

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 24th, 2018
9:30 A.M. E.D.T.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chair Peggy Martin.

The Lords Prayer was led by Chair Martin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Currington.

Russell County Extension Office Director Jennifer Davidson extended an invitation to the Commission for the annual Forestry Dinner on November 8th. This is just one of the events held during the Farm-City week. The dinner is open to the public. You can call the County Extension Office to purchase tickets.

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

Administrator Horne called roll. Commission members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Carl Currington, Gentry Lee, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also, present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and Administrator Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion for approval of the October 10th, 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Currington motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Martin.

Before the Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes, Sheriff Taylor requested that the Minutes concerning the Caledonia Mini Mart be amended. The ABC license application was for new owners applying for new license, not a name change as presented in the Minutes. He wanted to make that clear, so this could be corrected in the October 10th, Meeting Minutes as requested from the ABC Board.

Chair Martin stated that would be noted in the minutes and asked for the Administrator to poll the Commission with that correction. District 1 (Lee) voted; yes, District 2 (Currington) abstained due to his absence, District 3 (Martin) voted; yes, District 4 (Reed) voted; yes, District 5 (Epps) voted; yes, District 6, (Corbett) abstained because he stepped out at the last 5 minutes of the meeting, District 7 (Screws) voted; yes. 5 yes votes and 2 abstentions; the Minutes passed with the amendment to Caledonia Mini Mart ABC License application.

A proclamation was presented to the Farm-City Committee and the Russell County Extension Office for the November celebration of Farm-City week. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested Administrator Horne to read a proclamation for those who served in World War I and requested that at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th, for churches who have bells to toll those bells honoring those who fought. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps added discussion item a portrait that was approved to be hung in the Courthouse. She stated that this is old business that has not been completed and would like for the committee to get together to decide where to display the portrait.

Chair Martin presented a court order for cremation of Jerry R. Thompson and motioned to approve the cremation request. County Administrator stated the cremation payable to Colonial Funeral Home not to exceed \$400. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor requested the Commission to deny the food bid that was sent in by Merchant's for the wording that they submitted in the contract which allows them to fluctuate the food prices. I want to reject those bids and request the Commission also reject it. There was some type of a misunderstanding with Columbus Paper that they did not get the bid request. I would like to resend the bid. I will have it prepared to send back out again probably by the next Commission meeting. We will discuss the wording in the contract between now and then to see if that could be resolved. Hopefully Columbus Paper will also receive the bid request and be able to submit a bid. Commissioner Epps motioned to accept Sheriff Taylor's request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Currington discussed that he had budgeted \$7,500 for a traffic study on Hwy 80 the County Engineer confirmed this at the budget meeting. He motioned to approve Chair Martin signing the contract. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented an agreement for Project RCP-57-020-16B, the restoration of CR-97 (Gammage Road) from the Barbour County line north to CR-137 (Glennville Hwy). The project will be let November 2nd. This is a budgeted project with a 20% match. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Economic Developer Manager Victor Cross discussed a possible sewer opportunity in the Fort Mitchell Area. A citizen who owns two (2) mobile home parks in that area has a buyer for those properties. There is a total of 166 pads in the parks. The buyer is interested in a larger sewer system than the present owner, Mr. Phillips, had designed. The prospective buyers would like to talk to the Commission about putting together a public/private partnership which may create a better sewer situation in Fort Mitchell. Mr. Cross requested the Commission's authorization to set up a meeting that would include Commissioners Epps, Screws and Lee, as well as himself.

Attorney Funderburk explained there is a legal issue. County Sewer has been delegated by resolution to the Sewer Authority and the Commission can not go forward without going through the Sewer Authority. The only thing this Commission can do is funding support if the Sewer Board presents it. They have no ability to collect money for the Sewer Authority. Any application for sewer, or for a grant or bond will have to come through the Sewer and Water System. Then, if the RCWSA wants the Commission to fund, the board can bring it back to the Commission with a plan and estimated cost.

Mr. Cross stated that he understood that, but at this time he wanted to find out about the situation.

Mr. Funderburk replied that he was trying to find out what the County can do.

Commissioner Lee defined that the meeting would be to acquire information to determine if it would be feasible. The information would then be turned over to the Sewer Authority.

Commissioner Corbett asked why Mr. Cross would bring this to the Commission now? Why take three Commissioners that know nothing about sewer to a meeting about sewer? Why not bring the Sewer Authority to the table now and their Engineer, who has the expertise in Sewer Systems?

Commissioner Currington questioned why not put a Board together along with Sheppard Dearing, Engineer, for this project. Then have them report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Lee's answer was that the County already has a Sewer Board. They could either have an informal meeting with 3 Commissioners or let the County Sewer Board hear their proposal. Regardless, it will have to come back to the County Commission.

