

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 10th, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public Comments:

Russell County Recreational Director Mike Parker gave an update about Opening Day at the Sports Complex. It was also reported that another tournament has been scheduled for April 20- 21st and will much larger than the last tournament. Silver Run Baptist Church has also scheduled their church services to accommodate players who wish to attend. Members of the church also volunteered to work the concession so parents could watch the games.

Coach Parker also announced beginning April 28th LWCF grants will begin to be issued and he has proposals ready to submit. The proposals will be presented to the Commission at the next meeting for review/ approval of application for a walking /bike trail at the sports complex.

Probate Judge Harden informed the public that on April 24th, 2013 the Probate Office will be closed until noon for installation of a new computer server. Replacement of the server will be approximately 4 hours. The office will resume normal hours the following day.

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. Administrator Horne requested to remove the County Insurance Proposal in order to verify figures that had been obtained in order to be fair to agencies that had submitted quotes. She will then bring the item back to the Commission for review. The vote was unanimous.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Epps.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and visitors. Afterwards she requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 27th, 2013.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Carl Currington gave an update for the road side pick-up that began in January 2013. 45.4 miles of road has been cleaned in the county. There have been 256 tires picked up as well as 1,487 bags of trash from the roadside for the first quarter. This project will be continued. The Sheriff's Department has also has a crew working daily; therefore the amount of trash picked up will double.

Mr. Currington also announced as of April 1st the Sanitation department will begin a 10 hour / 4 day work week. Customers whose trash is picked up on Fridays will now be scheduled for Thursday.

Commissioner Reed served on the E-911 Board for the last four year. His term expires at the end of April, therefore, Commissioner Reed reappointed himself for another 4 year term. A vote was not necessary since it is his district's appointment.

Administrator Horne presented 3 court ordered cremations for Coroner Sumbry who is at a conference. The cremations costs are not to exceed \$400 each and are for the following:

- Lisa L. Garcia at Sumbry Funeral Home
- George W. Marshall at Striffler- Hamby Funeral Home
- Billy Floyd Hester at Colonial Funeral Home

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve payment for each cremation to the named funeral homes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite discussed the \$6 Rule which provides citizens with a means to participate in the cost of paving dirt roads that are maintained by Russell County. The \$6 Rule also gives those roads priority in paving schedules. The proposed revisions will be brought back to the Commission for review at the next regular meeting. Attorney Funderburk stated there were a few issues in question. Therefore, he recommended postponing this item until he could provide those answers. Commissioner Lee motioned to postpone this item. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also presented a Federal Funding Grant for a transportation alternative program, with funding up to \$400,000 and requires a 20% match. Projects discussed by the Commission were sidewalk pedestrian facilities from the High School, Middle School and to the Sports Complex. An elevated walk way was discussed but is not be feasible to construct and costly to make it ADA compliant. Mr. Kite proposed to continue with a sidewalk and a pedestrian crosswalk at the same location with some lighting at or near the High School entrance to the Middle School continuing the sidewalk to the Sports Complex. The approval is needed before the application deadline of June 28th. The project would have 2 years for authorization, which would allow time for budgeting the 20% match. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the application and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor submitted a request from the Hawaiian Island Tiki Lounge LLC for a type 010-Lounge Retail Liquor- Class 1 License. The business is located at 1095 Hwy 165 Suite AB, Fort Mitchell, Alabama and owned by Jacqueline M. Rosenberg who resides in Upatoi, Georgia. The investigation was completed with opposition from only one person. No other issues were found and there are no Churches in close proximity to the lounge. Sheriff Taylor recommended granting the application. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh)voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) abstained; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps)voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 6 yes votes and one abstention; the motioned passed.

Administrator Horne stated the business licenses recovery through RDS contract for collecting prior years business licenses that have not been received is up for renewal. Administrator Horne and Judge Harden recommended reapproval of the contract with the addition that RDS conduct one mailing during that time period. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the contract with the addition. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Administrator Horne stated that RDS has collected a total of \$205,018 since the contract was initiated. Collections have been tapering off and this year was considerably less, which means Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend and his employees are doing a good job. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne requested authorization to purchase an ad for the 24th Annual Twin Cities Classic Horse Show. The price of the ad is \$250 and will come out of the Contingent Funds. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1 (Lee) abstained; District 2 (Pugh)voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) abstained; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps)voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. Commissioner Lee abstained since his wife had recently been appointed to the Exchange Club Board and was unsure if he could vote. Chair Martin asked if she was a member of the Exchange Club should that prevent her from voting. She was told she could vote. Chair Martin changed her vote to yes. 6 yes votes and one abstention; the motioned passed.

Administrator Horne presented a request to bid ATMs for installation in the Courthouse and at the Judicial Center. Specifications for the ATMs were distributed to the Commission for review. She would like for the bids to be open May 1st at 2:00 p.m. The bid advertisement and specs will be placed on the website as well as mailed to vendors who have requested the information. She would like to keep the ATM with local vendors. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the ATM bid. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

April 22nd is Confederate Memorial Day and a scheduled work session. Administrator Horne stated the Courthouse will be closed for the holiday and asked the Commission what their preference was for the work session. Commissioner Lee motioned to cancel the work session and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Kenneth Funderburk presented an approval for an easement that runs 6 feet on the back side of the annex building to the Dollar General. The easement gives Alabama Power the right to trim trees, etc. He also recommended approving the Chair to sign the necessary documents. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk stated that the B.P. Law Suit was originally approved to let Attorneys' Beasley and Allen to handle the claim. They are asking for a motion and approval to join the lawsuits since they were not able to settle it without joining the suit against B.P. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced the 2013 World's Widest Yard Sale will be held May 31-June 2. Those interested in volunteering can call The Phenix City/ Russell County Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Pugh requested checking into the purchase of bottled water imprinted with the County's name to be given away at the Widest Yard Sale.

"Don't Drop on Alabama" Spring Clean-Up will be held April 20-27.

Commissioner Epps announced the public is invited to the dedication of the new sanctuary for the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church which start off with a one night revival April 11th from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday night there will be a musical and Saturday night a Black Tie Affair at the Columbus Trade Center. Sunday at 3:00 p.m., Bishop James L. Davis will do the church dedication.

Commissioner Epps also invited the public to the Town Hall Meeting at the Fort Mitchell Community Center, April 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Corbett announced the Starlight Ball will be held April 20th at the Old Seale Courthouse.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.