

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 23, 2015
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chair Peggy Martin.

The invocation was given by David Wilson, Pastor of the Way Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Epps.

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 Larry Screws, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, and Chance Corbett. Also present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the December 9th, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Sanitation Route Manager Brad Pearson gave an update on the Garbage Can Program. At this time 8,800 cans have been distributed, leaving 2,800 to be issued. He estimated the remaining cans will be distributed by April 2016. There had been a lot of confusion since the \$1.50 increase. Some customers have stopped paying their bill because they thought they were purchasing the cans. Since those customers had not received the 96 gallon can, they decided not pay the monthly fee until a can was delivered. The Sanitation Department had not been an increase in 8 years. It was coincidental both the rate increase and the can program were requested at the same time.

Mr. Pearson also announced that sanitation pick-up schedule for Christmas and New Year's would remain as a normal work week. Due to the 4 day a week pick-up trash is not collected on Fridays and these holiday's fall on Friday. Also additional dumpsters will temporarily be located at the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department, Ft. Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department and three will be stationed outside the gates at the Transfer Station on Poor House Road for those who have an excess of trash during the holidays.

Chair Martin presented a resolution to send to the Army Corps of Engineers requesting to include Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River as flow targets. This region has been omitted from the Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement and

proposed Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee River. The Corps can control releases in the upper part of the basin to keep lake levels high, while not providing enough flow to Southwestern Georgia and Southeastern Alabama creating “artificial droughts”.

In order to avoid this scenario the Commission has been requested to approve a resolution urging the Corps to set flow targets for the Middle and Lower Chattahoochee River. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Franklin Resource Group Representative, Johnny Crawford, presented a renewal contract for their services. Commissioner Pugh motioned to allow the Franklin Resource Group to be Russell County’s lobbyist in 2016 with their major focus being the unfair tax collection of sales tax. This is to be their main objective to be resolved this year. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote is unanimous. The consulting service will be paid from Other Professional Services and Public Buildings. The effective date of the contract will be today, December 23, 2015.

Sheriff Heath Taylor requested approval for the CTSP Grant Participation. This State funded grant allows Deputies to work traffic details on their off time, for speeding, DUIs and safety belt, etc. throughout the county in certain locations that the State designates as a hot spot. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor also asked for approval of the Annual Jail Food and Miscellaneous Supplies Bid and to schedule the bid opening for January 14, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Larry Kite presented a revised ALDOT Funding Agreement for project No. ST-057-888-057-004, RCP 57-009-15, resurfacing of County Road 49 from Hurtsboro City Limits to Main Street. He requested to allow the Chair and County Administrator to execute documents. The ALDOT revision removes the City of Hurtsboro from the funding agreement, which was approved at the December 9th, Commission Meeting. The State and Russell County will pay \$131,928.66 each. ALDOT wants the County to handle Hurtsboro’s portion separately outside of the agreement. Hurtsboro will still contribute their agreed \$16,000, but pay it to the County. Also, ALDOT added to the agreement that the County cannot request State funds until 30 days prior to construction. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the County Depositories to the Commission. She mentioned to delete the Auburn Bank account, since it has closed the Hurtsboro branch. This account was only used for collecting payments from Sanitation customers in Hurtsboro. Also because the State Auditors have requested to transfer the Pistol Permit Fund to the Sheriff for their responsibility, so it should be deleted as well.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk had distributed an amendment deed agreement from the Phenix City Museum Committee. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Pugh requested that the Chair be able to sign the agreement and work out time lines with the Museum Committee for moving the remainder of the County's equipment and items before the contract is signed. Commissioner Corbett mentioned that he had read the amended agreement and felt that it covered the Commission's request. Administrator Horne polled the Commission, the vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk recommended going into an executive session. Commissioner Lee motioned to move into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

A report from the Human Resources Department was included in the Commission packet listing new hires and positions available.

Announcements were made before going into executive session.

Chair Martin requested a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Screws motioned to continue the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Attorney Funderburk had two recommendations regarding the Sheriff's Department:

- The Sheriff's budget would need to be amended for \$55,871 for an additional employee. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.
- Service contract modifications and administrative functions related to the modifications will require an amendment to the Jail budget. The precise amounts are not available at this time, but Mr. Funderburk recommends the Commission approve redoing the service contract and the budget amendment. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

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

The meeting was adjourned.