

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 26th, 2013
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public comment:

Earnestine Crowell wants to open up a homeless shelter in Seale. She requested help from the Commission and community for the donation of land or lease for the creation of this facility. She is aware of the City's shelter, but feels the County should also have one.

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 County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin stated an additional item should be included on today's agenda. She received a request concerning extending the 4th of July Holiday through Friday the 5th. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous. Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Father Tom Weise of St. Patrick and Mother Mary Mission Catholic Churches.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

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

A request was made by Chair Martin for an approval of the June 12, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Five (5) Commissioners voted to approve the minutes. Chair Martin and Commissioner Corbett abstained due to their absence at that meeting. The motion passed.

Commissioner Pugh stated he met with the Board of the Ladonia Sports Complex, who has a contract with the Russell County Board of Education to carry-on sporting activities at that sports complex. The Board asked if they could become part of the Russell County Recreational Department. Commissioner Pugh feels by doing this, it best serves the community as part of the Russell County Sports Department. He motioned to make an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$4,080 which covers the electrical expenses for correcting wiring in the transformers and fuse boxes bringing it up to code so the lights to be turned back on. He added to allow Administrator Horne and Attorney

Funderburk to negotiate with the Board of Education with due diligence to obtain the lease to add this complex to our recreational department and to bring this back to the next Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend requested the Commission officially appoint Officer Gary Leeds as a solid waste officer. With this appointment Officer Leeds will be able to write citations for solid waste enforcement. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Mr. Friend's request and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Officer Friend presented a land abatement for 9 Mt. Zion Street, Seale and requested for the Commission to declare by resolution that a nuisance exist at this location and set a public hearing date. The dwelling is unfit and unsafe for human habitation or occupancy. The owner, who now lives in Columbus, was contacted but has not complied with nuisance laws by clearing the property. Commissioner Screw motioned to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett and Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chamber of Commerce Representative James McGill presented a request from Dr. Ahmed for final payment of his sales tax abatement for construction material in the amount of \$13, 006.14. Mr. McGill and County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk will create a statement of release. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the final payment and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. Administrator Horne stated this is not a budgeted item; therefore, an amendment is needed. She recommended increasing fund balance \$13, 006.14 and placing those funds into the Commission's budget line 219 miscellaneous. Commissioner Screws added to his motion the budget transfer as Administrator Horne requested. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. .The vote was unanimous.

The Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Application was not discussed. Commissioner Screws motioned to table this item until the 2013/2014 budget. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator requested approval for the Annual 2013 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday that will begin August 2nd and ends on August 4th, 2013. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve this tax holiday. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne presented a request for a budget transfer for the Maintenance Department as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| General Fund 001 | | |
| Maintenance Department 51970 | | |
| Decrease 001 51970 541 | Equipment & Furniture | \$15,000.00 |

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| Increase | 001 | 51970 | 214 | Minor Equipment | \$3,000.00 |
| Increase | 001 | 51970 | 215 | Tires & Tubes | \$1,000.00 |
| Increase | 001 | 51970 | 219 | Other Misc. | \$6,000.00 |
| Increase | 001 | 51970 | 225 | Uniform Rental | \$2,500.00 |
| Increase | 001 | 51970 | 304 | Contract Services | \$2,500.00 |
| | | | | Total | \$15,000.00 |

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the transfer and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to extend the 4th of July Holiday to Friday July 5th. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the holiday extension and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. Administrator Horne stated for the record, the Commission did approve the holiday schedule that was sent to the Commission by the State, Mobile also receives Mardi Gras in that the Commission approved an extra day that was not designated, but approved. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk discussed Patriot's Point which has been in litigation in Federal Court. This issue is now settled. 3 Bids for 10,500 feet also will get bids on prior 25,000 feet which are connected; therefore it will be the whole subdivision. Attorney Funderburk recommends the Chair to execute the contract on the behalf of the county. The case will be ended and we will have to report back to the Court next week. The case is set for trial in November. Besides settling the case, this is a fair settlement that will save the county a lot of money. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the Attorney's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk's next item was an audit report concerning sales tax, which he recommended going into executive session to discuss. Commissioner Epps motioned to move into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin made announcements before the Commission moved into executive session:

- Courthouse will be closed for the 4th of July Holiday on Thursday and Friday July 5th.
- June 29th a fund raiser will be held for the Children and Family Connection at Applebee's.

The Commission returned from the executive session. Chair Martin adjourned the meeting due to there were no actions to be taken.