

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2013  
9:30 A.M. EDT

Public Comments:

Steve Pace introduced the new Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Mary Mayrose and presented a check to the Commission for payment in lieu of taxes \$26,213.34.

Penny Lewis, Alma Thomas, Ronnie Lewis, Curtis Kimble and James Kimber, who live on Stag Drive, discussed the conditions of Stag Road and its need for repair and paving.

Hurtsboro Mayor Wells gave an update on progress for the streets of Hurtsboro.

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, and Larry Screws. Chance Corbett was absent. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and the County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

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

The invocation was given by Steve Pace, Associate Pastor at Summerville Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Martin. Afterward she requested a motion to approve the August 28, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee abstained due to his absence from that meeting; the other 5 voted yes for approval.

American Legion Post 135, Commander Leroy Davis, was presented a proclamation for American Legion Day by the Commission. Also present to receive the proclamation was: Finance Officer Post 135/District 24 Commander Earl Hutchinson, Administrative Officer Post 135/Administrative Officer District 24 Wayne Mitchell, Sargent at Arms Dennis Austin, 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Elmer Satterwhite, and Historian Johnny Watson.

Commissioner Pugh presented Don Brown, owner of Don Brown Electrical, a certificate of recognition for his services and contribution of in-kind work to the Ladonia Sports Complex that was beyond expectations.

Nationwide Retirement Specialist, Scott Curtis, offered a 457 deferred compensation plan offered to state and county employees.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested a budget transfer to complete projects as follows:  
GASOLINE FUND 111  
ENGINEERING DEPT-53100

DECREASE	111 53100 561	CONSTRUCTION EQUIP	\$63,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 212	FUEL & LUBRICANTS	\$23,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 213	MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$15,000.00
INCREASE	111 53100 530	IMP OTHER THAN	\$25,000.00
		TOTAL	\$63,000.00

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

J.W. Brannen presented a resolution for the removal of snags from the Apalachicola River. Approval of this resolution will benefit the Brick Yard Marina project being constructed.

County Attorney Funderburk stated that the resolution for stag removal of the river with the deletion of the paragraph: Whereas, the County Commission of Russell County, Al seeks to have standing as a concerned party in the Administrative Hearing. Also the line in the last paragraph: and, that the challenge petition filed by the "River Keepers" and any others be withdrawn and if not then denied as soon as possible. The Commission does not have the right to take position in litigation

The River Warden Roger Martin asked the Commission not to approve the resolution today, but wait for 2 weeks to find out who did create the resolution. He would like to have only one resolution for 26 counties that have the exact same wording, which would be the resolution created by Balsam and Bingham, who represents the State of Alabama in the Water Wars.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to table the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. After discussion the commission was polled. District 1(Lee) voted, no ;District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes ; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no ; District 5 (Epps) voted, no ; District 7(Screws) voted, no. 4 no votes and 2 yes votes; the motioned failed.

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the resolution with the changes recommended by the County Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The County

Attorney was asked to state his recommendation for the record. Attorney Funderburk recommended adopt the resolution as modified. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Reed and the Probate Judge Alford Harden discussed sending a letter to the Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard requesting to exempt Russell County from any legislation concerning business license reform. As the proposed legislation is now Russell County will lose 1 million dollars. Commissioner Pugh motioned for the Commission not support the legislation and if adopted by Alabama they give Russell County the ability to opt out to protect the county revenue. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor presented an Alcohol License Application, Type 010- for the Chill Time Bar and Grill, formerly known as the Crimson Barrel located at 588 Hwy 165, Ft. Mitchell. The owner is Leslie Strasburg who resides at 645 Nuckols Road, Seale, Alabama. This is the second time the license has been changed in a calendar year and cannot be changed again unless a new application is applied for. There are no issues as far as the Sheriff's Office is concerned and recommended issuing the license. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the application and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1(Lee) voted, yes ;District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) abstained; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, yes; 5 votes yes and one abstention the motion passed.

Chair Martin announced the Anniversary of 9/11, Remembrance and the Extension Office's Commissioner's appreciation Luncheon will be held September 12 at 11:30 p.m.

Administrator Horne announced the budget meeting will begin 9:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Commissioner Lee motioned to reconvene the meeting until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was recessed.