

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2019  
9:30 A.M. EST

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

Chair Gentry Lee stated: The first item of business is not on the agenda. Commissioner Martin has asked if there is no objection, she would like to give \$5000 of her money to the Veteran's Group that came before us. If there is no objection, we will add that under business.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Peggy Martin.

Commissioner Peggy Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chair Lee stated: Under Public Comments I have Mr. William J. Martin. Will you come forward?

Mr. William J. Martin stated: Mr. Martin is the owner of Martin's Tree Service; we have been looking to try to find a piece of property to start a private inert landfill.

Chair Lee stated: You need to meet with our Attorney and make sure, there is some regulations on inert landfills. Meet with Mr. Friend and our Attorney and get that worked out and when you do put in on our agenda, you call the Commission Office on Wednesday before the next meeting. We can hear the whole thing.

Chair Lee thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission Meetings. He also welcomed Elected Officials, Department Heads, Media and Guests.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne called roll. Members present were; Chair Gentry Lee, Vice Chair Peggy Martin, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Chance Corbett and Commissioner Larry Screws. Commissioner Larry Currington and Commissioner Cattie Epps were absent. Also, present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk. A quorum was established.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chair Lee requested approval of the November 25, 2019 minutes. County Administrator let the Commission know the minutes were not completed.

Chair Lee stated: We will entertain a motion to postpone the reading of the minutes until the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was passed to move the approval of the November 25, 2019 minutes to the next Commission Meeting.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Chair Lee stated: We have a Resolution. The Board of Education made a request we renew their sales tax until 2049 to apply for bond money to do some construction. At this time, I am going to ask Attorney to give us a report.

County Attorney Funderburk stated: It is, the one that is in your file is the one that has been approved. It continues through their projective date of 2049.

Chair Lee stated: To explain to the public, this is a .01 cent sales tax that the legislature allows counties to enforce to go only to schools. It is listed as a County tax, but the government gets no revenue from it. It all goes to the school system and it is divided

between the number of students. Russell County has two school systems, so it is divided between the two. It is just a renewal so at this time I entertain a motion for approval.

Commissioner Martin motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was passed to approve the School Board .01 cent sales tax until 2049.

**BUSINESS:**

Sheriff Heath Taylor stated: I am going to ask this morning that we pass continuance of the license because we have done the normal investigation and there is a potential issue with the distance with our local legislation. There may be a way around and to accommodate the restaurant. If there is, I would like to do so. We need to get in touch with the church and we were unable to do that. This license just came to us on Monday. We were unable to get in touch with them before this morning. I would like to potentially pass this to the next meeting, and we will have an answer from the church by then.

Chair Lee stated: Do we have a motion to delay this to our next meeting?  
Commissioner Corbett motioned to move to the next meeting. Commissioner Martin seconded. The vote was approved to pass until the next Commission Meeting for the liquor license for (David L. Rushing—Criolla).

Commissioner Corbett asked for discussion: Sheriff, I know you have already talked to the owner of the store, but I actually read a face book message last week asking why the Commission is delaying this. Obviously, this is the first time we have seen it.

Sheriff Heath Taylor stated: We got it Monday, but the issues are 323 feet from the closest part of the church. Our local legislation is 500. I have to get in touch with the church to see if they are willing to wave that. If they don't, there is not much we can do its our local legislation.

County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was passed to move to the liquor license for David L. Rushing—Criolla to the next Commission meeting.

Enforcement Officer Bill Friend stated: In 2015, there was a contractor that was building some homes out in Fort Mitchell and they filed for bankruptcy. Several of the homes were not finished. One of them was partially framed and sat there for a long time. It had an open permit on it and we couldn't do anything to it until the permit was closed. We waited about a year and with the advice of the attorney, he did an investigation on it and said they filed Chapter 7. Since they did, we could do no type of action against it while they were in Chapter 7. This has been going on for about three years. I have contacted the banks. I have contacted the people that are involved in Westgate LLC. All the property owners. I have notified all the litigations as far as we are concerned, and Chapter 7 has been completed except for a minor civil suit that doesn't affect us. I did reach out to them to see if they would clean this place up. This was supposed to be about a \$250,000 home. The wood is all rotted. It has been sitting since 2005. The wood is falling down and decaying. It has basically been condemned. The Building Department looked at it and they said the same thing. I got an estimate to clear this area for \$3,000. They are going to leave the slab. The neighbors said thank you. I am requesting the Commission by Resolution to declare this property a public nuisance. I am also requesting that the Public Hearing will be scheduled January 8, 2019 at 9:30 A.M. because there is no other meeting this month.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was passed to abate 3 Chickasaw Trail, Ft. Mitchell, AL.

