

Russell County Commission  
Russell County Commission Chambers  
Meeting Minutes November 25,2020  
9:30 A.M. EST

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Denise White discussed a recent experience in the increase of insurance due to what she understood.

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

Chairman Lee welcomed everyone for their attendance and all officials.

Chairman Lee noted the agenda was approved at the work session on Monday.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Gina Harper Minister.

Commissioner Chambers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne established a quorum. Members present were Chairman Gentry Lee, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Rod Costello, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett, and Commissioner Larry Screws. Also, present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk. A quorum was confirmed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Lee stated: There are two sets of minutes to approve. We will approve one at the time. The first minutes is October 28, 2020. Is there a motion to approve? Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. There were not changes noted. The vote was unanimous to approve minutes.

Commissioner Lee stated: Is there a motion for the November 12, 2020 minutes to be approved? Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. There are no changes noted. The vote was unanimous.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

No agenda items.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve and promote Miss Tina Thomas, (currently the Finance Manager / Bookkeeper) to the Assistant County Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Reed. The motion carried with Commissioners: Lee, Chambers, Costello, and Corbett voting, yes. Commissioners: Epps, Reed and Screws voting, no. Chairman Lee stated. The salary will be brought back at the next county commission meeting.

Sheriff Taylor presented the department's annual uniform bid. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Attorney stated: In his legal opinion, the local company recommended by Sheriff Taylor met the bid law requirements and as responsible bidder. The uniform bid was approved by unanimous vote. (insert bid tabulation sheet)

**2020 Uniform Bid Spreadsheet**

ITEM	VENDOR	VENDOR	VENDOR
	Galls	MAC	Maneuvers
Class A Shirt L/S	\$ 39.00	\$ 46.95	\$ 44.97
Class A Shirt S/S	\$ 37.00	\$ 42.95	\$ 41.36
Class A Slacks	\$ 39.00	\$ 49.95	\$ 51.63
Campaign Hat	N/A	N/A	\$ 90.99
Stetson Small Brim H	\$ 175.00	\$ 105.00	N/A
Hat Badge	\$ 79.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 72.00
Uniform Badge	\$ 89.00	\$ 94.00	\$ 72.00
Class B Shirt L/S	\$ 39.00	\$ 39.50	\$ 43.89
Class B Shirt S/S	N/A	\$ 34.50	\$ 41.89
Class B Pants	\$ 47.00	\$ 43.00	\$ 41.68
Jacket	\$ 42.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 49.95
Polo Shirt L/S	\$ 39.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 41.62
Polo Shirt S/S	\$ 37.00	\$ 38.00	\$ 38.76
Emb. Badge	\$ 12.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 14.00
Ballistic Vest Carrier	N/A	N/A	N/A
Safety Vest	N/A	N/A	\$ 32.95

Emergency Management Director, Bob Franklin, presented and recommended for approval the Hazardous Mitigation Plan for the County. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers, The Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Franklin, Emergency Management Director, requested to postpone the county's telephone system item on the agenda. The Commission voted to postpone by unanimous vote per the recommendation of the Emergency Management Director.

Emergency Management Director, Mr. Franklin, requested to approve the Audio-Visual system proposed and estimate which will provide for system upgrades to the building and new equipment for the Commissioner's Chambers and utilization for meetings. The current system is over 15 years old and is not compatible with today's technology. It will not allow the County Commissioners to communicate virtually or publicize their meetings or official information utilizing social media which is needed due to COVID-19 and due to the restrictions placed on public meetings and distancing of citizens due to the potential spread of the virus. The current system is just not capable of providing the necessary requirements today's technology requires. An example would be, recently the Commission meetings have been attempting to utilize Facebook Live to publish the official commission meetings and other types of public service announcements including COVID-19 updates, warnings or other community related issues such as closures of government offices or buildings. I am recommending National Audio, a local company at their price quoted of \$14,996. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The Commission voted to approve by unanimous vote.

Mr. Franklin, Emergency Management Director, requested for the Courthouse Exterior Door(s) bid to be approved. The current Courthouse Door system for the building does not meet building code standards or safety requirements. The quote is \$43,5000 ext. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The motion carries by unanimous vote of the Commission.

The record reflects County Attorney Funderburk stepped out to take a phone call. Chairman noted and requested to wait a minute until he returns.

The record reflects the County Attorney returned to the meeting after a 3.5-minute telephone call.

Commissioner Epps reported on the meeting Mr. Franklin and she attended with Lee-Russell and other agencies. Available funding for planning and constructing a bicycle trail for the county was discussed and the available through CDBG. Emergency Management Director, Mr. Franklin, indicated that the grant application requires the Commission to appoint a committee to work with

the City of Phenix City and Town of Hurtsboro to submit and agree on the project scope. He stated:

it is his understanding the City and Hurtsboro will appoint a committee to represent their respective governments during the planning meetings. Commission Corbett motioned to approve and authorize the Chairman of the Commission to appoint the Committee members. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The motion carried with unanimous vote of the Commission. Chairman Lee appointed: Bob Franklin; Johnny Burrell, County Health Inspector; Chairman of the Commission and Sheriff Taylor to represent the County Commission in working with area governments on the bicycle trial project.

