colors. Commissioner Reed and Judge Harden presented certificates of recognition to each participant in the program.

Public Comments:

Sheriff Taylor welcomed the Commission and the public to tour the Russell County Jail with ample notice given to him. Due to security matters, over crowding and being short staffed, tours would need to be arranged in advance.

Sheriff Taylor also announced the Sheriff's Department is 10 days away from the letting of bids for the jail addition. He also reminded February 25th is the opening of the Hurtsboro precinct. The ceremony will begin 11:00 EST.

Mik Cole from the Chamber of Commerce announced appropriations request to Alabama Senators and Congressmen were not being accepted this year due to budget cuts. However, the consultant hired by the Commission will present a package with the County Road 24 project which will also include other projects, to Congress. A letter of support has been written to accompany the package and is in need of the Commission's signatures.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission 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 was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

Chair Martin stated the County Attorney has recommended adding an executive session to today's agenda and requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

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

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the February 9th, 2011 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh stated at the last meeting during discussions concerning the denied landfill proposal, the Chattahoochee River Warden brought to our attention there are problems on the other side of the river with erosion and possible contamination from closed landfills located on the river banks. He motioned to have the County Attorney draft a resolution requesting that the Columbus Consolidated Government investigate this issue and take action if needed. He also requested that a letter from the River Warden accompany the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh also discussed a tipping fee that was offered to the county by the both parties during the landfill debate. The fee has not been required of C&D landfills in the past, but should be considered. He motioned to have the County Attorney and the County Administrator to negotiate a contract with Reaves Landfill for the fee based on the percentage and with a guaranteed amount of not less than a dollar per ton, also for the contract draft be returned to the Commission for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Alford Harden requested approval to surplus office equipment, which is outdated and cannot be repaired. These are printers and computers with total value of \$1,500. A listing /description was provided to the Commission Office. Commissioner Lee motioned to declare the office items for surplus as useless items. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The position on the Russell County Water, Sewer and Utility Board, held by J.C. Batcheldor has expired. Mr. Batcheldor who has served on this board for many years has expressed his willingness to continue with the board. Commissioner Lee motioned to reappoint J.C. Batcheldor for another 6 year appointment to the Russell County Water and Sewer Board. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested to let bids for the jail and enforcement uniforms, both styles: class A and BDU. If approved, the bid opening will be in 30 days, March 24th at 4:00 p.m. EST. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the bid request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor reminded the Commission of their acceptance of the COPS grant award in November 2010. The Commission agreed to accept the terms of the grant which were the hiring of two deputies, whose salaries and benefits will be paid by the grant for three years. In their fourth year of employment, Russell County will pick up their salaries and benefits. The final papers for the reimbursement are now complete. Therefore, Sheriff Taylor requested to begin the hiring process for the two deputies and to amend the budget as follows:

General Fund 001		
Sheriff's Department 52100		
Increase 001 44741 810	State Grants	\$50,222.00

Increase 001 52100 113	Other Salaries & Wages	\$34,433.00
Increase 001 52100 121	Retirement	\$5,207.00
Increase 001 52100 122	Health Insurance	\$5,292.00
Increase 001 52100 123	Life Insurance	\$21.00
Increase 001 52100 124	FICA	\$5,269.00
	Total	\$50,222.00

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the budget amendment and the deputy hiring. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Coroner Sumbry presented the Court ordered cremation of Foy C. Patterson. Phenix City Mortuary will perform the cremation at a fee not to exceed \$400. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated the Commission authorized the Sheriff's Department to construct a facility to hold large animals, however, a budget amendment to cover those funds was not done at the time of its authorization. Therefore, funds need to be placed back into the animal control budget as follows:

Road & Bridge 112		
Decrease 112 51100 499	Other	\$5,000.00
Animal Control		
Increase 001 55400 219	Other Misc. Supplies	\$5,000.00
	Total	\$5,000.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommends moving into executive session for a personnel matter. Commissioner Lee motioned to convene the executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Before the executive session Commissioner Pugh requested a report from the Fuel Authority concerning issues that were occurring.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the executive session meeting. Commissioner Dudley motioned to reconvene the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The County Attorney stated the executive session provided no recommendations at this time.

The meeting was adjourned.