

The Russell County Redistricting  
Public Hearing Minutes  
August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
9:30 A.M. EDT

The Russell County Redistricting Public Hearing was called to order by Chair Peggy Martin.

Probate Judge Harden discussed redistricting the county due to the 2010 Census, which showed some districts were over the 5% margin. The Commission has met with the Legislative Reapportionment Office to make changes accordingly. There are issues with a small area between District 6 and District 7, Ware Road, which loops back to Hwy 431. This area will be returned to District 6 and will make the district line clearly Hwy 431.

The public was also informed that Legislation is being drafted for the creation of a voting center to accommodate those residents who may be affected by this change.

There were no public comments; therefore, Chair Martin adjourned the public hearing.

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
9:45 A.M. EDT

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

A quorum was present.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Stephen Gregg, Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the August 14, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Reed and Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett presented a Proclamation and Challenge Coin to the family and co-workers of Thomas "Keith" Slay, who was killed in the line of duty on July 30, 2013. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin discussed a proclamation for Tuskegee-Morehouse 78<sup>th</sup> Football Classic to be held in October. The proclamation will be presented during the game by Judge Bellamy. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett discussed an idea he received while at the County Commission Conference concerning the creation of a Citizen Academy. This program allows the County Commission to choose citizens from the county who are interested in attending classes to learn how the county government functions, what each department contributes and how the budgets are established. This will be a six month program that will take place once a month as a ninety minute session, each session will be a different department. At the end of the six months those citizens will be able to ask questions as well as give their suggestions for improvement. The course will end on a Commission Meeting day for a graduation of those participants. Commissioner Corbett suggested choosing 21 participants; each Commissioner will pick 3 people from their district. The deadline for application will be October and the first session should begin November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and continue as the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00p.m. Commissioner Corbett asked the Commission to consider the program.

Chair Martin presented the Redistricting Change Request that had been discussed at today's public hearing. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the redistricting with the changes to District 6 and District 7.

Administrator Horne stated for the record that the redistricting of the county had been advertised properly and two public hearings have been held.

Commissioner Pugh announced that redistricting only changes voting district lines and will not affect where their children go to school.

Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested to declare 4 surplus vehicles as scrap. Two of the vehicles were bought by the Sheriff's Department and two vehicles were given to the Sheriff's Department by the City of Hurltsboro all are beyond repairs and have been used for parts. Sheriff Taylor wants to sell what is left of those vehicles for scrap metal and place the money back into the General Fund. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

EMA Director Bob Franklin reminded the Commission of a grant awarded to Russell County for 5 new outdoor weather warning sirens. This project has been completed and installations of the sirens are as follows:

- Cedar Heights and Leroy Road
- Jenkins Road and Hwy 80
- Upshaw Flats Road and Grant Circle
- South Herring Road and Pitts Road
- Owens Road and Hwy 165

At this time Mr. Franklin requested to permission to pay McCord Communications the amount of \$77,045.00 which will be reimbursed by grant funds. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve payment and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Terms for the Wiregrass Resource Conservation & Development Council will be expiring at the end of 2013. The council has requested to fill the two Commission appointments before September 15, 2013. Positions on the board are currently held by Commissioner Epps and Pastor Johnnie Robinson, who request to serve another two year term. Commissioner Pugh motioned to reappoint Commissioner Epps and Pastor Robinson. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. David White and Kathy Ninas discussed the Troy Riverfront Academic Facility. They are requesting the County Commission and Russell County to participate in the building process by contributing funds for the addition of a fourth floor in the total amount of \$500,000; to be paid \$100,000 per year over a five year period. Commissioner Corbett motioned to accept the request from Troy University for funding and to consider their request in the 2013-2014 budget. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne recommended the Commissioner to set a budget hearing for department head review. Instead of setting the date as September 11<sup>th</sup>, which is the Commission Meeting day, Administrator Horne recommended recessing that meeting and to return the following day to the Commission Chambers, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 and to meet until the budget is complete.

Sheriff Taylor announced that the new video system is up and running at the jail. If anyone comes to the jail to visit someone that is incarcerated, the visitation will be via camera/computer. There will no longer be contact visitation with the inmates. This also will allow family members who do not live in the area to visit via internet.

Sheriff Taylor also announced the Sheriff's Department applied for a local grant that would allow for funding of 8 licensed computers to be installed in patrol cars. He was notified that the Sheriff's Department was awarded grant funding for the amount of \$58,000. This grant award does not require a county match and is enough funding to allow the eight cars to also be outfitted with cameras, radars, scanners and printers.

Commissioner Screws let the Commission know that the first round of the personnel policy revision has been completed. He thanked the Department Heads for doing a great job. At the end of October the Commission will be given the policies for review.

Commissioner Epps announced the NAACP will host a forum for the Stand Your Ground Law in Alabama at the Central Activity Center Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m. to 7:30p.m. Sheriff Taylor will be speaking at the forum.

Chair Martin stated the Russell County Convention and Visitor's Bureau are hosting a casual luncheon for the White Water Express Guides and Staff August 30<sup>th</sup>. They will celebrate 10,000 customers having gone down the Chattahoochee River.

The Courthouse will be closed for Labor Day on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Seale Fair will also be held September 2<sup>nd</sup> at the old Seale Courthouse.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.