

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 13th, 2017
9:30 A.M. E.S.T

An adjourned meeting of the Russell Count Commission was called to order by Chair Martin. In the absence of the Clergy, Chair Martin led the audience in praying The Lord's Prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chair Martin.

Public Comments:

Ronald Lunsford discussed a fire that started on his property and wanted to thank the Ladonia Volunteer Fire Department for their quick response.

Chair Martin thanked the Citizen News and Cable TV of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission Meetings. She also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne called the roll. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Carl Currington, Commissioners Gentry Lee, Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Epps and Commissioner Larry Screws. Chance Corbett was absent. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the November 22, 2017 meeting minutes. Commissioner Currington motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Martin presented a Proclamation for Victor Cross who recently retired from The Chamber of Commerce as President.

Chair Martin requested approval to present a Posthumous Proclamation for the family of E.L. Bubba Torbert. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Epps had placed on the Agenda the discussion of the Drop Zone business which is located in District 5. Mr. Ahmed, the owner, discussed the problem with the Drop Zone, requesting some help from the Commission concerning the sewage problem on the Drop Zone Property.

Shawn Blakeney-Annual Materials Bids. Shawn asked to remove the Bituminous Bid until January 2018 due to it being a Public Works Bid.

Commission Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Shawn Blakeney-Cutter Head Bid. Bids will be sent out December 14, 2017 and will be opened on January 11th, 2018 Eastern Time. The Cutter Head was approved in the 2017-2018 budget.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimously approved.

Shawn Blakeney-Parks and Recreation Fence Bid. The bid will be sent out December 14, 2017 and will be opened on January 11, 2018 2:30 Eastern Time.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimously.

For the record, Commissioner Corbett arrived after the discussion of the Parks and Recreation Fence Bid. He arrived at 9:50 a.m.

Sheriff Taylor-Jail Food Bid. The Sheriff sent a letter requesting the County Administrator send the bid out on December 15th 2017 and be returned on January 4th, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The bid results will be opened in the Commission Chamber on January 4th, 2018. The results will be announced at the following Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimously approved.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne reminded the Commission that a job position had been created for County Economic/Tourism Director. The job position was published on November 9th, 2017 and closed on November 16th, 2017. The application was provided to the Commission on December 11th, 2018 for the Commission review.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Victor Cross to be employed as County Economic/Tourism Director. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Unanimous approval was given by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lee asked if this would be paid out of the Tourism money. County Administrator LeAnn Horne said "yes," and said due to the way our benefits are, she would like for him to sign up before the end of the year 2017.

Administrator Horne polled the Commission and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Martin asked Commissioner Currington if he had anything to announce. He stated "no," that he suggested that it be removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Lee motioned to advertise for Bio's from people interested in the Water Board Appointment. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimously approved.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the County Bank Depositories for the Commission's review. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimously approved.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne requested the 2018 Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday for February 23-25, 2018 be approved.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimously approved.

The 2018 Russell County Holiday Schedule was presented for the Commission review. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimously approved.

The Mardi Gras day listed on the holiday schedule is used at the Commission's discretion since this County does not observe Mardi Gras. Commissioner Lee requested the holiday be used on December 26, 2017. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The votes were unanimously approved.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the 2018 Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Corbett motioned the December 24th, 2018 work session not be printed on the Commission Meeting Schedule for 2018. He motioned for it to be deleted from the schedule.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimously approved.

Announcements were made before going into the Executive Session. The Courthouse will be closed December 25-26th, 2017 as observance for Christmas holiday.

Attorney Funderburk recommended the Commission to go into executive session. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve going into the Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Martin motioned to reconvene the Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimously approved.

Attorney Funderburk recommended that the Commission allow him to talk to two property owners for possible County purchase.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve Mr. Funderburke's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned