

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 11th, 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 Roy Jones, Pastor of Potter's House Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pugh.

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

Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Kelli Roberts announce the 2015 McKenzie Classic Tournament to be held March 16- 22, at the Uchee Creek Campground and Activity Center. They are looking for volunteers to help with the tournament.

The Commission roll 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 Feb 25th, 2015, meeting minutes. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pugh. Six (6) Commissioners voted to approve the minutes. Commissioner Epps abstained because she was attending the National NACo Conference. The motioned to approve passed.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend gave an update on the renovation status of the Ladonia Complex.

Planning Commission appointments for District 3 and 4 will expire at the end of March. Chair Martin appointed Jerry Phillips as her District 3 appointment. Commissioner Reed was not ready to make his appointment and stated he should be ready to do so at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve spending \$1,500 toward the plans for the abatement of asbestos in the Coulter Building. The City of Phenix City has agreed to pay the other \$1,500. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett.

Commissioner Lee asked if this will give an estimate of how much the abatement project will cost.

Commissioner Pugh stated this will be an estimate of what the cost will be at today's market for removal of the asbestos.

Chair Martin requested Administrator Horne to poll the Commission. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6(Corbett) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. Six (6) votes and one (1) no vote; the motion passed.

County Engineer Larry Kite requested approval of loans with Bancorp South Finance for a John Deere JD 672 GP Motorgrader in the amount of \$238,652.00 and 3 Mack GU713 Dump Trucks in the amount of \$404,709.00. Each loan will have 5 annual payments at 2.04% interest rate. Purchase of this equipment was included in the 2014-2015 Budget. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the loans. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Pugh gave a brief history concerning an easement that was at one time county maintained, Brandon Drive. Grading the dirt road was stopped because of a waterline breakage, due to their placement. An agreement was made that once the waterlines were moved out of the road and the granting of water drainage easement; the County would resume maintenance of that portion of Brandon Road.

County Engineer Larry Kite agreed that was correct.

Attorney Funderburk informed the Commission this road had never been abandoned and conditions have been worked out so everything complies with the law.

Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve resuming maintenance of Brandon Road. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Taylor presented an application for a Lounge Retail Liquor – Class II (Package) license for Stagecoach 5 located at 5 Brown Road in the Crawford area of Phenix City, Alabama. The owners are Lyn H. Stephens, and James A. Hurston. Sheriff Taylor stated that Sgt. Burkes canvassed the neighborhood and inspected the building which is part of the investigation process. The canvasses consist of an interview of 5 neighbors around the applicant's location. In this case there were two (2) against the store two (2) neighbors were not at home and one approved of the store's opening. Later Sheriff Taylor received a petition with 109 signatures against the store's opening from the Crawford community. Sheriff Taylor did not see a reason not to approve a license for Stagecoach 5 as far as the law goes and the building inspection is concerned. Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the liquor application. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

Commissioner Epps had several questions about the petition and residents in that area. Her discussion included the focus of bringing more businesses into the county for revenue for county operations that benefit all citizens. Commissioner Epps gave other explanations for her second to the motion such as this is a legal business and both Sheriff and the County Attorney see no reason to turn it down.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the citizens who opposed its opening. This being his district, he addressed numerous calls and the petition opposed to the store's opening. He stated that has not heard from one person that wanted the store. He was elected to represent the people in his district. Therefore, He would have to vote against approval of the license for now. He asked the other Commissioners to support his district's citizens and requested them to also vote no at this time. We can bring it back later.

More discussion took place. Chair Martin called for the County Administrator to call for the vote. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, no; District 3 (Martin) voted, no; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6(Corbett) voted, no; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. Four (4) yes votes and three (3) no votes; the alcohol license application was approved.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne presented the county depositories for review and approval. The State Examiners require the Commission to approval the depositories on an annual basis. There have been no changes or request for changes, therefore she recommended approving accounts. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne requested approval for the ABC Levies, which are collected by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for the alcoholic licensing. There are no fee changes since fees are already set at the maximum level. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne reminded the Commission that an Administrative Assistant II for the Personnel Department had been budgeted at a part-time level. Based on information over the past year through a review and proposed personnel policy and procedure changes, and additional duties that have been taken on by various people in the Commission Office to help support the Personnel Department, she would like for the Commission to consider to making this a fulltime position with benefits still at budgeted amount of \$24,529. Administrator Horne is not requesting financial changes, she is only requesting for this position to be upgraded to a full time position. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

Announcements were made by Chair Martin.

The meeting was adjourned.