The County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented the State Contract for paving Freeman Road and requested authorization for the Chairman to sign funding documents contract. He stated this is a budgeted item for the match and the State has already \$85,409. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The request from the Engineer was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the County Commission. He explained that each year in November a Chairman is elected by the board which provides for annual rotation of the Chairman. Nominations for the Chair are: Commissioner nominations were closed. Chairman stated: The Commission will take the last nomination first. All for the Commissioner Epps sign by raising your hand. Commissioner Epps received three (3) votes. Chairman Lee asked for all those who support Commissioner Corbett sign by raising your hands. Commissioner Corbett received four (4) votes and majority vote of the Commission. Chairman Lee stated: Commissioner Corbett has been elected as the Chairman of the County Commission and his term will begin officially next week.

Chairman Lee opened the floor for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Costello nominated Commissioner Lee for Vice Chairman and motioned to close the nominations. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. Commissioner Lee was approved as Vice Chairman by unanimous vote.

Chairman Lee thanked the county commissioners for their support during his term as Chairman of the County Commission. He also thanked his wife, Belle Lee, and citizens of Russell County.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne recommended approving a one-year contract with Avenu Insights. They are contracted to collect the County's taxes: Sales and Use, Business Licenses, and Rental Taxes, Lodging Tax Revenue.

County Attorney Funderburk stated for the record: the contract language should be amended to reflect a 30-day out clause with no restrictive language. All monies shall be paid that are owed at the time of termination. The contract termination clause should be kept simple. Yolanda Bailey, Avenu Insights representative, indicated she would take the contract(s) presented this morning back to their attorney so he can amend the contract language per the County Attorney. She also stated: I will resend the contracts for signature once the language is changed. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the contracts with Avenu Insights with changes recommended by the County Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The motion by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Epps stated the County's website she observed seems to have the commission meeting time wrong and for it to be checked.

Commissioner Corbett reported on Crawford's Market Days.

Commissioner Corbett reported the schedule for the Christmas pictures with Santa's Sleigh and rain deer. Everyone is invited.

LeRoy Davis reported he attended the Lee-Russell meeting regarding planning and funding for bike trail in the county.

Commissioner Lee stated: The Farm City Proclamation was approved at the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Reed motioned to adjourn the commission meeting.



1203	11-18-20	Michelle Folds	51100 239	\$250.00
1204	11-23-20	Joel Jones	51100 499	\$500.00
		<b>Court Cost Fund 105</b>		
		<b>Gasoline Tax 111 Fund</b>		
13777	10-6-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$57,712.30
13778	11-12-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$98,201.11
13779	11-17-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$3,012.12
13780	11-18-20	Rebuild Alabama PGB	3040	\$53,593.92
13781	11-20-20	United Healthcare	53100 122	\$138.00
13782	11-23-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$451.43
13783	11-24-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$80,627.22
		<b>Road &amp; Bridge 112</b>		
1453	11-6-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$40,324.00
1454	11-20-20	CAN Surety	51100 273	\$595.00
1455	11-23-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$15,700.00
1456	11-25-20	Richard E. Thomas	51100 304	\$480.00
		<b>Capital Imp. Fund 116</b>		
		<b>RRR Gasoline Tax 117</b>		
1219	11-20-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$83,051.84
1220	11-25-20	Alabama Dept of Transportation	53100 530	\$85,405.79
		<b>Mineral Fund 119</b>		
		<b>Reappraisal 120</b>		
2350	11-6-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$3,259.08
2351	11-12-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$26,417.20
2352	11-17-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$2,025.48
2353	11-23-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$293.61
2354	11-24-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$21,884.20
		<b>Juvenile Drug 195</b>		
1297	11-1-20	Tommy Powell	56900 199	\$895.71
1298	11-16-20	Tommy Powell	56900 199	\$895.71
		<b>Rebuild Alabama Fund 220</b>		

		<b>Sanitation Fund 511</b>		
1738	11-5-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$141.42
1739	11-6-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$17,979.52
1740	11-12-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$73,505.40
1741	11-17-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$251.52
1742	11-20-20	Operations Fund, P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$43,364.99
1743	11-23-20	Postmaster	54100 252	\$2,643.15
1744	11-24-20	Payroll Fund PG Bank	3030	\$58,949.58
		<b>Garbage Escrow Fund 513</b>		
		<b>Donation Fund 750</b>		
493	11-17-20	JTM Corporation	51100 499	\$7,750.00
		<b>Law Library 755</b>		
1124	11-5-20	RELX, Inc. dba LexisNexis	51100 499	\$462.00
1125	11-5-20	Legal Directories	51100 410	\$177.75
1126	11-18-20	Walmart	51100 499	\$97.72
		<b>Worthless Check 761</b>		
534	11-5-20	Worthless Check Unit Office of District Attorney	51260 362 51260 365	\$1,694.46 \$912.39
		<b>MV TECHNOLOGY</b>		
		<b>Revenue Commissioner Manufactured Fund 781</b>		
		<b>Motor Vehicle Special Fund 782</b>		
		<b>Land Redemption Fund 786</b>		
		<b>Juvenile Service Fund 787</b>		
2302	11-17-20	Linda Elias	52600 499	\$9.64
2303	11-17-20	Walmart	52600 499	\$170.64
2304	11-17-20	Verizon	52600 499	\$122.80
		<b>County Tobacco Fund 797</b>		

545	11-20-20	Russell County Volunteer Fire Department Association	3040	\$26,365.94
546	11-20-20	Project Greene Light	3040	\$693.84
547	11-20-20	Task Force for Senior Citizens	3040	\$693.84
		<b>County Beer Tax 798</b>		

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair