

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 25th, 2009
9:30 A.M.

A public comment was made, before the regular meeting by Mr. Loftin.

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

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to approve the February 25, 2009 agenda. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Martin.

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

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to approve the February 11, 2009 meeting minutes. Commissioner Martin motioned for approval of the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Epps with corrections to the District 7 name. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne and Commissioner Reed presented proclamations to African Americans in the area who have made great strides in our community, honoring and in recognition of Black History Month. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the eleven proclamations and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

J.W. Brannen presented a resolution requesting our Legislation Delegation ask the Legislative Reference Service to explore all options that can be available to the Russell County Commission to overhaul previous Tag Fee Bill and return with options for the County to review. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation of Mr. Brannen, County Legislative Liaison. Seconded by Commission Reed. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Commissioner Lee motioned for the Russell County Commission, along with The City of Phenix City Council, create a joint resolution to be presented to Mr. Jimmy Davis, for his retirement from Chattahoochee Valley Community College. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Dudley discussed a possible amendment to the County Budget Expenditures Policy. Due to recent budgets reductions, this amendment will allow the Commission to review certain types and amounts of expenditures, helping to stay within the budget boundaries. Commissioner Lee made a motion; any expenditure from the Russell County Commission budget, exceeding \$10, 000.00 (ten thousand dollars) whether it is required or not is to be brought to the County Commission for review and approval. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. After more discussion, Commissioner Screws recommended changing the amount to \$7,500.00 (seventy-five hundred dollars). Commissioner Lee amended his motion to reflect, any items exceeding \$7,500.00 (seven thousand five hundred dollars). Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The decision for the 5 member Election Custodian Committee was announced by Chairman Dudley: Commissioner Pugh, Harris Henderson, Judge Harden, Jim Welborn, and Council Member Michele Walker. Commissioner Pugh will be chair person.

Court Ordered Cremation was presented by Coroner Sumbry. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve funding of \$400.00 (four hundred dollars) for the cremation of Jack L. Rigdon by Colonial Funeral Home and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Larry Kite, County Engineer presented four resolutions to initiate 2009-2010 Federal Aid Projects. These projects were expedited to make sure the County is prepared for stimulus funds that we will receive. One of these projects we have already budgeted for and will use MPO funding. We will save the 20% match and be able to use that on local projects. County Road 4 project which previously had been authorized by the Commission and we plan to use stimulus funds, which will save the County's 20% match.

- RCP 5700209 to widen, resurface and traffic stripe Cutrate Road
- RCP 5700309 to resurface and traffic stripe County Road 43.(Firetower Road)
- RCP 5700409 to resurface Huguley Road, this project will be divided into three sections; this project stretches from US Hwy 80 to Haddock Road.
- RCP 5700509 to widen, resurface and traffic stripe Knuckles Road.

These resolutions are authorizing the Engineering Department to make plans ready for the 180 day window that will be given with the stimulus package. We are trying to have enough projects ready for the money. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the recommendation of the County Engineer. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

The award of Bid# 00409 Lubricants is an annual bid, which was rebid due to oil products prices dropping. I recommend, we award the bid to Superior Oil and Supply. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the recommendation of the County Engineer and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested purchase of an aggregate spreader from Warren Truck and Trailer in the amount of \$4,135.00 (four thousand one hundred thirty-five dollars). The reason we are bringing this for your approval is because it wasn't itemized in our budget. We delayed the purchase of a larger item, a roller, which we estimated at \$85,000.00 (eighty five thousand). To conserve money in our budget, we were able to make repairs to the one we have, which may last a couple of years. In doing that, we have identified some smaller needs, so there will be a good net savings in this line item. This savings will allow us to do some patching, chip seal smaller and more efficiently with the purchase of the aggregate spreader. A motion was made by Commissioner Reed to approve the request of Mr. Kite and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator reported on county revenues. The main sources of funding are the Ad Valorem and Sales Taxes which provides funding for general government operations. The county has received an additional \$350,000 in ad valorem tax revenue over last year. To-date there is an estimated \$46,000 outstanding budgeted amount anticipated. There are projections for the upcoming year that the housing market ad valorem projections are to decline. Presently I anticipate the county will reach the budgeted revenue projection for Ad Valorem.

County Administrator stated that she was prepared to present the budget amendment that she provided a copy of to each commissioner yesterday. However, it was recommended to me prior to the meeting not to make that budget amendment as presented. Ms. Horne stated that the county commission office is undergoing a complete software conversion and the work is not completed. Ms. Horne stated this item will need to come back at another meeting because we have to remain in compliance with the state examiners and complete the data conversion. Because we budgeted fuel at \$5.00 a gallon and fuel prices have declined to \$1.75; there are additional monies in this line that we can use to offset the sales tax decline. So for today, the amendment will change and she read those changes.

Ms. Horne stated that as for the Sales Taxes, the county is experiencing a shortfall in this revenue line. To-date the county has a shortfall of \$30,000 for an overall projection of \$72,000 for the budgeted year. It is required that we maintain a balanced budget. Due to

the budgeted revenue shortfall in this line; I recommend the following amendment to reduce revenue in that line and expenses

Gasoline Tax Fund					
Revenues					
Decrease	111	6114	299	General Fund	\$50,000
Expenditures					
Decrease	111	53100	212	Fuel & Lubricants	\$50,000
General Fund					
Decrease	001	41210	005	Sales Tax	\$72,000
Expenditures					
Decrease	001	52100	212	Fuels & Lubricants	\$22,000
Decrease	001	62102	299	To Gasoline Tax Fund	\$50,000
				Total	\$72,000

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the recommendation of the County Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous. County Administrator LeAnn Horne thanked the elected officials and department heads for submitting budget reduction suggestions for their respective departments.

