

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 14th, 2015
9:30 A.M. EDT

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

The invocation was given by Keith Badowski, Associate Pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Lee.

A public comment was made by American Legion Post # 135 Commander; Leroy Davis, who announced that he, has been elected as the American Legion's Public Relations Officer for the State of Alabama. Also, he has encouraged other post commanders to work at forming relationships with elected officials in their cities and counties. He thanked the Commission for their support of his post. Mr. Davis also reminded the public of the Inaugural Banquet to be held November 13th at the Columbus Trade Center at 6:00 p.m. Fort Benning's Commanding General will be a guest speaker.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guest. She also thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen news for their 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 was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry kept the minutes for Administrator Horne who was absent due to family illness.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

The September 23rd, 2015 meeting minutes were included in the Commissioner's packets. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Special Code Enforcement Officer Bill Friend gave an update for the Ambulance Building Project. Construction of the building began September 14th, and he estimated the building will be complete in December, 2015.

Commissioner Corbett announced a grant application was submitted to the Wiregrass Resource, Conservation & Development Council for playground equipment at the Crawford Park at the Historic Tuckabatchee Lodge. The Council approved \$4,000 for

playground equipment; a county match is not required. This money was unofficially awarded earlier and has been included in the 2015-2016 Budget. Commissioner Corbett motioned to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the agreement accepting \$4,000 grant. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented re-plat of property on Crawford Road at the intersection of Lake Drive. Mr. Kite requests the acceptance of 20 foot of right-of-way on Lake Drive. The commercial property and has been reviewed by the Phenix City Planning Commission because of its location in their jurisdiction, but since this is not annexed in the City, Lake Drive remains a county road. The City is adding 20 feet to the already acquired 40 feet to give the county its required 60 feet right-of way. There are discussions of development at that location which may access Lake Drive. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous. .

Recreational Director Bill Taylor requested a salary schedule change. There are two (2) full-time seasonal positions in the Recreation Department, which have been allotted in the budget. Mr. Taylor asked to be allowed to use that portion of his budget to change to one (1) additional full time worker to the recreational worker with benefits. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

Commissioner Lee stated normally when the Commission is dealing with salary changes and budget changes; information is included in the packets for the Commission to review ahead of time. The salaries of the two (2) seasonal workers will be less than one (1) full time worker is that correct? There will be a little left over or not?

Mr. Taylor agreed there will be money left over.

Commissioner Pugh asked if Mr. Taylor had discussed this with the County Administrator and she did approve this during your conversation.

Mr. Taylor stated that she did.

The Commission was polled. The vote was unanimous.

Alabama Power Company requested approval of an easement at the site of the Ambulance Building Project for placement of the required power lines to the building. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve their request and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry discussed the upcoming November holidays. November 11th is Veteran's day which will fall on a regular Commission meeting. The Courthouse will be closed. The Commission discussed the Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Holiday which a regular meeting will be held the day before. Commissioner Corbett motioned to table this item until the next meeting.

The Commission funds the Santa Float in the annual Christmas Parade. The amount for the float this year is \$425.00 from contingent fund. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve payment of the float and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Human Resource Director Carolyn Robinson included a report in the Commissioner's packets for new hires and open positions in county departments.

Announcements were made before Commissioner Screws motioned to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned