

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order.

The invocation was given by Chair Martin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

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

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the minutes for February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Emergency Called meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. All Commissioners present voted to approve the minutes, except Commissioner Epps, who abstained due to her absence at that meeting.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the March 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. Commissioners Pugh, Martin, Reed, Epps and Screws voted to approve the minutes. Commissioners Lee and Corbett abstained due to their absence at that meeting. 4 yes votes and 2 abstentions; the motioned passed.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval for loan approvals for 2 budgeted equipment items: 3 Mack dump trucks in the amount of \$411,243. and 2 Caterpillar motor graders for \$517,330. He asked that the Commission accept the proposals for the exact loan terms that were discussed when the Commission approved the purchase of the equipment and to authorize the Chair, Administrator and the County Attorney to execute the documents. Both loans are for 5 annual payments in arrears at an interest rate of 2.04% that will be paid in full at the 5 year term. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett presented results for the Old Seale Courthouse Elevation Bid on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Two Options were offered: just purchasing the elevator and installing it into an elevator shaft built by either the County or subcontracted out and the other option was a turnkey project to build the shaft and install the elevator. There were three

responses. One submittal was for option 1 at \$62,770. Two contractors submitted for option 2. One for the amount of \$104,019 the other was \$147,500 which was over the budget for the project. The amount of \$104,019 has already been approved by the Old Seale Courthouse Board Members. The lowest bid was from Hosey-Lancour Construction, LLC. Commissioner Corbett motioned to accept the bid from Hosey-Lancour. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin presented the letter of support to be submitted by the Town of Hartsboro for a grant for much needed road projects in their area. Mayor Covington requested the letter at the last Commission meeting. Commissioner Screws motioned to have the Chair sign the support letter for Hartsboro. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested approval for purchase of radio system for the Sheriff's Office. The system currently used has been narrow banded and the FCC and within the next 10 to 15 years this channel will no longer be in existence. The County will pay the City a maintenance fee of \$30,000 for the use of their new infrastructure, which will save the county cost of building their own.

Sheriff Taylor presented documents from Motorola which offers a Nation-wide Program with no interest and a deferred payment for 1 year, but is only good until March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Contact was made with Motorola to request an extension, but since it was a Nation-wide program it could not be done. The total amount of purchase is \$366,441.66. Payment is not due until April 1, 2017 with 3 annual payments of \$126,062.06 which can be included into 2016-2017 budget. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve purchase of the radio equipment and the contact included. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor also presented a transfer of 010-Lounge Retail Liquor –Class 1 license for Bama Redds Bar and Grill, which was previously Glory Days. Located at 588 Hwy 165, Fort Mitchell now owned and operated by Nicole Teresa Nelson who lives at 446 Hwy 165, Fort Mitchell. Sheriff Taylor stated he found no reason at this point to deny the license. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the license. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator LeAnn Horne presented an amendment lease agreement for Care Ambulance. Discussion had taken place at Monday night's work session to change: 5. County Administrator will monitor utility expenses. In the event expenses are determined to be excessive, the County Administrator will report to the Commission for action requiring LESSEE to reimburse County for utility expenses. Administrator Horne explained since this is a new building without a utility history concerning how those expenses will run and also the Sheriff will be sharing the building. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the contract with changes. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk distributed the last version of the CDL Resolution for the Commission's review. He informed the public the County does pay the small fee that is required for the physical and is not something that the drivers pay for themselves. He

recommended approving the resolution. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the Attorney's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Commissioner Lee asked if this is a policy change.

Attorney Funderburk replied, yes and no. All Sanitation Department drivers have their cards. It is a policy change because; we are putting it in writing.

Commissioner Lee stated that if it is a policy change it will have to be placed on the next agenda, because it takes 2 Commission meetings for changes to take effect.

Commissioner Pugh changed his motion to have the policy change added to the next Commission Meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk provided a letter to the Commission recommending an executive session to discuss possible litigation. There may or may not be action taken after the session.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to move into executive session based on the Attorney's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin made announcements.

Commissioner Pugh announced he would have a rebuttal for article that was placed in the Phenix Citizen next week. He briefly discussed article.

Commissioner Epps thanked voters who elected her to serve another Commission term.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting for executive session.

Action was not taken after the executive session.

The meeting was adjourned.