

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2015  
9:30 A.M. EST

Chair Martin called an adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission to order.

The invocation was given by Alan Griffith, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Corbett.

A public comment was made by Carolyn Hood, Willene Sims and Vilene Lewis to request help in having Howard Lane repaired. Assistant Shawn Blakeney explained that this was a private road and the county does not maintain private roads. Commissioner Pugh stated that back in 1996 or 1998 it was established all public roads during a public hearing. A map was created specifying these roads. He suggested that this map be located and that all roads marked as public be brought up to standards.

Sherry Daniels and Leroy Davis discussed the American Legion's Second Annual Birthday Ball at the Court Marriott on March 21st. Tickets are \$40.00 per ticket or \$70.00 for two tickets.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizens News for coverage of the Commission meeting.

The Commission roll was called, members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present were Attorney Robert Lane and Assistant County Administrator Vickie Perry, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the December 10th, 2014 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

A proclamation was created for Nora Miles to be presented to Mrs. Miles for her 98th birthday. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett gave an update the Crawford Masonic Lodge renovations, which is 90% complete. Bathrooms have been built and are only waiting for sewage hook-up. Donations are still coming in as well as citizens giving up their time and services to help with the project. Landscaping will be soon take place. Commissioner Corbett also

informed the public in the last few days a grant was applied for and was awarded to the Masonic Lodge project by the Alabama Historic Commission. The grant was in the amount of \$5,000. With the donations and this grant the project should be complete during this fiscal year without any additional budget amendments.

Bill Friend gave an update on the Ambulance Building Project. Plans for the building have been reversed making parking on the left side instead of the right of the building. Architect Scott Holmes is working on the building plans and will be brought back for review at a later date.

Phenix City Events Coordinator Rebecca Harris announced that May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> the River Fest has been schedule. She stated that the Dillingham Bridge and the amphitheater will be closed for vendors and carnival. The City also would like to hold a poker run to benefit the Russell County Crisis Center on May 9<sup>th</sup> and request to use the Courthouse parking lots for that event. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the City's request and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Albert Johnson has issued a court order cremation for Catherine Green. The Colonial Funeral Home will perform the cremation at a reasonable fee not to exceed \$400. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the payment to Colonial Funeral Home and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented an ALDOT Federal Aid Funding Agreement with a 20% match from the County for resurfacing CR-33 (Hughley Road) from CR-32 (Padgetts Road) to SR-8 (US 80). The agreement also authorizes the Commission Chair and the County Administrator to sign the agreement as well as a resolution. The project should be let by the end of January. The project estimate is \$961,401.21 with the county match being \$192,280.24. He is expecting the bids to come back less. This is a budgeted project. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the project. Seconded by Commissioners Pugh & Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested approval to hold the Annual Food Bid on Friday January 30, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve Sheriff Taylor's request and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Office Bill Friend presented several business items:

- Requested resolution stating that neither alcohol nor tobacco products are not allowed at the Seale or Ladonia Sports Complex. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- Request to take bids for 3 practice backstops at the Seale Complex to be opened February 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00p.m. in The Commission Chambers. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps and Reed. The vote was unanimous.

- Public nuisance at 1 Sommerset Drive, which had been addressed and cleaned up in 2014, has again become a problem. Chase Morgan Bank has foreclosed on the property and has been contacted about the property again, but there has been no response from the bank. This will be the second lien placed on this property and Mr. Friend stated an administrative fee of \$500 can also be added to the property since there has been a large amount of time spent. Mr. Friend also requested to schedule the public hearing for the abatement on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the abatement hearing and the administrative fee. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- 47 Davis Circle, is also a public nuisance. Mr. Friend stated that the dwelling was burned in April 2014; all that was left is a mobile home frame. He has tried to contact the owners, with no success. An estimate of \$500 would complete the clean-up of the property. He request abatement of this property and to hold the public hearing on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the abatement hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.
- 4302 Heritage Court, the owner's husband has been contacted but states the property belongs to his wife, who will not return Mr. Friends calls and has refused letters that have been sent. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the abatement hearing on January 28<sup>th</sup> and was seconded by Commissioners Corbett and Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Human Resources Director Carolyn Robinson provided reports to the Commission listing new county hires and positions that have become vacant.

Commissioner Corbett discussed how the county's sanitation system has improved. If a complaint comes is received concerning roadside trash within a couple of days the issue is addressed either by the Sanitation Department or Mr. Barnes with the Sheriff's Department. This has been much more efficient than it has ever been and the county is looking better than it ever has.

Announcements:

- The Courthouse will be closed January 19<sup>TH</sup> for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.
- Macon/ Russell Community Action Meeting will be held in Commission Chambers, January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Child Advocacy Center Father Daughter Dance will be held February 13<sup>th</sup>; Tickets are on sale now and is usually a sellout.

Commissioner Epps motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.