Commissioner Currington stated: I meant a committee which would include Commissioners and Sewer Board Members.

Attorney Funderburk stated: It would only come back to the County, if you were going to finance the project. The Commission doesn't know enough to talk about the proposal at today's meeting.

Mr. Cross declared that is the reason for the meeting is to find out about the project.

Attorney Funderburk detailed, that you are going around the agency that has the authority and expertise to deal with sewage.

Chair Martin asked, why couldn't Mr. Cross use the Sewer Authority that is in place?

Mr. Cross believed the situation is, that the buyers are interested in talking to the Commission, so they understand what they want to do and get the Commission to hear their proposal to bring back to this body before moving it to the Sewer Authority.

Commissioner Reed said, that he did not have a problem with Mr. Cross's request.

Commissioner Epps announced that she attends meetings to learn and according to NACO, the Commission is in the sewer business. We are elected by the people and are supposed to serve the people. We have hired Mr. Cross to do a job. He is trying to do his job. The Commission is making decisions, illegally. The Commissioners know there is a Sewer Board. The last conversation that she had with the Sewer Board is that they could not finance a sewer project and would have to come through the Commission for funding. She requested that the Commission let Mr. Cross do the job that they hired him to do. She didn't see where there would be anything illegal with having a committee talk to someone who could supply a need. Then have the Sewer Authority take over and work along with Mr. Cross to get the project completed. Personally, she did not see a problem in talking with anyone. Decisions are made outside of the meetings daily and brought to the Commission Meeting to be passed.

I'm speaking for Fort Mitchell because that is in District 5; the people that I represent and, I have heard the complaints about not having sewerage.

Commissioner Corbett agreed with Commissioner Epps. Mr. Cross could do the job. He is requesting for 3 Commissioners to meet which is obviously asking for some type of action or decision. He should go to the Sewer Board for that. If Mr. Cross wants to meet with anyone then he can meet with them. Bringing in 3 Commissioners into a meeting with them and asking for the Commission to approve that, "No".

Mr. Cross replied; that he is trying to do due diligence and find out about the situation and proposal.

Commissioner Lee stated, he has been asked many times about going to meetings about a certain area before it goes anywhere. That is alright. Mr. Cross did not even have to bring his request before the Commission. All he needed to do is call three Commissioners and ask them to attend the meeting concerning a project. That is all. No decision nothing to bring back to the Commission. In the past, a project would go to the Sewer Board first and they would bring a proposal to the Commission for a decision only to have it turned down. He thought it would be better if some Commissioners would be involved in the beginning to see if it was feasible. Then, go to the Sewer Board and let them bring it to the full Commission for a decision.

Mr. Cross announced that he would handle it himself.

Attorney Funderburk recommended that the Commission go into an executive session. Chair Martin motioned to move into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Personnel Director Carolyn Robinson included a report on vacant positions and new hires for September 2018 in the Commissioners packets.

Announcements were made before recessing into the session.

The 3rd Annual Veterans Day Banquet will be held Friday, November 9th at the St. Luke Center at 7:00 p.m.

The Courthouse will be closed November 12th for Veterans Day. The Commission Work Session is cancelled due to the holiday.

The Fall Festival will be held at the Fort Mitchell Visitors Center, October 27th, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00p.m.

The Haunted Courthouse Ball is, October 27th, form 8:00 p.m. to Midnight.

Time change will happen Sunday, November 4th. Make sure to set your clocks back 1 hour.

The Commission returned from the executive session. Commissioner Lee motioned to reconvene. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioners Corbett and Currington did not return to the meeting. Chair Martin, Commissioners Reed, Lee, Epps and Screws voted to approve continuation of the meeting.

There were no votes required at this time concerning the executive session topics. Therefore, Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

The meeting was adjourned.

After careful examination and considerations, the Commission authorized the Administrator4 to pay the following bills from the perspective funds.

October 2018 Checks

General Fund 001				
17783	10-3-18	Marcoa Publishing Inc	41250 018	3,600.00
17784	10-3-18	Intersecure Tech Inc	41250 018	\$149.00
17785	10-4-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 9/22/18-10/05/18	3030	\$401,221.61
17786	10-5-18	Russell County Fire Department Association	3040	\$300.00
17787	10-10-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$156,532.66
17788	1010-18	APG East LLC	41250 018	\$7,500.00
17789	10-17-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$144,870.68
17790	10-18-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 10/06/18-10/19/18	3030	\$335,197.10
17791	10-23-18	Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery Support Committee	41250 018	\$1,500.00
17792	10-23-18	Intersecure Tech Inc	41250 018	\$5,499.00
17793	10-19-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Acct.	102365	\$24,105.00
17794	10-19-18	Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Alabama	52100 122	\$1,103.62

17795	10-19-18	Employees Retirement System of Alabama	52100 121	\$62.80
17796	10-26-18	Tucson Atlantic Consulting	41250 018	\$1,500.00
17797	10-29-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$72,121.93
17798	10-31-18	Intersecure Tech Inc	41250 018	\$149.00
		Masonic Lodge Fund 104		
1094	10-31-18	Gloria Jenkins	51100 499	\$425.00
		Gasoline Tax 111 Fund		
13518	10-04-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 9/22/18-10/05/18	3030	\$95,470.38
13519	10-10-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$17,706.31
13520	10-05-18	Local Government Health Insurance Board	53100 122	\$918.00
13521	10-17-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$22,106.36
13522	10-18-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 10/06/18-10/19/18	3030	\$77,065.19
13523	10-19-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll	53100 122	\$10,370.00
13524	10-29-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$91,565.76
13525	10-26-18	Local Government Health Insurance Board	53100 122	\$459.00
13526	10-29-18	Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Ala	53100 122	\$168.10
13527	10-29-18	Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Ala	53100 122	\$32.00
		Road & Bridge 112		
000150	10-09-18	Alabama Department of Labor	51100 126	\$516.04
1280	10-04-18	Buster Sanders	51100 307	\$192.00
1281	10-04-18	Becca Boswell	51100 307	\$615.00
1282	10-10-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$392,007.82
1283	10-19-18	US Bank (2010) 62116 299 (2011) 62123 299	\$2090.00 \$2,420.00	\$4,510.00
1284	10-19-18	Buster Sanders	51100 307	\$116.00
1285	10-19-18	Richard Thomas	51100 307	\$930.00
1286	10-19-18	Mathew Marshall Jr	51100 307	\$675.00
1287	10-19-18	Yekevius Shorter	51100 307	\$780.00
1288	10-19-18	Kevin Hennessey	51100 307	\$120.00
1289	10-19-18	Rebecca Boswell	51100 307	\$137.25
1290	10-26-18	Beth Monk	51100 307	\$1,600.00
1291	10-29-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$640.00
1292	10-30-18	Rebecca Boswell	51100 307	\$405.00
1293	10-31-18	Lee Battle Remodeling VOID	VOID	\$8,275.00
		Capital Improvement 116		
306	10-17-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$46,970.00
		Reappraisal Fund 120		
2191	10-04-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 9/22/18-10/05/18	3030	\$24,680.12

2192	10-10-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$18,356.82
2193	10-17-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$1,589.82
2194	10-18-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 10/06/18-10/19/18	3030	\$20,615.64
2195	10-19-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll	51982 122	\$896.00
2196	10-29-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$16,723.02
		Juvenile Drug Court Fund 195		
1246	10-01-18	Tommy Powell	56900 199	\$895.71
1247	10-01-18	Tommy Powell	56900 199	\$895.71
		Garbage Fund 511		
1552	10-04-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 9/15/18-09/28/18	3030	\$72,180.51
1553	10-10-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$4,637.50
1554	10-17-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$41,535.12
1555	10-18-18	Phenix -Girard Bank Russell County Payroll Sal. 09/29/18-10/12/18	3030	\$54,659.80
1556	10-24-18	Postmaster	54100	\$2,559.96
1557	10-19-18	Operations Fund Phenix-Girard Bank	3020	\$22,007.95
	10-02-18	Garbage Refund Checks 60981-60993		\$368.68
		Russell Payroll 710 See Check Register in the Commission Office		
		General Fund 718 See Check Register in the Commission Office		
		Law Library Fund 755		
1045	10-03-18	Maxgraphics	51100 499	\$139.00
1046	10-15-18	Malone Office Environment	51100 499	\$135.98
1047	10-23-18	Lexis Nexis	51100 499	\$39.38
		Worthless Check 761		
509	10-12-18	Worthless Check Unit Office of District Attorney		\$4,040.49
		51260 365	\$1,414.17	
		51260 362	\$2,626.32	
		Juvenile Service Fund 787		
2246	10-15-18	WalMart	52600 499	\$53.80
2247	10-23-18	ELG Computer Care	52600 499	\$115.40
2248	10-23-18	Verizon	52600 499	\$130.28
		County Tobacco Fund 797		
468	10-23-18	Russell County Volunteer Fire Department Association	3040	\$23,766.07
469	10-23-18	Project Greene Light	3040	\$625.41
470	10-23-18	Task Force for Senior Citizens	3040	\$625.41

		County Beer Tax 798		
701	10-29-18	Phenix Girard Bank (General Fund)	3040	\$12,746.06
702	10-29-18	Phenix Girard Bank (General Fund)	3040	\$2,892.66
703	10-29-18	Russell County Board of Education	3040	\$25,492.13
704	10-29-18	Russell County Fire Committee Special Account	3040	\$12,746.06

Attest: _____ Signed: _____

County Administrator

Chair