

Draft
The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 25th, 2013
9:30 A.M. EST.

Public Comments:

Probate Judge Harden discussed a meeting which he and Bill Friend attended in Montgomery, concerning HB 397(Business License Reform). This HB will take revenue from Russell County if passed as written. During the meeting it was announced that Section 5 would be stricken from the HB. That would exempt Russell County from the HB. In the former HB, Russell County had not been exempted. This is a mandatory state-wide HB and it is important to protect Russell County's interest.

Karin Rasheed discussed property he purchased in the Pittsview area with a vision of creating shops, and other businesses that would benefit those area residents in that area. He requested the Commission to consider and support the vision he had for this property.

Jeff Stone, President of Ladonia Youth Sports, thanked the Commission for repairs and other assistance provided for the Ladonia Sports Complex lighting.

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

A quorum was established.

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

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the September 11, 2013 and September 12th, 2013 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve both meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin attended a celebration for George Parker May Sr. 100th birthday. At that time she presented Mr. May with a certificate proclaiming him a member of Russell's County's 100 year club. Chair Martin requested ratification of the document presented. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett proposed changes to the Commission Agenda Policy, which would keep items from being added to the Regular Commission Meeting Agenda on Wednesday morning. He requested for the following changes to be considered:

- All agenda items are to be turned in by noon prior to the Monday work session.
- Monday night work session is to be treated as an agenda setting meeting. At the work session the Commission will vote on what the Wednesday meeting agenda will be.
- The only time an item can be added on Wednesday morning is an emergency item or one that is non-controversial. Then a unanimous vote would be required to be added to the County Commission business agenda.

Commissioner Corbett stated he wish to put that into a motion. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh.

Commissioner Pugh requested that documentation be submitted at the time the agenda item is requested. He also asked if the agenda items and documentation be submitted on Wednesday by noon and the Work Session Agenda sent out on Thursday by 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Screws asked when the work session agenda is e-mailed to the commissioners that it include an attachment with the documentation for each item.

Administrator Horne agreed that it could be, but sometimes the file will be large and may not be able to e-mail.

Commissioner Corbett amended his motion to change the deadline for agenda items to Wednesday at noon and a summary of the item(s) to be included and e-mailed to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday prior to the work session.

District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, no; District 6(Corbett) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 2 no votes. The motioned passed.

The S& W contracts for hardware and software maintenance for the Revenue, Tag and Mapping Appraisal Office are due for renewal. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve all three contracts. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett presented discussion for the proposed Citizen's Academy. The program will be offered to residents of the County to make them more aware of how the local government and departments work. There will be 21 people, 3 from each district, who will attend 6 sessions, 1 evening per month. Classes are required to have a minimum of 14 participants. The Sessions will begin November 5th and end April 5, 2014, each session will start at 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern time. Requirements are applicants must be at least 18 years, a Russell County resident and a willing participant The County Administrator will oversee the program, process applicants, schedule presenters and coordinate programs with elected officials, department heads and applicants. The schedule and application will be offered on the Russell County Website as well as at the information desk in the courthouse and in the Phenix Citizen.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the program and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh appointed Dr. George Martin as an advisor, nonvoting member, to the sewer board. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Sanitation Director Carl Currington gave an update for the Sanitation Department and made a request to add a new service, Door to Door Pick-up, for an additional \$10.00 per month for those customers who are unable or do not want or are not able to take their trash to the road each week. He also requested to charge a special pick-up fee of \$10.00 to offset expenses incurred by the sanitation office for the pick-up of large items at customers' requests. There has never been a charge to customers for special pick-ups but due to gas prices, landfill charges, and employee expenses; the County is losing money due to this service. The Utility Board has already approved for these charges. Garbage Customers of Russell County will still be able to pick-up permits once a month at no charge to take items to Pine Hollow Landfill themselves. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the additional services fees. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin announced the Russell County Sheriff's Department received a Federal grant award in the amount of \$11,902.00.

September 26th will be Mary Jane Riley Day and all citizens are asked to do something nice or thank someone for doing a kind act for you.

Sheriff Taylor announced a fund raiser that will take place today at the Sheriff's Department.

Chair Martin stated there will be a brief recess before the continued proposed 2013-2014 Budget meeting.

Continuation
Proposed Budget Meeting
September 25th, 2013
10:50 A.M. EST

Chair Martin reconvened the proposed 2013-2014 Budget Meeting.

Old business:

Mik Cole followed up on a proposal she placed at the September 13th, Budget Meeting for marketing the Ft. Mitchell Historic Park. She requested for \$20,000 for the first year contract without benefits and renewal options thru the Phenix City – Russell County Chamber of Commerce. The advertising and project budget will be \$12,500 which will be used for advertising for special events.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to do creative funding, take \$10,000 from the Public Building Fund to help fund this proposed position and place it with the Chamber of Commerce to help fund the contract services portion and utilize the \$218,000 that the Commission already provides to the Chamber from the Lodging Tax to fund tourism, signage, and of \$12,000 advertising, etc. let the expense portion she has presented come out of that funding. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. After discussion Commissioner Corbett withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Pugh motioned that this board send the Chamber a recommendation that they take out of lodging tax the appropriate amount up to \$32,000 to help fund the Fort Mitchell Project. If they have a short fall they should approach the Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous. Administrator Horne asked if the Commission Chair be able to send the letter on behalf of the Commission and sign. Commissioner Lee stated he would like that is be requested for the Chamber to submit a budget showing how the lodging tax is used.

New Business:

Salary Schedule Approval was presented by Administrator Horne. She stated the salary schedule was distributed at the last budget meeting and she recommended for the Commission to adopt the schedule. The only item not included that was discussed previously was the Board of Registrars 3% increase for the total of \$950 for the entire year for the three employees.

Commissioner Lee asked if the maintenance position was what was agreed on at an earlier budget meeting?

Sheriff Taylor stated that it was approved as a full time benefit position versus a part time without benefits. He recommended for the position begin at a Grade 8 step 1, which would be \$28,000. It would be hard to find a qualified and responsible person at the set \$24,500. He recommended to increase this position's salary and to take the additional money for the increase out of the Sheriff's Department overtime line to prevent an increase in the Jail budget.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to give the 3% increase to the Board of Registrars. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the salary schedule with the changes. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the budget with the changes that were made to the individual department s and to the appropriations request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned