

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2009
9:30 A.M. EDT

Reverend Johnny Robinson, Director of the House of Restoration, made clarifications about programs and services offered to the community by the House of Restoration and cautioned official comments to his staff members.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Commissioners present were Chairman Mervin Dudley, Vice-chair Peggy Martin, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps and Larry Screws. Also present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

Chairman Dudley requested to move the executive session up in the meeting agenda as a Court Official has requested to be included in the session. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the agenda with the change. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Dewayne Dean, Pastor of Cedar Hill Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

Chairman Dudley welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and visitors.

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to approve the July 22, 2009 meeting minutes. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

A request to honor former Commissioner Dolly Wilson with a plaque to be placed in the Health Department was presented by Tommy Worthy. Mrs. Wilson worked tirelessly to make the Health Department a reality in this county. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the plaque for Mrs. Wilson. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Jackie Pinkard with Lee/Russell Council of Governments provided the Commission with a report about the NACO Prescription Drug Card.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented the county road report:

- Federal Aid projects include: Pittsview, County Road 4 Project, which is approximately one mile of new roadway and a bridge connecting to the new Hwy. 431. This will be a safer truck route from Mead and safer for the general public. This project is scheduled to let, August 28, 2009. Estimated cost is approximately 25% less than original \$4 million estimate.
- The stimulus funding project of Opelika Road is one mile of road beginning at Cutrate Road, ending at Stafford Road. This project is 100 % stimulus funded at \$239,000. Scheduled to let early December 2009.
- HRRR Striping Project, schedule to let September 25, 2009. Roads included in the striping are Bayview Drive, Greenburt Road and Oswichee Road, a total of five miles. This project is grant funded with a 10% cost to the county. Estimates of the project are \$75,000 to \$80,000, but cost to the County is \$7,000 to \$8,000.
- Non Federal Aide Projects include Owens Road / Ala. Hwy. 165 intersection alignment. The grade work will be in-house, with the paving and striping contracted out. The county portion of the project is 50 % complete; paving will begin in three weeks.
- Harris Road paving will begin in four weeks. The grade work will be in-house.
- The entire 9 miles of Rutherford Road will have patching and leveling. This work will be contracted out.
- Approximately 3 ½ miles of Padgett's Road from Ala. Hwy. 165 will also be patched and leveled. Rutherford and Padgett's Road are schedule to have surface treatments and striping in October, 2009.
- Grade work at the Russell County Sports Complex is almost complete for the latest ball field; making it ready for the installation of sod and irrigation.
- The first cycle of county mowing is complete with 90 % of herbicide spraying completed. Brushing cutting will begin next week at various county sites on paved and unpaved roads.
- The second mowing cycle will begin 4 to 5 weeks.

Dr. DiChiara, Superintendent of Phenix City Board of Education, made the Commission aware the 13 Mill Tax for public school purposes is up for renewal. The last date for collection of this tax will be October 1, 2010. The School Board has authorized Dr. DiChiara to request a special election this year for renewal of this 30-year school tax. The revenues from these taxes are essential for the operations of both the City and County School Systems. The Commission will review the cost of a special election, since this is a local issue only and the state will not reimburse for special local issues. Also since this tax benefits both Russell County Board of Education and Phenix City Board of Education systems, the Commission requested the Probate Judge and the Administrator consult with City Officials to share in the election expense. A vote was not necessary, since there are no actions to be taken today.

James McGill updated the Commission on the latest T-ball field at the Russell County Sports Complex. The final grading is being done for the sod to be laid Saturday. The field should be finished in 2 weeks. Cost of the field was \$19,000 to \$20,000, which was completed under budget. Construction of the larger fields, 3 and 4, are next. The estimated cost is \$67,000 - \$75,000 for each new field. There will be a considerable amount of in-kind work. Prices submitted to the Commission are for fencing and irrigation materials, installation and the purchase of sod. The field should be available for the next spring season. The County Administrator reported \$100,000 is remaining in this fiscal year's fund. Since funds are remaining in the budget for the Sports Complex a vote was not necessary for the field expenditures.

Chairman Dudley requested for the announcements to be made before the going into executive session:

Commissioner Epps announced:

- A Town Hall Meeting to be held August 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fort Mitchell Community Center. Topics for the meeting: The Growth of Fort Mitchell and Annexation. City, County Officials and Department Heads have been invited to answer questions citizens may have.

Commissioner Pugh reported:

- Communications with ALADOT concerning U.S. Hwy 80 safety issues. Commissioner Pugh was assured that within 60 to 90 days corrections would begin on Hwy. 80 drainage problem and address the turning radius issue.
- An issue with a Whiterock Road development has been resolved. The development was annexed into the city, which placed it under the city's planning and zoning ordinances. That area is zoned as R3. This allows developers to build either individual houses or apartments. Ladonia residents who were not in favor of the construction of an apartment building met with the City Planning Board. The Board spoke to the contractor and the contractor voluntarily changed zoning to R2 (houses only).

James McGill stated:

- September 3, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. Chairman Dudley and Vice-chair Martin are scheduled to meet with Congressman Rogers. The meeting concerns FY10 appropriations; the County will submit the County Road 24 project. The project must be submitted two weeks prior to his arrival and a presentation of the project at this meeting.
- September 15, 2009 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. a meeting with the Commission, Legislatures and the General of Fort Benning along with the General's staff to discuss the growth expectations of the Ft. Benning / Russell County Area.

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to go into executive session.

Commissioner Martin motioned to go into executive session and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Dudley requested a motion to reconvene the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Martin motioned to reconvene and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Funderburk stated he had two recommendations from the executive session:

- The County should authorize the architect to go forward with the air conditioning and heating systems bid specs and authorize the chairman to execute the standard architectural contracts for the HVAC bid proposal work. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Funderburk's recommendation and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.
- The same architect should be hired to design and make recommendations for the interior and existing judicial space allocations for judicial offices.
- The architect should be retained to design and make recommendations for any future structure or additional space, which maybe needed for future growth of the court system and to make sure the needs of the court and public are taken care of; such as with an additional pod or wing.

Commissioner Lee: I motion the County obtain and authorize the architect we have contracted to do a plan for the maximizing of space of the old courthouse, which is now the Judicial Center. I emphasize a plan, not a study, to utilize the space that is there, with the least amount of renovation to maximize the space. Seconded By Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to make a proposal, only for a building adjacent to the Judicial Center, connected to the building for the purpose of holding prisoners and possible additional handicap restrooms. Seconded By Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested:

- To declare listed equipment as surplus for sale. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the request of the County Engineer and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- Approval to request ALADOT to conduct traffic studies for the purpose of installing traffic signals at the intersections of Hwy. 80 and Whiterock Road, also a study of Hwy. 80 and Cofield Drive. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the studies. Seconded By Commissioner Martin. The Vote was unanimous.

- Approval to request ALADOT to install a flashing emergency signal to be located at the Ladonia Volunteer Fire Department on Hwy. 80. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioners Pugh and Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- Thirty-five miles of maintenance/re-stripping of 15 different county roads will begin in three weeks. This was a budgeted item which was done under our annual bid for re-stripping, a list of roads to be re-stripped was provided. The striping project cost is approximately \$34,000. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded By Commissioners Martin and Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- Approval of the County Road 4 funding agreement between the State and County. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.
- Approval of funding agreement for the bridge portion of County Road 4. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agreement and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented expired terms for Animal Shelter Board Members: Dr. William Smith and Dr. H.G. Caldwell. Commissioner Reed motioned to reappoint the current board appointments as to terms in the County/City Resolution. Seconded By Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Horne also requested approval for FY 2008-2009 year-end departmental budget amendments as follows:

Road & Bridge Fund 112		
INCREASE 112 35500 000	Fund Balance	\$791,000.00
INCREASE 112 62105 299	to Warrant 2008	\$146,000.00
INCREASE 112 51100 524	Additions & Renovations	\$645,000.00
INCREASE 320 61105 299	from Road & Bridge	\$146,000.00
INCREASE 320 59100 612	Interest	\$146,000.00
GENERAL FUND 001		
COMMISSION-51100		
DECREASE 001 51100 214	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$700.00
DECREASE 001 51100 541	EQUIP & FURN	\$5,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,700.00
INCREASE 001 51100 251	TELEPHONE	\$1,200.00
INCREASE 001 51100 222	DATA PROCESSING	\$2,000.00
INCREASE 001 51100 233	OFFICE EQUIP & REPAIR	\$2,000.00
INCREASE 001 51100 305	LEGAL SERVICES	\$500.00
	TOTAL	\$5,700.00
001-PROBATE JUDGE-51300		
DECREASE 001 51300 541	EQUIP & FURN	\$1,000.00
INCREASE 001 51300 251	TELEPHONE	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL	\$1,000.00
001-BOARD OF REGISTRARS-51920		
DECREASE 001 51920 252	POSTAGE	\$500.00
INCREASE 001 51920 251	TELEPHONE	\$500.00
	TOTAL	\$500.00
001-BLDG INSPECTOR-52710		
DECREASE 001 52710 250	COMMUNICATIONS	\$1,700.00
INCREASE 001 52710 242	NATURAL GAS/WATER	\$200.00
INCREASE 001 52710 251	TELEPHONE	\$1,500.00
	TOTAL	\$1,700.00
001- BUILDING MAINTENANCE-51970		
DECREASE 001 51970 212	FUEL	\$ 5,000.00
DECREASE 001 51970 231	BLDG & LAND REPAIRS	\$10,000.00
DECREASE 001 51970 214	MINOR EQUIP	\$1,000.00
DECREASE 001 51970 265	REGISTRATION & TRAINING	\$500.00
DECREASE 001 51970 541	EQUIP & FURN	\$6,500.00
	TOTAL	\$23,000.00

INCREASE	001 51970 239	OTHER REPAIRS & MAINT	\$5,300.00
INCREASE	001 51970 242	NATURAL GAS/WATER	\$4,000.00
INCREASE	001 51970 251	TELEPHONE	\$1,500.00
INCREASE	001 51970 304	CONTRACT SERVICES	\$5,500.00
INCREASE	001 51970 524	ADDITIONS & RENOVATION	\$6,700.00
		TOTAL	\$23,000.00

001-JAIL-52200

DECREASE	001 52200 239	REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	\$40,000.00
INCREASE	001 52200 216	CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$7,500.00
INCREASE	001 52200 219	MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES	\$25,000.00
INCREASE	001 52200 250	COMMUNICATIONS	\$7,500.00
		TOTAL	\$40,000.00

001-ANIMAL CONTROL-55400

DECREASE	001 55400 212	FUEL/LUBRICANTS	\$500.00
INCREASE	001 55400 250	COMMUNICATIONS	\$500.00
		TOTAL	\$500.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the recommended budget adjustments and requested to note of the items that are being decreased so adjustments to the new budget can be made accordingly. The County Administrator stated that a maintenance project in the jail was not done this year, which allowed for the jail line item to transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.