

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2011
9:30 A.M. EST

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

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin announced Valerie McClain's was unable to attend today's meeting and Sam Beman was is not present. Therefore, she deleted both items from the agenda.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the agenda and was second by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The Invocation was given by Marvin Minton, Pastor of the Crawford Road Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Dudley.

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

Chair Martin requested an approval of the July 13, 2011 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dudley motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin stated the Commission would like to honor the memory and service of J.C. Dykes. Citizen Mik Cole read the proclamation created for J.C. Dykes and the Commission presented it to his daughter, Teresa Temples. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioners Dudley and Reed.

Commissioner Reed also presented Mr. Dykes' family with a certificate of recognition for Mr. Dyke's efforts with the Russell County Sports Complex and Seale Baseball League.

Lt. Holland presented tabulation sheets with the results for the annual Jail Food Bid opened on July 7th, 2011. She requested approval to award the low bids to these venders. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the bid results and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval to let bids for a used smooth drum roller and for the bid opening to be August 18th, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. EST. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also requested to purchase a 2007 Ford F-150 from the ALADOT Surplus for the amount of \$13,350 and for the County Administrator to sign documents for the purchase of the vehicle. This vehicle purchase was included in this fiscal year's budget. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase and the County Administrator's signature to the documents. Seconded by Commissioner Dudley. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk presented the Jail Addition Bond Resolution which is required for the construction of the new jail addition and issuance. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Commissioner Pugh: As you may have heard, I was discussing with some of the other Commissioners before the meeting, I don't mind the bond issue going forward today and I think it has too because of the way the economy is going and we may lose our window of opportunity, but it was my understanding there was going to be a fair playing ground and we would receive some information on it prior to voting on it. At the work session it was not even listed on the agenda but when the Attorney was asked if he had anything to say; it was added to it. We get our work agenda on Friday. It is very difficult to come in on Monday as a Commissioner and be informed as to who and what we should do.

For that reason, I am letting you know of my displeasure at the way it is being handled. There are questions about the Bonding Company and problems they have been involved in, in Birmingham, that do not need to be brought out today. I would ask to place on the next work session, the agenda and how it is handled so we will have a better playing field and be better informed as Commissioners.

Commissioner Reed: Also I would like to inform the Commission that the Bonding Company intends to sue one of the Commissioner's for slandering their name. I'm sick and tired of them trying to embarrass the other Commissioners. I don't have a problem with the Bonding Company so let's go ahead and call for the vote.

Chair Martin: We had plenty of information prior to this meeting and we don't need to postpone. We have to go forward with this project.

Commissioner Lee: Before we vote and I am going to vote for it, because the Commission voted to give the County Administrator, the Chair and the County Attorney the authority to work out the details. We probably won't get another

bond issue but if another one comes up, I would like to open it up to other bond companies because this is the 3rd bond in a row going to the same company and I would like to spread our business around.

Commissioner Dudley: I think it behooves all of us always as custodians of public trust and our work and what we do here that we could never be too informed about what our job is. We share in that just like our employees do, we are all employees of the County. At the same time, talking to Mr. Funderburk yesterday, I was reviewing certain items, which several Commissioners had already alluded to. Before we went into executive session on May 11, 2011, our official minutes show we authorized our staff to go forward with certain things. Commissioner Pugh's comments are very well taken and also with what Commissioner Lee stated. I think it is very fair to all of us regardless to where we go with it, the fact is we are committed to this and the commitment was made on this May 11, 2011. I think some of the in-house procedures we continue to modify and amend which we can never be too well informed and that goes with our staff and us. At the same time as the other two Commissioners and the County Attorney this is something we are committed to and we have to move with it.

Attorney Funderburk: The Bond closing is set for August 4th, with the Public Building Authority. We try to keep you informed as we are informed.

Chair Martin: I would like to remind the Commission; the County Administrator and the Attorney do make available any information by e-mail, regular mail and in your offices. If you come to the office regularly to check your boxes, you will have the information or call the Administrator or the County Attorney or staff for information. It behooves us that we take on some responsibility. Yes, we are stewards of the County's money. I feel there is no problem with Gardynr Michael Capital and they are doing and have done a wonderful job for us. Please call for the votes Administrator.

District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) absent; District 6 (Dudley) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Commissioner Lee announced the Old Seale Courthouse will hold the Labor Day Fair on Labor Day, September 5th, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. EST.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.