

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2018
9:30 A.M. EST

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

Reverend Marvin Minton, Pastor of Crawford Road Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Commissioner Epps led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

A quorum was established.

Commissioner Corbett stated Madam Chair, regarding the agenda policy, we have had something come-up since Monday night and I would like to add to the agenda. That is a proclamation for J.D. Bennett. Mr. Bennett was a 40-year employee of the County Engineering Department. I received a call yesterday from his niece. His funeral is Saturday. They would like to read the proclamation at the funeral. In order to do that, I worked last night, thanks to Shawn, Ms. Carolyn Robinson and also Buster Sanders for helping me get the information and the niece Robin; I was able to write this. I make a motion at this time to add this to resolution and proclamation on the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 14th, 2018 and the November 28th, 2018. Commissioner Corbett made a motion to approve the November 14th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett made a motion to approve the November 28th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Screws abstained, due to his absence. The vote was passed.

PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTIONS:

Bob Franklin presented and congratulated Samantha Cato a proclamation for completing the Advanced Emergency Manager Certification with over 1000 hours.

Mik Cole read the proclamation for Lakisha Consuela Day. The Arthur Day Family was present to receive the proclamation. (It was prior approved.)

Commissioner Corbett stated: That Michael Gordon retired as Lieutenant from the Sheriff's Department. I worked with Mike very closely on the road and on the S.W.A.T. team. Mike is a very good guy. The Commission has done a retirement proclamation for him for his first 25 years. He will not be here today, he will come back in January to receive the proclamation. Sticking with the Commission's policy I would like to make a motion that we approve the proclamation. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett stated: He had the privilege to attend last Wednesday, December 5th, when the Central High School Red Devils Football Team won the State 7-A Championship. It was a very proud moment for Phenix City and Russell County as a whole. I drafted a proclamation to commemorate the football team for the win and for

representing the County as well. Commissioner Corbett made a motion to approve the proclamation and it will be read Thursday night December 13th, 2018 on the field at Garrett-Harrison Stadium for the celebration. Commissioner Lee seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett was asked to draft a proclamation for Mr. J.D. Bennett. Mr. Bennett's niece Robin Bennett was there to receive it. The funeral was going to be on Saturday December 15th, 2018. She asked if we were able to get a proclamation ready that they would read it for our appreciation of his working with the County and the citizens as long as he did. I was able to work with Human Resources, Engineer Department and also one of his former friends and co-workers to draft a proclamation. They will come to the Commission Meeting in January and bring the family to read it and receive it. Commissioner Corbett made a motion to approve the vote. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

BUSINESS:

Commissioner Epps stated that in the packet was a letter from Mr. Leonard Gates who requested to serve on the Department of Human Resources Board. Commissioner Epps made a motion to approve the vote. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Corbett stated in discussion that on Monday night at the Work Session Mr. Oscar Tuff stated that he was interested in sending a letter. I would like to put it out there for the other position but not this one. The vote was unanimous.

Probate Judge Harden requested a fixed asset deletion or transfer for a printer that is out of date and no longer can be repaired. Judge Harden stated as you know with technology you buy it today; it is out-of-date tomorrow. We have gotten almost ten years of service out of this piece of equipment. It is currently sitting in our second deed room and it is in the way and not useable. I am asking permission to move it to surplus, so I can dispose of it. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. The vote was unanimous.

Probate Judge Harden stated the \$5 indexing fee has been in place for a number of years even before I became Probate Judge. We use this fund for many items related to the Probate Office. For instance, we have a student assisting updating records. We pay for the assistant out of it. We have Ms. Mary Terry, she is our Senior Counselor on Wills, financial management in helping elderly citizens. We pay for it out of that and other funds. I am here to inform the Commission that since the Amendment to the original Act, it is the opinion of the County Attorney it no longer requires a vote of the Commission. However, since this is the first renewal since the Amendment, I'm here to inform you and the public. Commissioner Screws made a motion to approve the extension. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Corbett called for discussion. Just to the Chair's point, it is not anything new this is continuing something that is already in place. Administrator Horne inquired for clarification for the minutes, this is a fee for documents filed in the Probate Office. Judge Hardin stated yes, this is for documents. Every document that is filed in our office is a \$5 fee. It goes into that special fund. By having that fee, we are able to absorb expenses running the Probate Office. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Harden stated that he has two proposals for a Citizen ad. I was approached by Dr. Brindlea. She is working with Cable TV and the Citizen about the County placing an ad. The five judges are placing an ad. We are going into together to congratulate the team. This is something that doesn't happen all the time. They asked for me to present it to the Commission to see if the Commission would also do an ad supporting the Championship. It is a magazine. They are putting out together to show our support for the Central High Red Devils which I am an alumnus. It is something that doesn't happen very often, and we should be very proud. They are part of our County and the proposal is the Commission could do a \$500 ad or a full page is \$850. Commissioner Martin said this definitely puts Central High School football team in the spotlight and Coach Jamey Dubose. I am sure he is proud of his team and he has worked diligently with them. Judge Hardin stated this brings another notoriety to our City and County. I think it is fitting for us to recognize their efforts and Championship Achievement.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve \$850 for the ad. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Commissioner Lee stated he assumed it will be paid out of the contingency fund. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Lee stated the Commission was given two proposals. One is basically with names and pictures and one is without names and pictures. Commissioner Corbett's suggestion is to do the one without the pictures because it is not about the Commissioners, it is about the football team. I would like to use the one with just our names at the bottom and move on. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the one without the pictures and just the names. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Harden stated that if he could digress for just one moment, I would like for us to consider the fact about the fixed asset and to put on the agenda in the future because we are coming to the Commissioner's to dispose of a piece of junk equipment that is worth nothing in my opinion. It is taking up the Commissioners time and the Probate Office time. I would like to see it a \$1000 an under. That is a suggestion of the auditors that were recently here.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

County Administrator stated Madam Chair, I am requesting ratification for the Christmas Float for 2018 parade invoice. The invoice fell between our Commission Meetings and we approved \$450 for the annual Christmas Float. We do this every year. Commissioner Lee made a motion to ratify the expenditure for the Christmas Float. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator stated the Commissioners allowed her and County Attorney Funderburk to send out bids regarding the tower on Prentiss Drive adjacent to EMA and Building Inspections office. I am requesting to change the bid date to January 11th, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney stated the Commission needs to go into Executive Session where I can go over matters regarding the mediation. I would anticipate the we would need to just continue this meeting in the event we have something to respond to before the next meeting which, hopefully, we will. Overall, we will get the information they requested to the mediator by Friday, December 14th, and then we will have to get with the mediator to reschedule the continuation of the mediation. We need to leave it open in the event there is a response from the City and the Commission needs to hear the response, we will be able to do that legal discussion in Executive Session. Commissioner Martin asked the meeting to be recessed. The Commissioners will come back.

Commissioner Corbett made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Lee seconded. Commissioner Screws asked if the Commission has decided on the wall for the memory portrait? County Administrator Horne stated she has one in mind; however, Commissioner Epps and Commissioner Martin have not submitted any suggestions. Commissioner Screws stated we need to get that done.

Commissioner Screws stated my next question. Have we decided on time clocks for the Commissioners office? County Administrator stated; yes sir for the entire county. The Commission approved it in this year's budget meeting and it was discussed. We are currently going through the software conversion in Human Resources. Once we get through the training and the documents uploaded, then we will move it to the time clock implementation for the County. Commissioner Screws asked does the Commission office have sign-in sheets? County Administrator Horne stated every department handles it differently. Some people do have sign-in sheets. I can check with each department if you would like me to.

Commissioner Screws; My last thing is the Judge mentioned assets for surplus. Can we put that on the January agenda? County Administrator Horne stated, we can. However, just to inform Commissioner's and Department Heads; the Commission will still be required to vote to surplus items. Commissioner Screws stated that is fine.

The vote was unanimous to go into Executive Session.

Announcements were made. The meeting was recessed for the Executive Session.

Attest: _____ Signed: _____
County Administrator Chair