The County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk recommended moving into an executive session to discuss four items: a personnel item, a possible litigation, another personnel item and an item brought to us by the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Martin motioned to move into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to reconvene the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Funderburk stated, per our conversations, I recommend we seek an Attorney General's opinion regarding the school tax issue. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the County Attorneys recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The Regional Growth Management Project and Valley Partnership will hold a public meeting at the Russell County Courthouse Auditorium, Thursday February 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Pugh asked Ms. Horne to contact Department Heads and all employees, except those who transport money and have them park in the lower parking level to free up parking in front and on the left side of the building for citizens purchasing new car tags until other arrangements are made.

The NAACP will celebrate the 100th year of service and all are invited to attend at the Pinehill Baptist Church, February 27th.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest: _____
LeAnn Horne, County Administrator

Signed: _____
Mervin Dudley, Chairman

February 2009

General Fund 001

16463	02-05-09	Phenix Girard Bank		\$260,616.92
		Russell County Payroll		
		Salary 01/24/09 to 02/06/09		
16464	02-05-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	21101	\$329,288.40
16465	02-19-09	Alabama Dept. of Transportation	47000 000	\$5,940.00
16466	02-19-09	Phenix Girard Bank		\$208,432.87
		Russell County Payroll Account		
16467	02-20-09	Wachovia Bank N.A.	62104 299	\$35,702.92
16468	02-20-09	Phenix Girard Bank	3030	\$6,868.00
		Russell County Payroll Account		
16469	02-23-09	Russell County Advocacy Center	44741 810	\$8,750.00
16470	02-26-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	3130	\$38,718.87

Gas Tax fund 111

12684	02-05-09	Phenix Girard Bank		\$74,983.22
		Russell County Payroll		
		Salary 01/24/09 to 02/06/09		
12685	02-11-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	21101	\$158,831.34
12686	02-19-09	Phenix Girard Bank		\$61,275.38
		Russell County Payroll		
		Salary 02/07/09 to 02/20/09		
12687	02-20-09	Phenix Girard Bank	3030	\$6,307.00
		Russell County Payroll Account		
12688	02-26-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	3130	\$5,787.54

Road & Bridge 112

641	02-11-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	21101	\$1,159.78
642	02-26-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	3130	\$45,183.59

Capitol Improvement Fund 116

180	02-16-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	21101	\$9,893.73
181	02-18-09	Harris & Associates	51970 522	\$36,881.00

RRR Gasoline Fund 117

1015	02-11-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	21101	\$7,491.63
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Reappraisal Fund 120

1553	02-02-09	Phenix Girard Bank		\$22,205.28
		Russell County Payroll		
		Salary 01/24/09 to 02/06/09		
1554	02-11-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	21101	\$26,201.65
1555	02-19-09	Phenix Girard Bank		\$19,309.49
		Russell County Payroll		
		Salary 01/24/09 to 02/20/09		
1556	02-20-09	Phenix Girard Bank	3030	\$997.00
		Russell County Payroll Account		
1557	02-26-09	Operations Fund Regions Bank	3130	\$1,013.75

Emergency Shelter Grant 193

140	02-26-09	House of Restoration	56900 199	\$17,943.10
141	02-26-09	Lee/Russell Council	56900 199	\$700.00

Payroll 710

See the check register in the
vault in the
County Administrator's Office

Operation Fund 718

See the check register in the

vault in the
County Administrators' Office

Pistol Permit Fund 740

1303	02-20-09	Communication & Electronics		\$3,777.00
1304	02-20-09	Data Cash Register, Inc		\$1,012.00
1305	02-20-09	A-Com Protection Services, Inc		\$1,794.00
1306	02-20-09	The Exchange Club of Phenix City	52100 499	\$100.00
1307	02-20-09	Identi-Kit Solutions	52100 499	\$608.00
1308	02-20-09	Alabama Sheriff Reserve Assoc	52100 499	\$100.00

**Russell County Law Library
Fund 755**

548	02-05-09	Lexis Nexis	51100 410	\$275.00
549	02-05-09	Thomas West	51100 410	\$5,429.49
550	02-05-09	Lexis Nexis Matthew Bender	51100 410	\$795.85

Worthless Check Fund 761

389	2-05-09	Worthless Check Unit Office of District Attorney		\$10,975.04
		51260 265	\$3,841.26	
		51260 362	\$7,133.78	

Probate Judge Fee 783

0559	02-23-09	Office Depot	51300 211	\$772.94
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Tobacco Tax Fund 797

510	02-23-09	Task Force for Senior Citizens	21100 000	\$647.28
511	02-23-09	P.C./R.C. Council for Neglected & Abused Children	21100 000	\$647.28
512	02-23-09	Russell County Volunteer Fire Department Association	21100 000	\$24,596.61

Attest: _____
LeAnn Horne, County Administrator

Signed: _____
Mervin Dudley, Chairman