Chair Lee stated: The next item on the agenda those of you that were here we talked about it at our last meeting that we had a request from the Russell County High School Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer Team for some help on funds. We delayed it at that time until we did some investigation. I did a little investigation and I found out the school system doesn't really support the soccer program very much. It is left up to the parents

and the teams to raise the money. I understand that the parents are having to put in \$300 or \$400 a piece. They have done fundraisers but they still need a funding. I am proposing \$1,000 from District 1 funds to be used for this. I have heard two other request this morning from Commissioner Corbett and Commissioner Martin that they also will contribute \$1,000.

Commissioner Reed stated: I would like to give them \$500.

Commissioner Lee stated: I make a motion \$1,000 District 1, \$1,000 District 3, \$1,000 District 6 and \$500 District 4. Commissioner Corbett seconded. The vote was passed to fund the Russell County High School JV and Varsity boys' soccer team.

Commissioner Lee stated: I instructed County Administrator Horne that the letter that goes with the funding will state it is entirely for the JV and Varsity boys' soccer teams.

Commissioner Lee stated: Commissioner Martin we added something for you?

Commissioner Martin stated: In our last meeting we had a couple approach us for the operation of a veteran home. They have given us their 5013C and I have checked with the attorney we are good on that. I would like to move \$4,000 be given to this veteran home from my District 3. Commissioner Corbett seconded.

Commissioner Corbett stated: I do have a discussion. I was asked by Mr. David about a flagpole and I did reach out to Woodmen of the World and they have furnished them a flagpole for that location as well.

County Administrator polled the Commission. The voted was passed for District 3 to fund \$4,000 to the Safe Landing Veteran's.

Commissioner Martin announced she is retiring and thanked everyone for voting for her.

Commissioner Lee stated: Since this is our last meeting of the year, I would like to wish everyone in Russell County and Phenix City a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope it is a prosperous new year and a good year with the Commission.

County Administrator Horne stated: I just want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and also wanted to thank the County employees for all their hard work this year. Every year they produce an absorbent amount of work. I thank you for the dedication you and all the services you do for the County and all the citizens.

Announcements were made.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

#### **December 2019 Checks**

<b>General Fund 001</b>				
18001	12-02-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$32,002.70
18002	12-06-19	Russell County Volunteer Fire Department	3040	\$228,856.86
18003	12-09-19	Intersecure Tech Inc.	41280 018	\$947.00
18004	12-10-19	Pannier Graphics	41250 018	\$818.00
18005	12-10-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$233,961.30
18006	12-12-19	RC Juvenile Drug Court Fund	59248 700	\$7,500.00
18007	12-12-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 11/25/19-12/06/19	3030	\$448,643.94
18008	12-12-19	Great Southern Publishers Inc.	41250 018	\$3,565.00

18009	12-17-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	See attached	\$845.41
18010	12-17-19	Card Services	41250 018	\$316.74
18011	12-17-19	J. L. Thomason	45245 710	\$1,001.00
18012	12-19-19	Gasoline Fund P.G. Bank	62102 299	\$200,000.00
18013	12-20-19	Safe Landings for Veterans	57200 530	\$4,000.00
18014	12-20-19	RC Board of Education	57200 530	\$3,500.00
18015	12-20-19	Paul Humphries	45245 710	\$2,101.00
18016	12-23-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 12/07/19-12/20/19	3030	\$334,065.18
18017	12-23-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$143,494.59
18018	12-23-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	3030	\$8,752.42
18019	12-31-19	Intersecure Tech. Inc.	41250 018	\$947.00
18020	12-31-19	Blue Cross & Blue Shield of AL	52100 122	\$1,316.78
18021	12-31-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	See Attached	\$28,103.00
18022	12-31-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$5,854.18
		<b>Contingent Fund 002</b>		
		<b>Ft. Mitchell Senior Center</b>		
1241	12-23-19	Operation Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$69.88
		<b>Masonic Lodge Fund 104</b>		
1152	12-05-19	Millicent Belrose	51100 499	\$225.00
1153	12-13-19	Sherwin Williams	51100 499	\$723.15
1154	12-17-19	Home Depot	51100 499	\$443.06
1155	12-20-19	Card Services	51100 499	\$640.00
1156	12-31-19	Dan's Hardware	51100 499	\$243.73
		<b>Court Cost Fund 105</b>		
		<b>Gasoline Tax 111 Fund</b>		
13663	12-02-19	Larry Kite	53100 122	\$1,241.00
13664	12-02-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$510.89
13665	12-10-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$24,301.21
13666	12-12-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 11/25/19-12/06/19	3030	\$89,653.51
13667	12-12-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	3030	\$65.69
13668	12-17-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	53100 122	\$200.10
13669	12-20-19	Local Government Health Insurance Board	53100 122	\$503.00
13670	12-20-19	Blue Cross & Blue Shield of AL	53100 122	\$32.00
13671	12-20-19	Blue Cross & Blue Shield of AL	53100 122	\$176.50
13672	12-23-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 12/07/19-12/20/19	3030	\$75,047.52
13673	12-23-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$41,529.43
13674	12-31-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	53100 122	\$12,843.00
13675	12-31-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$2,016.51
		<b>Road &amp; Bridge 112</b>		
1374	12-10-19	Operation Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$2,067.66
1375	12-13-19	US Bank	62125 299 62123 299 62125 299	\$324,253.13 \$218,314.38 \$420,330.00
1376	12-23-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank	3020	\$274,799.95
1377	12-31-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank	3020	\$298.32
		<b>Capital Imp. Fund 116</b>		
		<b>RRR Gasoline Tax 117</b>		
1206	12-10-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$16,671.91

		<b>Secondary RD Fund 118</b>		
		<b>Reappraisal 120</b>		
2278	12-10-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$3,605.00
2279	12-12-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 11/25/19-12/06/19	3030	\$25,366.62
2280	12-17-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	51985 122	\$49.30
2281	12-23-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 12/07/19-12/20/19	3030	\$21,203.15
2282	12-23-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$8,216.16
2283	12-31-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	51985 122	\$938.00
2284	12-31-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$983.07
		<b>Juvenile DRUG 195</b>		
1275	12-02-19	Tommy Powell	56900 199	\$895.71
1276	12-16-19	Tommy Powell	56900 199	\$895.71
		<b>Garbage Fund 511</b>		
1661	12-10-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$16,700.71
1662	12-12-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 11/25/19-12/06/19	3030	\$75,901.88
1663	12-17-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	54100 122	\$149.35
1664	12-20-19	Postmaster	54100 252	\$2,627.18
1665	12-23-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank Salary 12/07/19-12/20/19	3030	\$70,894.15
1666	12-23-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$46,617.04
1667	12-31-19	Payroll Fund P.G. Bank	54100 122	\$1,880.00
1668	12-31-19	Operations Fund P.G. Bank of P.C.	3020	\$10,933.20
61109	12-03-19	Rosie Berry	3040	\$200.00
61100	12-03-19	Jeanne Adkins	3040	\$12.00
61111	12-03-19	Ashley E. Colclough	3040	\$17.50
61112	12-03-19	Sandra Vogts	3040	\$20.00
61113	12-03-19	Jeremy Walker	3040	\$12.00
61114	12-03-19	Marliza Vonhedemann	3040	\$42.00
61115	12-03-19	Sterling Griggs	3040	\$113.50
61116	12-03-19	Arthur Dempsey	3040	\$40.00
61117	12-03-19	Ricky Cloud	3040	\$48.00
61118	12-03-19	James T. Smith	3040	\$14.00
61119	12-27-19	Kristina Swinford	3040	\$12.00
61120	12-27-19	Christie Howard	3040	\$20.00
61121	12-27-19	Adriane Marie Haines	3040	\$17.50
61122	12-27-19	Gene Exline	3040	\$10.00
61123	12-27-19	Jimmy Lee Brown	3040	\$35.00
61124	12-27-19	Jim F. Price	3040	\$12.00
61125	12-27-19	Teresa A. Roper	3040	\$17.50
61126	12-27-19	James E. Gaylor	3040	\$10.00
61127	12-27-19	Therese M. Lahnstein	3040	\$255.00
61128	12-27-19	Harley Pettes	3040	\$20.00
61129	12-27-19	Philip Bivins	3040	\$69.50
		<b>Garbage Escrow Fund 513</b>		
		<b>Donation Fund 750</b>		
487	12-19-19	Ray Martin	51100 499	\$200.00
488	12-31-19	Card Services	51100 499	\$175.15
489	12-31-19	Walmart	51100 499	\$49.18
490	12-31-19	Kelly Vinyard	51100 499	\$287.80
		<b>Law Library 755</b>		

1090	12-10-19	RELX Inc. DBA LEXISNEXIS	51100 410	\$419.05
		<b>Worthless Check 761</b>		
523	12-04-19	Worthless Check Unit Office of District Attorney	51260 365 51260 362	\$913.32 \$1,696.32
		<b>Revenue Commissioner Manufactured Fund 781</b>		
		<b>Motor Vehicle Special Fund 782</b>		
		<b>Land Redemption Fund 786</b>		
781	12-20-19	Naomi Elliott, Rev. Commissioner	3040	\$712.37
782	12-27-19	Naomi Elliott, Rev. Commissioner	3040	\$2,007.47
		<b>Juvenile Service Fund 787</b>		
2281	12-09-19	Office Depot	52600 499	\$107.49
2282	12-20-19	Verizon	52600 499	\$132.24
		<b>County Tobacco Fund 797</b>		
512	12-23-19	Task Force for Senior Citizens	3040	\$677.64
513	12-23-19	Project Greene Light	3040	\$677.64
514	12-23-19	Russell County Volunteer Fire Department Association	3040	\$25,750.62
		<b>County Beer Tax 798</b>		

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

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