

The Russell County Commission  
 Russell County Commission Chambers  
 Meeting Minutes August 12, 2020  
 9:30 A.M. EDT

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chairman Lee.

Chairman Lee welcomed everyone for their attendance.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Martin.

Commissioner Chairman Gentry Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Meg Peters invited everyone to attend a Community Meeting at the Ft. Mitchell Community Center on August 13, 2020.

Tasha Hall requested in writing if Antioch Road was on the County list to be paved in the 2020-2021 budget year.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne called roll. Members present were Chairman Gentry Lee, Commissioner Peggy Martin, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett, and Commissioner Larry Screws. Also, present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk. Commissioner Carl Currington was absent. A quorum was established.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Lee requested approval of the July 22, 2020 Commission Minutes. Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Commissioner Martin stated: I have spoken with Bill Friend and he would like to remain on board and accept the reappointment to E-911 for District 3.

Commissioner Epps stated: I would like to reappoint Bernard Crawford for E-911 for District 5.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Due to some very good success by the Director of E-911 I have conflict. I have reached out to the Chairman and gave my reappointment to the Chairman for District 6. Chairman Lee stated: I would appoint Mr. Johnny Crouch in District 6 for E-911.

Chairman Lee stated: My appointment for the Personnel Review Board District 1, Michael Cox.

Commissioner Screws stated: I would reappoint Jerome Battle for the Personnel Review Board District 7.

Commissioner Screws stated: In a form of a motion I would like to have my project money after the mural is paid for, the remainder to be divided between the two schools Oliver Elementary and Russell County Middle School. Chairman Lee stated: You heard the request as a motion from Commissioner Screws. Commissioner Corbett seconded. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Harden stated: As I requested at the Work Session a budget transfer.

\$7,000 from line item 586 to line item 111

\$1,000 from line item 586 to line item 251

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: Several months back I contacted ALDOT concerning their vacant building on Silver Run Drive in Seale the possibility of selling it for use of the Sanitation Department. I received an email back on July 29, 2020 saying they are interested in selling the property. They are requesting the County send a letter stating what they are going to use the facility for and intentions of possibly buying the property. I am requesting the

Commission to allow the Administrator write a letter to ALDOT concerning the County pursuing to buy the property. The letter should go to Mr. Graben at ALDOT in Montgomery. Chairmen Lee stated: I have one change in the letter. I would like to strike the word "purchase" in the letter and put "acquire". Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Commissioner Corbett stated: I would like to thank Shawn, the Administrator, and the Chairman for going out to look at the building. Hopefully, we can acquire without a purchase, even if we have to purchase, I think it is a great idea. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: We had a slide on Brickyard Road from a rain event. We pursued some emergency money from ALDOT and have been approved for it. I am requesting the Chairman to sign the Resolution/Agreement for this project. We are supposed to be reimbursed for \$15,512.93. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne stated: On July 22, 2020 I distributed to the Commissioners a building access written procedure. On August 10 at the Work Session I provided the updated copy that I received with changes made. I am requesting approval so we can add this to our policies and can distribute to the Department Heads. This is informing in writing the Sheriff has full authority by statute over building security and access. The Commission passes the policy and the Sheriff enforces it. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Chairman Lee. Commissioner Epps stated: I want a clear understanding of what we are voting on. Are we voting on eliminating the Sheriff of being in charge or are we voting on giving him permission? What are we actually voting on? I was under the impression with all the classes that I have attended that the Sheriff was in charge of the Courthouse Security. Chairman Lee stated: We are voting to confirm and put it in writing that the Sheriff be in charge of the Courthouse Security and to enforce the policies. If somebody wants to get in the Courthouse and is not on the list, they will have to go through the Sheriff to determine if they need to get in, he will give them permission. Commissioner Corbett stated: I wanted to make sure earlier who was in charge of the camera system and access control of the Courthouse. The Sheriff by law is in charge of the security of the Courthouse. This is what the policy does, to make it clear that the Sheriff is over security and the Department Heads send the information to the Sheriff of what access a certain person needs. The Sheriff's designee will be the one that would activate a card to allow a person to have access. If we got subpoenaed for video footage for a court case, the Sheriff would be the one who would answer that subpoena and make copies of that duplication. Commissioner Epps stated: If I need to come in the Courthouse after hours the Sheriff would be the one who would let me in and does the Sheriff have someone on site to make sure I am going in and do what I am supposed to do? Chairman Lee stated: That would be up to the Sheriff to determine if someone needed to be or not. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. District 1 Lee, yes; District 3 Martin, yes; District 4 Reed, no; District 5 Epps, abstained; District 6 Corbett, yes; District 7 Screws, no. Motion carried Chair rules, we had one abstention which carried 3 to 2.

Announcements were made. Commissioner Martin motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Chairman Lee. Meeting adjourned.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair