

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019  
9:30 A.M. EST

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

Reverend Ralph Wooten, Pastor of First United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

Commissioner Screws led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Lee motioned to add Scott Holmes to the agenda. He has a request on the work being done on the old Post Office. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Patrick Pugh with Robinson Paving requested to use the county lot on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street South and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. They are interested in using a portion of the lot for material lay down yard for construction of a project. Commissioner Lee asked if that lot was where the old tower was? Mr. Pugh stated yes sir. Commissioner Lee stated he didn't have a problem with them using it, but Robinson Paving needs to be aware if the County decided to do something with that property, they may have to vacate it in a couple of weeks. Mr. Pugh said that would be understood we understand that, and we would return it in the condition it was in. If Robinson Paving damages the grass they will regrass. Commissioner Corbett asked the County Attorney Mr. Funderburk if the County could let them use it or do, they have to rent it? Mr. Funderburk said this is a temporary use so they can use it. Commissioner Lee stated this was just a comment. They referred Mr. Pugh to get with the County Administrator.

Chair Martin thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission Meetings. She also welcomed Elected Officials, Department Heads, Media and Guests.

Administrator Horne established a quorum. Members present were; Chair Martin, Gentry Lee, Carl Currington, Ronnie Reed, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also, present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne.

A quorum was established.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Commissioner Currington abstained. The vote was approved.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Currington and Commissioner Screws abstained. The vote was approved.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve the January 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Currington and Commissioner Screws abstained. The vote was approved.

## **PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS:**

Commissioner Corbett stated the proclamation for Michael Gordon was previously approved. He is receiving his Proclamation today.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve a proclamation for Lt. Barbara Lagrand to be presented at the next Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Probate Judge Harden is representing the County and making the presentation according to the law for Mr. Danny Phillips. Mr. Phillips applied sometime back for a family cemetery. I bring for you today in your package he has met the letter of the law in his process and it is now in the County's hands. Commissioner Lee made a motion to table. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. District 1 Lee voted yes; District 2 Currington voted yes; District 3 Martin voted yes; District 4 Reed voted no; District 5 Epps abstained; District 6 Corbett yes; District 7 Screws abstained.

Probate Judge Harden presented the request for Christ is the Answer Seventh Day Adventist Church Cemetery. It has been approved by the Health Department. The property is in Russell County but borders Macon County. There is a church on the lot. Commissioner Screws made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

EMA Director Bob Franklin reported to the Commission that they received a Homeland Security grant of \$13,691.95 to add Access Control and Security features to the Emergency Operations Center. This is a 100 percent funded grant. EMA is following policy informing the Commission. No vote needed.

Scott Holmes stated concerning the renovation of the Old Post Office on 14<sup>th</sup> Street when the property was purchased a hazardous material study was done to make sure

there is not asbestos or lead paint in the property. We couldn't locate the report. He stated that it is imperative to have the report first and have the property tested so they can put it in the contract document for the renovations instead of doing it after the fact. Geotechnical Environmental Consultants, Inc. will do the testing. The contract is between GEC and the County. They will test the materials there. They walked it with me and there were some suspicious materials which usually 99 percent of the time is if it looks like it, it is. What he would like to do is have it tested and get the report of how to abate it or encapsulate it one of the two. We have that in our contract document, so it is not a change order to the job after the fact. It is already in there. It will be a lot more cost effective for the County and there won't be any delays to the contractor who is awarded the project they will know ahead of time. This report will tell you if the insulation is hot, if the roofing is hot, if the paint is hot. This report will tell them that and they can put the findings of the report and how to do it in our contract documents and then we open bids. We will know there won't be any unknowns. If we do this after the fact there could be unknowns, and it could cost more. I would like to do this to include in our contract documents and that way it will be all spelled out. Commissioner Martin said they expected to compensate something. Mr. Holmes said there is a cost for this report from GEC is \$2400. What they will do is come and take samples of all the suspicious material and take it to a lab, test it to see if it is hot. They will bring it back and give us a report. We will have a document that says here is all the hot materials on the site. They will give us another report that tells how to encapsulate it and get that done. This is just for the testing only. There will have to be another report to tell them how to abate the correct way. You have to get rid of it in certain ways. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Commissioner Lee stated he checked with the Administrator this morning and it is in the budget. Commissioner Epps stated she had a question on the cost summary. She stated she hasn't had time to read the document because they just received it this morning. Commissioner Epps stated as noted above additional cost may be necessary. Is that additional cost to the \$2400. Mr. Holmes stated if they run into something that would not fit in there, they will let me know before they spend that money. Mr. Holmes stated he doesn't perceive that I think they just put that in there. The next sentence says we discussed with you and authorize prior to incurring any additional cost. They can't go over that amount. The only thing that could be is they have 60 asbestos samples from a wall they are going to take. If they walk through and they got to a place they didn't realize, and they have to take 70 samples instead of 60 they would bring it to my attention. Mr. Holmes stated he has never had one to ask for more money. He doesn't anticipate that to happen and they are not authorized to go over the \$2400. Commissioner Epps asked if it had already come back and you have done the test and it comes back more, then maybe what the County could afford then will the project be discontinued? Mr. Holmes stated that he expected that there will be asbestos found on the site. This report is going to prove that. We will have to include that in our documents to get rid of that. That is the only way you can renovate the building is to get rid of that. We haven't opened bids for the renovation portion yet. I can assure you that its going to prove that it is hot. I am certain. On this document they will not spend over \$2400. What we could do is when we open bids, we can have that as an item as an alternate so we will know the exact cost of the abatement. The vote was unanimous.

Shawn Blakeney is requesting approval of yearly bids.

- 001-19 Striping and Markings Bid
- 002-19 Liquid Asphalt Bid
- 004-19 Bituminous Paving Public Works Bid
- 005-19 Grassing Bid
- 006-19 Corrugated Steel and HDPE Pipe Bid
- 007-19 Aggregates Bid
- 008-19 Concrete Pipe Bid
- 009-19 Truck Hauling Bid
- 010-19 Motor Grader Blade Bid
- 011-19 Maltene Based Emulsified Asphalt Restoring Agent Bid
- 012-19 Crushed Concrete Aggregate Bid
- 014-19 Fencing Bid

Engineering will be opening bids February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers. They will award bids on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated: the examiners in auditing some of our County Departments and Elected Officials budget's it was suggested to raise the threshold equipment and furniture policy change. The current range for inventory is \$300 to \$1000. I have prepared a draft and presented it to you on Monday. I have not heard of any changes or recommendations at this time. If you have any, I would be glad to make those. Otherwise I recommend moving forward with this. As I said Monday evening, this will take place once the Commission approves the threshold change. Those items that have already been purchased will not change prior to this date. They will remain in that line in your budget. I also explained to that because of this change we may have some line item transfers later because when budgeted we are planning on using a certain line that we purchase these out of. Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. Administrator Horne stated, she just wanted to comment that it does require the departments to still maintain their inventory and to make notations if they have damaged items or lost items as they do now. The same as for transfers and deletions that will need to be documented. It can be audited from time-to-time. You just do not have to report that to our office; or, the Commission Office does not have to maintain it. We do need to know if you do dispose of items. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements were made. County Administrator stated the County Human Resources Department is going through a software conversion. We are adding an HR module to our payroll system. This current pay period you may see some differences in the formatting of your check. Also, we just went through open enrollment benefits and taxes may have changed. Please advise your employees to check their payroll checks

because we want to make sure we have the correct insurances, the current amounts the employee elected. If you have any questions, please call Carolyn or Marcia.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn.