

The Russell County Public Hearing  
American Disabilities Act Transition Plan  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:30 A.M. EDT

A Russell County public hearing was called to order by Chair Martin.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney explained that last year at an MPO meetings that involves Columbus, Phenix City, Russell, Harris and Lee Counties requirements for all counties and municipalities is provide a policy statement with a plan on how county roads and sidewalks will be brought up to standards. He states he is presenting a strategy plan on how the county's 11 miles of sidewalks in 3 Fort Mitchell subdivisions and 34 crossing need to be improved or added. Some of those improvements will be to correct the slopes on ramps, adding 5 ft. x5 ft. landings for wheelchairs and domes. This 5 year plan outlines how the county will be brought up to standards. Correcting these areas also helps the County to keep its MPO funding.

Commissioner Corbett asked if these are currently included in Subdivision Regulation and being enforced by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Blakeney informed the Commission that they are requirements.

There were no public comments.

Chair Martin requested a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Epps motioned to close the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The hearing was adjourned.

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:35 A.M. EDT

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

Commissioner Lee requested that the Commission Meeting agenda be approved.  
Seconded by Commissioner Pugh.

County Administrator requested to add the County Attorney regarding the Refunding Opportunity to place a building under the Building Authority. Commissioner Lee added the request to his motion. The vote was unanimous.

The invocation was given by Jonathan Cronin, pastor of Take the City.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Epps.

Chair Martin thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen News for covering the Commission Meeting for the citizens of Russell County. She also welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

Public Comment: City School Board Superintendent Randy Wilkes stated that the School Board appreciates the support that Phenix City Schools received over the last 2 years.

He invited the Commission to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic) Center ribbon cutting and Gala to be held October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The Commission role was called. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Larry Screws, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps and Chance Corbett. Also present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the minutes of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Soko Health and Wellness Consultant Stephanie Carlisle discussed the benefits of scheduling Health and Wellness screenings for county employees. Their company offers a wide array of testing, even allergy testing and therapy for allergens.

Administrator Horne informed the Commission that Wiregrass Resource Conservation & Development Council appointment terms are ending. The appointments are for two years and she will have this on the next meeting agenda for new appointments or reappointments.

Parks and Recreation Director Bill Taylor gave the quarterly report for his department.

Commissioner Pugh requested that Mr. Taylor contact the Alabama Department of Transportation to discuss the visibility of the Fort Mitchell Senior Center sign.

Mr. Taylor also requested approval to apply for the Alabama Invasive Plant Council Education and Outreach Grant. The grant will be used to eliminate non-native invasive plants and to plant trees where these plants have been eradicated. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve application of the grant. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Taylor presented the old Sports Complex Agreement with Ladonia Youth Sports. He requested the Commission approve the contract with the new contact person for the league, Joey Knight. Commissioner Pugh made a motion that the Commission allow the name change on the contract, but he would also like to give the authority to the Parks and Recreation Director to change that in the future. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

After discussion Commissioner Pugh amended his motion to allow the Parks and Recreation Director to change the name and the Chair to sign off on the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney requested approval of the ADA Policy Statement that he had presented at the public hearing prior to today's meeting. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator LeAnn Horne presented a resolution for the new Safety Coordinator. EMA Director Bob Franklin agreed to become the Safety Coordinator and Shawn Blakeney will become the Co-Chair. The resolution will be sent to the ACCA to inform them of the change. We will continue to work on safety, which is very important and the County was recognized at the ACCA for our safety program. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated due to the election cycle, Alabama Code 11-3-1 and the Open Meetings Law the November Commission Meeting schedule will need changing. A calendar was included in the Commission packets that showed the 2016 approved schedule. The normally scheduled work session would have been on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Election Day is November 8<sup>th</sup> and the regular Commission meeting was to be on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Administrator Horne recommended cancelling the work session on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the regular Commission meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>; changing the official meeting to 8 days after the election, according to the Alabama code and statute, on November 16<sup>th</sup>. There would not be a prior work session. Then follow the next week which will be a work session on November 21<sup>st</sup> and the regular Commission meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Lee made a suggested to include the cancelling the Commission meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> since it is the day before Thanksgiving. The Commission is only required to have 4 meetings a year. Commissioner Lee motioned to cancel the meetings for November 7<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> and have a regular meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>. Second by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne made the Commission aware that in their packets she had included the most recent Open Meeting Procedures from the ACCA.

Administrator Horne discussed moving forward with a refunding opportunity with one of their bonds. With that she requested approval of a resolution that is required by the

State Examiners of Alabama Department that the County has to file notifying them that the Commission is anticipating refunding of a bond option. In that it has been reviewed by the County Attorney and will require the Chairman's signatures. This is just to be filed with the State Examiner's office at the time the other documents will be moving forward. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk as part of the bond, the Old Post Office was purchased by the County from Mr. Roy Greene. The property needs to be transferred to the Russell County Building Authority in order for the County to be reimbursed for bond proceeds. The County needs to authorize a deed to the Building Authority, and then there will be a lease. When the bond issue is paid off or refinanced the title will come back to the County. Attorney Funderburk recommended authorizing the Chair to execute the deed and the lease with the Public Building Authority. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the Attorney's recommendation. Seconded Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Human Resource Director Carolyn Robinson provided a personnel report in the Commissioner's meeting packet.

Chair Martin made an announcement concerning Amendment 14 and requested for all citizens to vote yes for this. The process in which laws were passed came into question. Voting yes for this amendment will correct that rather than taking each legislation in question and going through the legislative process. There are local laws which are included in Amendment 14. The errors were made at the State level, not the counties.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to add the resolution in support of Amendment 14 to today's agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the Amendment 14 Resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lee.

The meeting was adjourned.