

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2014
9:30 A.M. EST

Chair Martin called an adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission to order.

The invocation was given by Junior White, Pastor of Woodland Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reed.

A public comment was made by Kelly Roberts from the Phenix City/Russell County Chamber of Commerce, who updated the Commission. 2 grants have been awarded to the Chamber to help fund visitors' guide and to put toward the next archery tournaments be held next year. The International Tour was held on Friday, December 5th.

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

The Commission role 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 were Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the November 26th, 2014 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Albert Johnson was presented a proclamation for 30 years of service in the Russell County Court System. He will retire at the end of December, 2014.

Army Times Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Thomas Block, was also presented a proclamation for his courage, determination and inspiration to others.

Russell County Extension Coordinator, Theodore B, Gilbert will also retire December 17th, 2014. He received a proclamation of appreciation for his 10 years of service to Russell County.

The Housing Authority of the City of Phenix City invited the Commission to their 2nd Annual Senior Luncheon to be held December 10th. They also asked for contributions to help feed the 250 seniors they expected to attend the luncheon.

Probate Judge Alford Harden discussed the Probate Judge Indexing Fee, which is a \$5.00 recording fee that is placed in a discretionary fund for purchasing items for use in the Probate Office. The fee has to be approved every 2 years by resolution.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the renewal and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett discussed that at a previous meeting he discussed exploring the option of installing audio-visual equipment in the Commission Chambers. This will be a better recordkeeping of the meeting and have the ability in the future to provide DVD's and to establish a YouTube channel on the county website of the meetings for those who are unable to attend. Bids were obtained from two different companies. Both gave quotes for very similar equipment with Columbus Tape and Video being the low bid. The quote is for \$7,265.89. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve purchase of the camera equipment from Columbus Tape and Video. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Corbett stated that the price included installation, training and drops for the power. Administrator Horne informed the Commission that this will be funded out of the Maintenance budget under equipment and was included in this year's budget. The vote was unanimous.

Alabama Power Company has requested approval to move power poles and other maintenance beginning at intersection of 14th Street, down the Broad Street and to continue around the Judicial Building. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve grant easement rights to the Alabama Power Company. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval to let the Annual Materials Bid to be opened, January 15, 2015, in the Commission Chambers at 2:30 p.m. He would like to bring the results of the bid for Commission approval at the regular January 28th. Mr. Kite read the list of items for bid. Commissioner Screw motioned to approve Mr. Kite's request and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kite also presented the Road Acceptance Policy. The policy authorizes the County Administrator to sign certification on the plat on the behalf of the County. The plat and roads are in compliance with the subdivision regulations and other acceptance policies established for roads. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

The Board of Education Resolution was presented by Administrator Horne. She explained that the resolution was renewing the Commission's commitment to the \$.01 sales tax approved for the Board of Education. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne also requested an increase in Dr. Warr's services, who provides medical coverage and physician services at the Russell County Jail. He has expanded his services by working with Russell County Employees and the New Nurses program. He is requesting \$125.00 a week increase which is approximately \$6,000 per year. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

The Holiday schedule for 2015 and Commission Meeting Schedule was presented for review. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The State has approved Mardi Gras for Baldwin & Mobile Counties, the Russell County Commission will approve this to be a floating holiday at the County Commission discretion. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne introduced Yolanda Jackson, who is a consultant and is willing to help Ms. Robinson set up the County's Human Resource Department. Ms. Jackson will make sure our Human Resources Department is in legal compliance. Administrator Horne requested to approve a contract for her services. She will work for 6 days, one day a week for the amount of \$300 per day. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Troy University Brick Campaign Fundraiser contact Dr. Carmen Lewis @ (334) 448-5168
- The Courthouse and All County Offices will be closed December 24, 25, & 26 for the Christmas Holidays.
- Commissioner Reed announced the Phenix City /Russell County branch of the NAACP will host the 52nd Emancipation Program, January 1st, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. est. at Nichols Chapel African Methodist Church. All are invited.
- The Seale Courthouse Dance will be held December 13th.

Chair Martin requested a motion to adjourn the Commission meeting. Commissioner Reed made the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.