

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2018
9:30 A.M. E.S.T

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Brady Baird, Pastor of Summerville United Methodist Church and Seale United Methodist Pastor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Ronnie Reed.

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.

Administrator Horne called the Commission roll. Members present were Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Carl Currington, Gentry Lee, Ronnie Reed, Cattie Epps, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator Horne who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the March 28th meeting minutes. Commissioner Currington motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. District 1 Lee, abstained, Commissioners Currington, Martin, Reed, Corbett & Screws approved.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Commissioner Martin presented the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Martin made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws stated that this month is the Community College Month for all Community Colleges and the Commission has done a Resolution for Presentation. He asked the representatives for CVCC to come down to receive the resolution.

Commissioner Screws made a motion to approve the CVCC Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Currington and Commissioner Corbett. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne presented the National County Government Month Proclamation. This is through the Association of County Commissioners and we

wanted to recognize and make the public aware this is the National County Government Month. We are asking this to be approved today and send it to the ACCA also post it on our website and the bulletin board.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the National County Government Month Proclamation. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Business Items:

Mr. Payne would like to bring to the attention that the NCA (The National Cemetery Administration) is well funded for the project for what they do. They have a support side that has no funding that they must depend on donations and membership fees. That is the reason we are here, for example, Memorial Day Program, Wreaths Across America and Avenue of Flags. We do not have the fund we have to solicit the funding.

Commissioner Epps stated that at the work session on Monday, District 4, Commissioner Reed stated he had monies that he could allocate to this project. At this time, I move that we give \$1,500.00 from District 4 budget for this project. Commissioner Currington asked the County Attorney is this legal to do? The County Attorney said as long as the money is coming out of the right fund. Commissioner Reed stated this is a one-time donation taken out of his fund for basketball goals. Chair Martin stated that the Commission does take appropriation requests in June and they are more than welcome to come back.

Commissioner Epps asked Mr. Payne has he gone to any other agencies that we have in this area to solicit funds for this project? Also, how has it been funded in the past? Mr. Payne stated over the years they have had members who carried the load. We still have memberships that still help, but over the years the load has gotten heavier that is why they must go out to solicit County Commissioners. Mr. Reed directed him to the County Commission. Commissioner Epps asked If the other supporters stopped giving donations and why? Mr. Payne stated that they were members and they stopped being members. Commissioner Epps thanked him. Commissioner Martin asked if Mr. Payne checked with the Mayor and City Council? Mr. Payne stated he contacted the Mayor's office. The Mayor told the director that it was up to the County not the City.

Commissioner Lee stated that he was glad Mr. Payne brought this to the attention of the Commission, but he would like to say that next year he would suggest trying to get on the Commission budget that he should talk to Mr. Cross and it could go through the Tourism Fund. Also, Commissioner Lee wanted to remind everyone that the County Commission donated over 400 acres to the National Cemetery to help establish it.

Commissioner Epps made a motion to approve the \$1,500 from District 4. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne is requesting approval of the RDS Business License Contract. This is for business license tax collections, for the prior year. However, we rarely have any collections because Mr. Bill Friend does such a good job in collecting all of our business license. As I discussed, if they do collect the business license it is 35% fee of what they collect as their fee. I believe a recommendation was made to bring this back at budget time and review it. It will be a six-month approval instead of an annual approval this time. Probate Judge Harden stated that RDS rarely has to do anything. Bill Friend and his crew do a wonderful job along with Janita in my office. We work so well together, and we simply don't have that much for them to collect. County Administrator Horne mentioned they do not collect their fee unless they do collect a late business license. It doesn't cost the County any money to have this contact in place.

Chair Martin motioned to approve the six-month approval. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne requested to adopt a County Employee Exit Form. It would be for all County Departments and Employees. Elected Officials Departments would be optional, but I would recommend implementing the form.

Commissioner Currington made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Commissioner Epps asked when this will into effect, immediately or is their going to be a time frame. County Administrator Horne stated she would like for it to be effective if approved today immediately, County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Attorney Funderburk stated the Commission does need to go into an Executive Session. The Commissioners will come back to adjourn.

Commissioner Epps requested at the next Commission meeting to approve a Proclamation for Mr. Mel Long. A citizen will be sending the Proclamation, and she would like for Mik Cole to do the Proclamation because she knows the format she likes it in.

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Corbett made a motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission the vote was unanimous.

Upon return to Commission Chamber, Commissioner Lee made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.