

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
9:30 A.M. EDT

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

The invocation was given by Antonio Thomas, Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Martin.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. 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 Attorney Robert Lane, who advised the Commission in Kenneth Funderburk's absence, and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws presented a proclamation to the family of the late Solomon Mitchell, who served as Commissioner of District 7 in 1992.

A proclamation was also presented to the Russell County Extension Office for Farm/City Week.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve proclamations honoring Solomon Mitchell and Farm/City Week. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Adoption Awareness Month was also commemorated by a proclamation from the Commission. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

EMA Director Bob Franklin introduced new EMA employee Samantha Cato.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the holiday schedule for the Sanitation Department. Administrator Horne met with the Sanitation Department to devise with a solution for the holiday schedule. It was decided that the holiday schedules would return to normal, with the exception of Thanksgiving, since there was not enough time to notify the public of the change in the schedule. Therefore, it will continue as advertised. A garbage truck

will run Friday to make pick-ups for those customers who missed their holiday pick-up day. Temporary dumpsters will also be located at Crawford Volunteer, Ladonia Sports Complex, Fort Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department and the Transfer Station on Poorhouse Road, in case someone has an overflow of garbage.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval to purchase equipment which is part of the engineering equipment rotation program, which was successful before the declining economy in 2008. The program was halted because of the values that they thought they would get for resale of equipment. Engineering can basically buy equipment at wholesale prices with government discounts and are able to resale on the open market for retail. A sale has been proposed for 3 - 2013 Mack Trucks which they expect to get approximately \$121,000 - \$122,000 each. These were purchased for \$127,000, 3 years ago. 2 motor graders are also for sale. Mr. Kite stated that the new equipment will come from the ACCA County Joint Bid Program:

- 3 Mack Heavy Duty Axle Dump Trucks Chassis (2016 Mack GU13) for the total amount of \$343,701.00 from Nextran Truck Center
- 3-16 ft. Steel Dump Body (21 CY Stamped Ox Body) for the total amount of \$67,542.00 from Childsburg Truck.
- 2- Motor graders (Caterpillar 140M3) for the total amount of \$517,330.00.

The Commission asked Mr. Kite to provide numbers for engineering debt. He explained that the numbers should not be looked at as debt, but as leasing equipment, since the dump trucks will be sold in 2 years and the motor graders in 3 years. The County is able to borrow money for these items at just over 2% interest and sell equipment for an excellent price. He asked that they review cost to operate this equipment and not the debt that is on the books. Mr. Kite stated that he realized it is a loan that the County is committed to pay back and there are no guarantees for the future, but with the rotation program going the way that it has, the equipment can be operated at a fraction of the cost and it will be under warranty. He also gave an example of a minor repair cost of \$7,000, for one of the motor graders that he plans to place on the market.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the purchase and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. More discussion took place about the amount and whether it was in the current budget. Administrator Horne polled the Commission: District 1 (Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. 6 yes votes and 1 no vote; the motion passed.

Mr. Kite requested approval for Engineering's annual materials bid and to set the opening date as January 14th, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in the Russell County Commission Chambers for the following materials:

- 001-16 Striping and Marking
- 002-16 Liquid Asphalt
- 003-16 Guardrail materials
- 004-16 Bituminous Paving

- 005-16 Grassing
- 006-16 Aluminized Type 2 Corrug. Steel & HDPE Pipe
- 007-16 Aggegates
- 008-16 Concrete Pipe
- 009-16 Truck Hauling
- 010-16 Geotextiles

Request to renew the following bid(s) per the terms of the bids:

- 013-15 Motor Grades Blades

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the annual bid. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

The Russell County Planning Commission appointment for District 7 has expired. This position is current held by Rick Perry, who would like to continue serving on the Board. Commissioner Screws motioned to reappoint Mr. Perry. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Parks and Recreation Director Bill Taylor presented a contract between Russell County and the Russell County Baseball League. The agreement is normally for one year, but the League only wants to accept management of the Seale Sports Complex for a five (5) month period from January 1, 2016 to June 1, 2016. Mr. Taylor recommended accepting the contact as revised. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the contract and was seconded by Commissioners Epps and Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin opened the floor for nominations for Commission Chair.

Commissioner Reed motioned to re-elect Peggy Martin as Chair. Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous. Chair Martin remains Commissioner Chair.

Chair Martin opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Reed nominated Larry Screws as Vice Chair. Commissioner Epps motioned to close the nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws becomes Vice Chair.

Administrator Horne presented the 2016 Russell County Holiday Schedule, which follows the State Holiday Schedule. Saturday Holidays are observed on Friday, Sunday Holidays are observed on Monday. The Commission will be allowed to set in honor of Mardi Gras, which other counties take, to set a floating holiday to be used at the Commission's discretion. Administrator Horne recommended approving the 2016 holiday schedule. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the holiday schedule and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne discussed Tag Issuance Legislation that was passed in the last legislative session. This legislation is ready to be implemented by Commission approval. Revenue generated from the local tag fee will go toward paving dirt roads and maintaining paved roads. 40% of the proceeds will be deposited and distributed to the

City of Phenix City; 60% of the proceeds will go to the County General Fund and Hurtsboro will also receive their portion of the tag fees, which there were about 300 tags sold in Hurtsboro. This will benefit both municipalities and county roads. Legislation requires the \$10.00 fee to be implemented in January 2016 and time will be needed to acquire the needed software for collection of the tag fee, if it is the Commission's desire to approve the Tag Issuance Legislation. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the Tag Issuance Fee and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. Discussion took place. Administrator Horne polled the Commission: District 1(Lee) voted, no; District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6(Corbett) voted, no; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. 4 yes votes and 3 no votes; the motion passed.

Administrator Horne reviewed HR Forms that were created for the Russell Human Resources by a consultant who was contacted this year in anticipation of the new Human Resources Department. Administrator Horne recommended approval of the forms and their implementation by the Human Resource Department. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the HR Forms. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Robert Lane announced the Coulter Building Statutory Warranty Deed for the Coulter Building has been submitted to the Museum Committee's Attorney, but there has not been an acceptance or communications concerning the warranty deed, yet. Commissioner Pugh stated he had been requested by the Committee to table the deed until the next meeting so the Committee could work out technicalities.

Personnel Items have been placed in the Commission Packets for review.

December 19<sup>th</sup> the Crawford Park/ Historic Tuckabatchee Lodge have schedule Breakfast with Santa and a community build for playground equipment. This begins at 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

Chair Martin requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.