

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
9:30 A.M. EST

Public Comments:

Billy Rae Alexander a candidate for the District 2 City Council introduced himself to the Commission.

Mike Wells a candidate for the Hurtsboro Mayor position also introduced himself to the Commission.

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, Mervin Dudley and Larry Screws. Also present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and Assistant County Administrator Vickie Perry, who kept the minutes. County Administrator LeAnn Horne was absent due to an ACCA meeting.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda with a change of Sheriff's Citizen's Recognition, being moved after the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

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

The invocation was given by Grant Parker, Pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

Sheriff Taylor gave a certificate of recognition to Charles Thrash who was instrumental in apprehending a person who had commandeered a patrol car from a deputy. He not only assisted the deputy in the pursuit of the patrol car, but also helped the deputy chase the man on foot after the Sheriff's vehicle had been wrecked.

Chair Martin called for a motion to approve the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Larry Kite presented a resolution from the ACCA for the participation in the Debris Removal Joint Bid Project. Approval of this resolution is required if the County should decide to use vendors on the list. Mr. Kite stated it was not a requirement that the county use vendors on the list, but the list would give the County options should a disaster occur. He reminded the Commission of its previous bid award to

Tag Grinding Services for a 3 year contract with a yearly renewal for debris removal. He would like to keep this contract in place. After the bid list becomes available a price comparison can be made. The present contract has a convenience clause which will allow termination if the Commission should choose. Mr. Kite recommends approving the resolution, allowing the Chair to sign the document and approve this year's renewal with Tag Grinding Services. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve Mr. Kite's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor stated construction of the jail addition is near completion. The Sheriff's Department is now accepting applications for the 13 staff positions necessary for the jail addition.

Commissioner Epps requested the Chamber of Commerce to look into providing a sign for the Fort Mitchell area. James McGill stated the request will be brought to the Chamber Board. Wording for the sign should be submitted to the Chamber and the sign must be approved by ALADOT. Mr. McGill stated a letter requesting the sign will be required for their files. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the Chamber of Commerce bringing the signage request before their Board. Mr. McGill will bring proofs of the sign design for the Commission's review and approval. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor gave the results of the Jail Furniture Bid. Two companies responded to the specs, Logan Machine Works who offered \$69,250 and the Corner Stone Institute whose bid was \$94,761. Sheriff Taylor recommended awarding the bid to Logan Machine Works for construction of the jail furniture. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the Sheriff's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Historic Commission Board President Bill Benton presented a request for additional funding for the Russell County Historical Commission. The City has taken one of their funding sources, lodging tax, which has caused loss of personnel and changes in the hours of operation. Mr. Benton stated they are working with the Legislation Delegation and local elected officials to find funding. If the County will help support the Fort Mitchell facility, then the City may help. It takes approximately \$12,000 and operation costs have been cut in an effort to keep the Historical Park open. The Tavern has been made available for public rental. The facility is currently open only 4 days a week, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to allow the County Administrator to check for funding for the fiscal year 2012-2013 that would have to be approved and ask that the amount to be considered for budget funding be \$75,000. Commissioner Pugh also stated he has contacted the City and they have indicated that is the amount they would like to match with the County. Seconded by Commissioner Lee.

Commissioner Epps stated the Commission should review the Historical Commission 's budget as well as bring the City, the County and the Historical

Commission together to discuss and agree on how the Fort Mitchell Historic facility should operate, (hours of Operation , etc) and be in writing. The Commission needs to know where this money will go. There should also be a discussion between the County and the City concerning the amount the City is willing to contribute to the Historical Commission.

Commissioner Screws requested Commissioner Pugh to amend his motion and take out the \$75,000 amount. Commissioner Pugh agreed. His motion to perceive the amount of money that would be necessary that this budget could afford to give to the Russell County Historical Commission based on a vote of the Commission for the 2012-2013 budget. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Dudley) abstained; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 6 yes votes and 1 abstention the motion passed.

Chief Appraisal Heath Crowe requested a budget amendment to create a State required line item as follows:

REAPPRAISAL FUND 120

Reappraisal -51985

Decrease 120 5198 599	Misc. Capital Outlay	\$2,650.00
Increase 120 51985 409	Subscriptions	\$2,000.00
Increase 120 51985 171	Organization /Dues	\$650.00
	TOTAL	\$2,650.00

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

Chair Martin stated the ACCA Conference will be held on August 20-23 which will fall during a regular Commission Meeting. 5 Commissioners will be attending the conference. Therefore, she requested that the Commission meeting scheduled for August 22, be cancelled. Commissioner Screws motioned to cancel the August 22 Commission Meeting to include August 20 work session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk discussed the Phenix City Park Project that will be located on the corner of the Dillingham and Broad Street in front of the Courthouse. They are requesting a construction and maintenance easement to the project. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agreement if the County Engineer is involved in the construction or changes that are to be made to insure the project will not create an erosion problem. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Pugh requested that an entrance for Courthouse employees be included in the construction for their use of the park. The Commission was polled and the vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk presented the Patriots Point Subdivision Bond issue which there is a Letter of Credit from the Bank which now has been bought by another financial institution. The letter of credit has been called on and there has been no response. To resolve this matter it must go to Court and get a declarative

judgment. Then seek to enforce the Letter of Credit, provided that the court rules in the County's favor. Attorney Funderburk is asking for the authority to begin legal procedures. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the County Attorney's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk recommended going into executive session to discuss the Annex Building, and Scott Holmes will discuss the Judicial Center Project. The Sheriff and the School Board personnel were requested to stand-by if questions should arise. Commissioner Dudley motioned to move into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Before the executive session, Commissioner Epps announced a NACO Conference will be held July 13-17.

Following the executive session, Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the Commission meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to reconvene and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk stated he had no recommendations at this time.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.