

Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes March 10, 2021
9:30 A.M. EST

Chairman Corbett called to order and started off with 2 public hearings before the Commission meeting.

Chairman Corbett announced the first public hearing was for CDBG-CV Grant Funding briefing for the Community Funding Development Block Grant. It is an opportunity for the county, the city, and town of Hurtsboro to partner on some funding for COVID relief. Tracie Hadaway introduced herself with Ben McGraw with the Lee Russell County Council of Government. Ms. Hadaway stated that this is funding that the State of Alabama received under the Cares Act back in Spring 2020. They allocated a certain amount of dollars to each county in the State of Alabama, so \$500,000 was awarded to Russell County, based on population. They had several stipulations, and one was that the County and Municipalities agree on the activities. The activities do have to be COVID related either to alleviate some of the concerns of the pandemic or how to prevent the pandemic in the future. They have been meeting by Zoom call, probably every other week, since December and have involved the EMA Directors, the Health Department, the City of Phenix City, Public Safety, Russell County, and they have reached out to Hurtsboro by e-mails, and they have a memorandum agreement that has been signed by the elected officials. The activities they have chosen to address are rental assistance, mortgage assistance, utility assistance with a NOA non-profit that would help Phenix City, Russell County, and Hurtsboro residents. They will also look at some food scarcity assistance if there is funding left over. They will provide a mobile clinic to go to the areas unincorporated like the town of Hurtsboro and some of the harder to reach areas. They will also be upgrading a septic system at the Seale Courthouse to use that as a mobile clinic since bathrooms are imperative at these mobile clinic sites. They will also provide 2 freezers at the Health Department and emergency generators so that they can start receiving some of the Pfizer vaccines. She believes that is all of the activities that they have come up with for the \$500,000. Ms. Hadaway stated that she feels this is a good use of the funds and they are here to answer any questions and they are trying to get the application in to the state before April 1, 2021, since that is the deadline. Even though this is not a competitive application, they will have to review the application and make sure that it meets all of their requirements, so the sooner we get it to ADECA, the sooner they can let us know if we need to make any changes and get the money where it is needed. Commissioner Lee complimented that a good job was done by that committee and he did not see how they could do all of that with \$500,000.00, but he guesses you can. Chairman Corbett spoke to that to say he has made most of the meetings, maybe all but one or two, and he said the committee worked very well together and it was one of the better processes that he has been a part of, as far as with the cities and the county working together for the greater good and for the mission that was at hand. He gave kudos to Bob Franklin, Johnny from the Health Department, Chief Smith, and Angel have all done a great job. He said that Ms. Hadaway has helped keep us all in line with it and he thinks it is really a good project. No further comments from the Commissioners or public was made. Ms. Hadaway stated that this is all for this public hearing, and they need signatures and are still packaging the application, but we are well on our way. Motion was made by Commissioner Lee to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

Chairman Corbett announced the second public hearing for the Nuisance Abatement complaint at 58 Duke Drive in Fort Mitchell Alabama. Bill Friend with Enforcement stated they were out there at 9:00 am this morning and there has been nothing done to that area yet. Right now, he has coordinated with the Sheriff's Department and cleanup is scheduled for March 16, 2021, which is next Tuesday, at 9:30 am with the Sanitation Department and it should be completed by noon. Chairman Corbett thanked Mr. Friend and said this is something that Mr. Friend has brought up in a couple of Commission Meetings and reported on it and the law requires a public hearing. We are here today about it and he asked if there someone here to speak on this matter. No comments from the public or Commissioners. Motion was made by Commissioner Lee to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

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

The invocation was given by Reverend James Platt with Allen Temple AME Church.

Commissioner Costello provided the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carlin Stevens spoke about the Covid-19 event that was held last week at Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital. She went last week with her mom and she was very pleased to see Bob Franklin and he does a great job everywhere. She wanted to say how smooth and fast the event was. There was a consistent flow, from the time they pulled up until they left. Everyone there was wonderful from the staff that greeted them, the security, and she was able to get her mom, who is 75 years old, in for her covid vaccine (her final one). Ms. Stevens just wanted to say it was wonderful with Bob Franklin and his team did a great job, and thanked the Commission for allowing him to set it up. It was the smoothest she has seen. When she took her mom for her first shot to another place and it was ok, but this was great. This had a drive-thru and contactless, so it was wonderful. She just wanted to thank Bob Franklin and everyone on his team again for making the event perfect. She said it was wonderful and thanked him again. Commissioner Lee thanked her for her comments because they are not use to those comments.

Eric Kelly, a nurse practitioner with Utchee Pines Institution here in Russell County, says it is a lifestyle center, so it is a place where people will come for 17-day sessions to deal with lifestyle diseases from hypertension, diabetes, obesity, arthritis, depression, anxiety, and they basically engage in health education with the individuals. They talk about nutrition, show them how to cook, show them exercises they can do with fresh air and stress management, and things of that nature. Normally people come to them, but they have a growing desire, something they have done in the past, but it has been a little bit. They are looking for opportunities to serve our community more. He wants to bring the things they provide at the lifestyle center outside with public health education, which includes public health programs, or teaching health cooking, things of that nature. Mr. Kelly said the reason he is here is because the other day, he drove by the Senior Activity Center on Highway 165 and he went down to see if there are things he can do for that organization. He was taken on a tour of the facility and was told that we rent out the space for certain activities like weddings and things like that. Mr. Kelly asked Matthew, that works with Russell County, would it be possible to do health education in a facility like this or could it be used for that purpose? Matthew said he does not control it and it is under Russell County so he would have to go and talk to them about things of that nature. So, he put him in contact with Max to get the time and date of the meeting today. Mr. Kelly was here to speak to that effect and to ask if there are opportunities and that he does have resources, and they have physicians who can do health consults with individuals. Mr. Kelly says they have a lot of resources and they are looking to get involved more. That is the reason he is here. Chairman Corbett thanked Mr. Kelly for bringing that to us added that since he has reached out to Max, he can now reach out to our Interim Administrator Ms. Colbert to talk about the opportunities as far as timing and the use of the facility, so please reach out to her.

David Ellis came to thank the Commission and to thank Bob Franklin and Hughston Hospital for their service. Mr. Ellis went last Thursday to get his second shot and when he pulled in the parking lot, he thought he would be there for a while. It was 30 minutes from the time he pulled in from the time he left, and that is after a 15-minute wait. He stated they are doing an excellent job and he is so proud of them and this county for what they are doing there. Mr. Ellis asked the Commission if there is anything they can do to help Jack Hughston get more doses, he would ask for them to support that and try to get more doses there. He has never been to a place that was as smooth as that was and he goes to a lot of doctors. He was very, very pleased. Mr. Ellis thanked the Commission for letting the employee's help with the volunteering. Chairman Corbett thanked Mr. Ellis for the comment and stated that Bob Franklin will speak a little more on the Covid Program and vaccination program in our agenda today.

Bill Friend with Enforcement and Gary Leeds from the Fraternal Order of Police were introduced. Mr. Leeds thanked the Chairman and Commissioners and said he will just take a few minutes of their time. He started by saying that in an organization you have a few people in an organization that stand out, that are always there to either support you through a donation, or there to help. This individual, at least that he and Mr. Friend know of, for 14 years she has been here and been in support of them. She has a love for their organization and will help in any way possible. At this time, Mr. Leeds asked Ms. Peggy Martin to step forward and he thanked her for her support that she has done for them throughout the years and is with grateful pleasure that their Marcus Bruce Lee Lodge, here in Phenix City, gave her a plaque in appreciation. They honored and thanked her for her support and commitment throughout many years of public service. Ms. Peggy Martin thanked him and the Fraternal Order of Police. She is deeply humbled by it and she said her heart is with them always, with the public safety. She is surprised and blessed with the plaque. Mr. Martin thanked him. *(audience clapped)* Pictures were taken by the Citizen of East Alabama.

Chairman Corbett thanked media partners Cable TV East Alabama and Citizen of East Alabama for broadcasting and sharing this meeting with our citizens. Chairman Corbett welcomed elected officials, department heads, visitors, media, and guests. He thanked them for coming and participating with their government at work.

Chairman Corbett stated the agenda had been approved at the work session. He stated he wanted an addition to the agenda, and he will bring it to the Commission as soon as they establish a quorum. It will take a unanimous vote to add it on and it was spoken about on Monday night work session but was failed to be put on the agenda.

Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Members present were Commissioner Rod Costello, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Vice Chairman Gentry Lee, and Chairman Chance Corbett. Also, present was the Interim County Attorney Hope Hicks and Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert, who kept minutes.

A quorum was established by Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

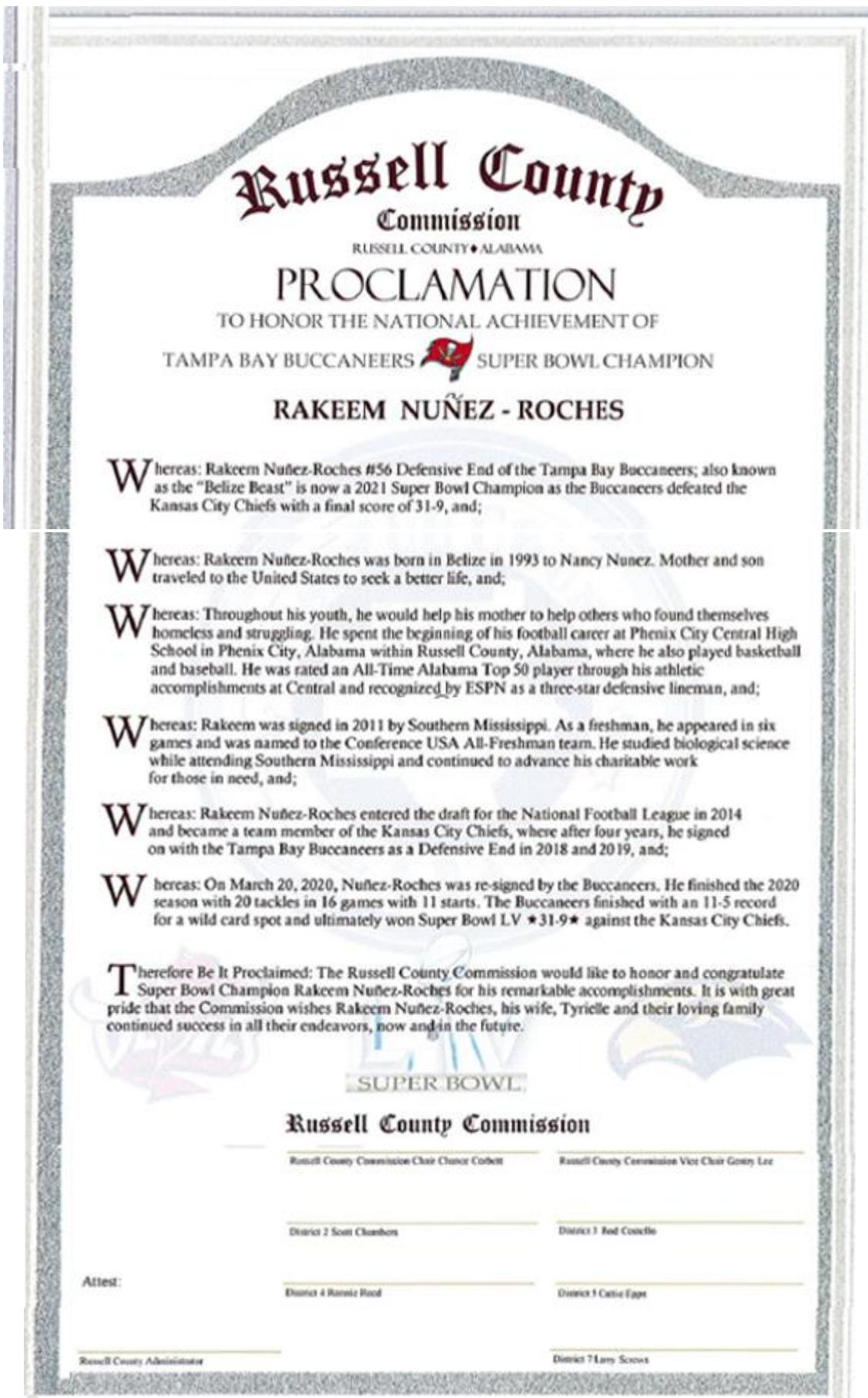
Chairman Corbett stated an item to add to the agenda would be under Business. He reminded the Commission that Monday night they heard from Mr. Walter Lewis from Piper Sandler about investment opportunities with financing some of our debt. Chairman Corbett said that a couple of our Commissioners have reached out and asked that we add this back, so we are allowed to actually contract with Piper Sandler and Mr. Lewis to go out and investigate this and bring back a report. There will be no money at this time. There is no cost for this, and the only funds that would exchange hands would be if the Commission approves to do a refinance at a later date. Motioned by Commissioner Lee. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. Motion was passed and it was added to the agenda under the last item under Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Corbett presented to approve the February 24, 2021 Commission meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Commissioner Epps. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission approved the minutes unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Chairman Corbett presented a proclamation that was already approved for possibly presenting today. Commissioner Epps asked the County Administrator to read this proclamation into the minutes. The person who is receiving this proclamation is not here, but she has asked Coroner Sumbry to accept it and present it to him at a later date because they were not able to come to town. Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert read aloud the Russell County Proclamation To Honor the National Achievement of Tamp Bay Buccaneers, Super Bowl Champion Rakeem Nunez-Roches as follows:



Commissioner Epps thanked her and gave the framed Proclamation to Coroner Sumbry. Commissioner Epps stated that he is kind of a part of the family.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett presented EMA Director Bob Franklin who gave updates on the COVID-19 Vaccination program. Mr. Franklin started by saying that would like to give an idea on where we are from where we were from the last Commission meeting. We look at the new cases over a 14-day period and we have steadily been coming down. Back in January we were at 500 cases in a 14-day period, the last Commission meeting we were at 139 over a 14-day period. As of yesterday, we are down to 91 so we are moving in the right direction and he is sure that the vaccines, mask wearing, and the social distancing is helping that and plus no large group gatherings. He mentioned that Jack Hughston Hospital has been phenomenal in that they

administer the doses and have the program run so well that we can run a lot of people through there in a short period of time. The biggest factor they are running into is the shortage, in the past, of vaccines. He has now learned that they are not going to receive any this week and possibly none next week as well. Mr. Franklin has his own suspicions on what happened with that. He said he knows that they have a 1,000 dose request in to Public Health, and he does not know what they did with those doses and they have not been able to determine that fact. He knows that they have made contact with some legislators and they have brought it up, so it is now in the upper levels of ADPH to research and determine why we are not getting that vaccine. Mr. Franklin's thought is that some of it is probably being push out to other providers, doctors and stuff. He said that is fine because we need to get it as widespread as we can, but we should not be impacting the one place that is doing the most vaccinations in the county. Public Health has cut back to 100 a week, 50 primary and 50 booster shots. He said they were going to take their remaining ones and give those out to those physicians so some how something has happened here that hopefully we get resolved pretty soon. Mr. Franklin stated that you can still make appointments with Russell County Health Department. He said that you can make appointments with Jack Hughston Hospital, but he can assure you that they do not have any vaccines. Regional Rehab Hospital, you can call and make appointments as well as Jackson's Point of Life Family Medicine and The Preferred Medical Group in Fort Mitchell. You can go online to the Walmart Pharmacy and make reservations at either of one the two Walmarts, those are Federal allocations and so they do not come out of our county allocation at all. He stated that another thing to keep in mind is that he has had several people call him and ask him what he did to stop this vaccine and it is not him, it is not the county Commission, because he knows that everybody sitting in front of him has been trying their best to get this vaccine into Russell County, as well as he has. He said all we can do is plan for when we have them that we do not make any decisions, it is Public Health that makes the decisions on who gets what and how many so he would like our citizens to know that it is not the county Commission, it is not Emergency Management, and that it's Public Health. He said they are the ones that allocate the vaccines and are the ones that make those decisions. Mr. Franklin stated that we are still on the 65 and over, frontline critical workers, first responders, correction officers, and this is the same group we have been on for several weeks. He said that we do have an opportunity coming up, that he can't speak too much on, but we will be getting a mass vaccination clinic that is only going to do about 1,400 people and we are only going to get one, so that won't make up for the doses that we are going to miss out on here in the next 2 weeks and that will also be the Pfizer vaccine, where all of the rest are currently the Moderna. He will have more information on that coming soon, but that is coming. Mr. Franklin wants to encourage folks to stay vigilant and stay out there. He said if you can't get one in Russell County and your second shot is due, you can still, anywhere in Alabama, get that vaccine, it's just not as convenient as it would be to come somewhere right here in Russell County.

Chairman Corbett stated next is the Historic Marker, that he has put on the agenda to let the Commission know that we had a request and a proposed historic marker on County Road 22 on Sandford Road for the original home site of the original Caldwell Gospel Singers. He said that if you remember back some time, maybe in 2013 or so, we did a road dedication in their name on County Road 22 and one of the sons reached out and has asked that we consider doing a historic marker. Chairman Corbett said he thinks it is a great idea and that the original Caldwell Gospel Singers performed at the Old Labor Day Fair in Seale at the old courthouse. Then all over the state and the country. They have been recognized by governors, and several Presidents of the United States, and we are very lucky that they were residents of Russell County and we want to appreciate them for that. He stated there is no action needed at this time by the Commission because at a previous meeting we had agreed to allow all historic markers to be approved by the Russell County Historical Commission. That funding will be paid for out of our Tourism budget, which it has been done for years, which is where that money came out for typically about \$2,000. He wanted to bring this up again as a discussion item to see if any Commissioners have any concerns or any thoughts on that, and if not, we will just move on as an informational thing. Commissioner Lee stated he was trying to remember when we put it in the Historical Commission. He asked if we gave them the final say so because he thought it had to come back to us for the final approval because they recommended it. Chairman Corbet answered that he thinks it would have to come back to us

because of the money. Commissioner Lee agreed. Chairman Corbett stated at this time no action, but it will come back once it is approved by the Historical Commission.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett announced that we have 2 bid awards. The first bid award is for the stand-by generator and presented by County EMA Director Bob Franklin to explain what it is for and what he has found on it. Mr. Franklin said that, as you are aware, we received the ADECA Grant Covid Response for about \$500,000, as we discussed in the public hearing this morning. Part of that is that we wanted to get some freezer compacity because the Pfizer vaccine is much more readily available than the Moderna and the others right now, but it takes special freezers (cold freezers) in order to keep it for a very long period of time, not that we want to hold it a long period of time, but you never know what is going to happen. He said part of it is that we want to make sure with those freezers that if we have a power outage at the health department that we don't lose any kind of vaccines that they may have there. Currently when they have vaccines, the vaccines they currently store on the weekends or when nobody is there, have to be transported to Lee County where they have a stand-by generator in their health department. This will allow us to keep our vaccines in the county and not have to make those extra trips and it will put us on the list to receive Pfizer and the other vaccines that we may want in the future. So, the committee decided that putting a permanent stand-by generator in the health department would meet the needs that we need here in Russell County. Mr. Franklin said they sent those bids out and they received the bids back and opened them and at this time would like to request of the Commission to award this bid, contingent upon the final resolution on the grant from ADECA, to Able Electric in the amount of \$66,140. Chairman Corbett then stated to the Commissioners that there is a resolution coming up here on our agenda that he is referring to and hopefully will unanimously approve based on the public hearing we spoke about this morning. Commissioner Lee motioned the recommendation from the County EMA Director. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers or Commissioner Epps, either one. Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert called the Commission to vote, and motion was unanimously approved.

EMA Director Bob Franklin presented that same bid opening, they also sent out bids for one super-cold freezer and one -30 degree's freezer, for 2 different freezers. He said they sent those out and received one bid back and this is going to be under the same CDBG Grant with the same stipulations as the generator. He said they received a bid from Helmer Scientific. The -30 freezer was \$7,195.00 and the ultra-low freezer was \$11,480.00 for a total of \$18,675.00 and that is an installed price. Mr. Franklin's recommendation was to award the bid to Helmer Scientific and it is contingent on the resolution coming up. It was moved by Commissioner Costello. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The Commission was called to vote and unanimously approved it. Commissioner Lee asked if we sent out bids to other people and they didn't respond, or is this just the only company that has these? Mr. Franklin said that this is probably one of the only companies that has them, but he knows that we posted it out. Commissioner Lee understood and just wondered why we got only one bid.

Chairman Corbett presented the Community Development Block Grant COVID items, and it includes the resolution they just spoke about. EMA Director Bob Franklin agreed and said a part of this grant process was the public hearing we did He said they did the bids as a way to get ahead of the game a little bit so they wouldn't be so behind because of lead time, on the freezers mainly. Mr. Franklin said that he thinks they have before them, a copy of the local government collaborative agreement and it has been signed by The City of Phenix City, as well as the town of Hurtsboro, and at this time he requests the Commission to approve for the Chair to sign on behalf of Russell County. Chairman Corbett stated that they have a request by the EMA Director and that they have a copy of it in front of them in their packets. A motion to allow the Chair to sign the document was moved by Commissioner Costello. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

Chairman Corbett presented the CDBG-CV Application bond by EMA Director Bob Franklin. Mr. Franklin said a part of this we have to send in with our application to the state by April 1st and the application is ready and it is going to be contingent on the collaborative agreement that they just approved, as well as the resolution that is right after this. He said they are requesting

the total \$500,000 from the state and at this time he requests that the Chair sign the application. Chairman Corbett said he has the form in front of him and it has the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to be attested by the County Administrator. By further looking at the form, Chairman Corbett saw there are 5 additional signature spaces, so it needs to be signed by all Commissioners along with the Chair and Vice-Chair, so at this time, the EMA Director is asking approval for the Chair to sign the application. Motioned by Commissioner Epps. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

EMA Director Bob Franklin. Presented the CDBG-CV Resolution in which the county needs to complete the entire process, and this would require the signature of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Commissioners. Mr. Franklin said he thinks they have a copy of the resolution in front of them. Commissioner Lee asked if they have one ready to sign and was told there is one upstairs. Chairman Corbett noted that there is a blank by the resolution number and he doesn't know that we have a resolution number system currently, so he proposes in this motion that we approve to number it 2021-0310, if that's applicable or if that will work because he doesn't want to leave it blank. The resolution as stated by the EMA Director was moved by Commissioner Costello. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

Chairman Corbett presented the New Life Center for Change assistance by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Reed stated the New Life Center for Change is doing an outstanding job in the community today by helping a lot of young people do positive things in the community. He said since we have all this shooting and killing in the community, he thinks we should do more for our young people. At this time, Commissioner Reed made a motion to give them \$6,000.00 out of his discretionary fund and has \$9,200.00 left. Each Commissioner has discretionary funds, so these funds have already been budgeted so it is not coming out of a new budget or anything like that. So, he would like to make a motion to give them \$6,000.00 to help them in the community with different projects and things. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Chairman Corbett stated a point of discussion, Commissioners have project money that's assigned or allocated, and requested at the beginning of the year. He said this would have been projects that Commissioner Reed would have in the budget. Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert called the Commission to vote, and motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Corbett presented the Russell County Veterans Council donation by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Reed stated that he would like to give at this time to Leroy that works with this organization that does an outstanding job helping these veterans. He said that's one thing about it, we can't leave the veterans out and we need to do more for our veterans. So, at this time he would like to make motion to give our veteran organization \$1,000.00. Commissioner Lee reiterated that this is from Commissioner Reed's money. Commissioner Reed stated that this is coming out of his budget and out of his money. Motion by Commissioner Reed to give \$1,000 of his budgeted project money to the Russell County Veterans Council. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert called the Commission to vote, and motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Corbett presented the CVCC Hall of Fame sponsorship renewal. He stated to the Commissioners that this is something we have done in the past, and in full disclosure, he is on the Foundation Board but that is not a paid position. So, he would ask the Commission to consider it again that we do have an invoice to sponsor out of our Contingency Funds the CVCC Hall of Fame sponsorship again.

This year, our mayor, Mayor Eddie Lowe and Mayor Copeland will be represented in those awards. Commissioner Lee stated that Chairman Corbett motioned to approve \$500.00 from the Contingency Fund donated to the CVCC Hall of Fame. Commissioner Reed seconded. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye while Commissioner Screws abstained.

Chairman Corbett presented the item added to the Business from Monday night. Mr. Walter Lewis with Piper Sandler about the possibilities we would have to refinance some debt we have with our debt service we have with the county. Chairman Corbett said that Mr. Lewis did a very good presentation to them, and what they would have to decide as Commissioners, is it worth what he has proposed based on the fees and things that will go with it. He stated that in order for Mr. Lewis to go look into this more, he had a couple of Commissioners contact him to

add this back on the agenda today. They chose on Monday night to not have it on there, but Mr. Lewis has asked that he be contracted or actually sign an agreement so he can go out and look at this opportunity for the county. There is no funding for this, there is no charge for this as this time, and there will be no charge unless the county agrees to do the refinancing or go with his company to do that program. Chairman Corbett would like to entertain a motion to allow the Chair to sign the agreement after it is reviewed by our County Attorney. Commissioner Costello moved, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee discussed that what this actually does is authorize Mr. Lewis to look into the county finances and that is basically what it does. Chairman Corbett agreed and added the opportunities that go with it. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

Chairman Corbett presented County Engineer Shawn Blakeney that has 3 items starting with surplus equipment. Mr. Blakeney said he has 6 items on our county inventory that he needs to declare surplus. Most of these items are damaged beyond repair and couple of them just needs a lot of repair being older equipment.

First one is a welder, county property #11014; second one is a welder, county property #03013, third one is an air compressor, county property #17019; also an air compressor, county property #16034; another air compressor, county property #98017; and another air compressor, county property #06002. Request of a surplus from the County Engineer. Commissioner Lee motioned it. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. Commissioner Costello asked how they disposed of the items once they are rendered. Mr. Blakeney said if there is any use to them, they put them on Govdeals, and if it is something they have been robbing parts off of to fix other stuff they just scrap it. Most of the stuff that has any life left in it they put on Govdeals. Commissioner Lee said that was what he was going to ask. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed.

Chairman Corbett presented the next is the reject and then the solicit bids by County Engineer Shawn Blakeney. Mr. Blakeney said that the annual bids they opened up February 18th here in the Commission Chambers, they were putting together the spreadsheet to look over the bids and found out there was an error in advertising. It just wasn't advertised so he would like to reject them bids and rebid all his annual bids. Commissioner Lee motioned to reject all bids. Second by Commissioner Reed. Commission Costello questioned is those bids were opened? Mr. Blakeney said yes. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The motion was approved to reject all the bids.

Chairman Corbett presented to solicit the bids by County Engineer Shawn Blakeney. Mr. Blakeney solicited his annual bids again. He would like all of them and have a Public Works bid to add to it with asphalt paving. These bids are bid #001-21 striping and marking, bid #002-21 liquid asphalt, bid #005-21 grassing, bid #006-21 corrugated steel and HDP pipe, bid # 007-21 aggregate, bid #008-21 concrete pipe, bid #009-21 truck hauling, bid #010-21 motor grater blades, bid #011-21 maltene based emulsified asphalt, bid #012-21 crushed concrete, bid #014-21 fencing and he would like to send it out today. They will open up Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. EST here at the Commission Chambers and award that on April 14, 2021 at the Commission meeting. Then bid #004a-21 is bituminous paving and is a Public Works bid and send that out today, open it up on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. EST here at the Commission Chambers and award that on the April 25, 2021 Commission meeting. Commissioner Costello moved to solicit the bids by the County Engineer. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The motion was approved to solicit the bids.

ADMINISTRATOR:

Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert had no discussion items. Chairman Corbett thanked her for the work she is doing, and he is hearing great things out of the office.

ATTORNEY:

Interim Attorney Hope Hicks discussed that she has met with Paulette Colbert and Max Herring to go over the Employee Handbook with a lot of notes and changes to get the committee back together. They are moving in the direction to get the handbook soon.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Reed discussed that when they first moved in this courthouse, they had a group picture on the wall at the time you enter the courthouse, and they took that picture down because we had some new commissioners that got elected but they never put it back up. He thinks it would be good to have single pictures, just like we have in the atrium, and put them up where you come in the building so the citizens know who they represent. He gets a lot of people asking him all the time who represents Ladonia, who represents Crawford, and who represents different parts of the county and he tells them. He thinks it would be good because the city has all of their officials and stuff up and when you go pay the utility bill, they have all of their officials on the wall. When you go to the library you have all of their officials on the wall. Commissioner Reed said that Mr. Victor said he easily take care of that and it would not be a problem. Chairman Corbett said they had taken a group picture and asked Victor Cross to come back to them with it so it can be approved.

Commissioner Epps made a brief announcement or reminder of the Bike Trail Committee will meet here, next Wednesday (she believes), at 11:00 a.m. EST and those who would like to come were here. Mr. Leroy is here. Chairman Corbett stated that this is for the economic project going on with Mr. Boswell. Commissioner Epps agreed and Chairman Corbett thanked her for the reminder.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Lee. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The Commission meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment.

Attest: _____

County Administrator

Signed: _____

Chair