

The Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes May 27, 2020
9:30 A.M. EDT

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

Chairman Lee welcomed everyone for their attendance.

The audience recited the Lord's Prayer.

Commissioner Ronnie Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Max Herring called roll. Members present were Chairman Gentry Lee, Commissioner Peggy Martin joined the meeting at approximately 9:40, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett, and Commissioner Larry Screws. Commissioner Carl Currington was absent. Also, present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk. A quorum was established.

Chairman Lee called for a motion to approve the 5/27/2020 Agenda.

Commissioner Epps motioned to approve. Commissioner Reed seconded.

Max Herring polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to approve the May 27, 2020 Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Lee stated: We will not vote on the minutes today due to them not being approved. Do we have a motion to table the minutes until next Commission Meeting?

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps.

The vote was unanimous.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott stated: Due to the pandemic, I do not think I will be able to have my Tax Sale in the Chamber as I normally do. I plan to hold it in the parking lot to the south of this room. I will need to block it off that day. With your approval I will have the Maintenance Department mark off six-foot spaces. If the numbers are low, I will come back into the Commission Chamber and do it there.

Commissioner Lee stated: What she is asking is permission to block this parking lot off so she can have her tax sale there.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Max Herring polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to block the parking lot off for the Revenue Commissioner's Tax Sale.

Maintenance Director Leon Watson requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$2,500 from line item 239 to line item 228 to cover the cost for the PPE.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Max Herring polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous for the Maintenance Department to do a budget transfer from line item 239 to line item 228 in the amount of \$2,500.

Commissioner Martin arrived in the meeting at this time (approximately at 9:40).

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: I received a call from Mike Pattillo from Phenix City Engineering. The City started yesterday the street scape project on 14th Street in front of the Judicial Center. They are needing some place to store some material and park some equipment close to the job site. They are asking could they use the Old Library parking lot in the back?

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Max Herring polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous for the Phenix City Engineering Department to use the Old Library parking lot for staging equipment.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: We are through with the paving of Gammage Road and Screws Road they are the two last roads we have paved. By law once the road becomes paved unless posted, it is 45 mph. I would recommend the speed limit on Gammage Road to be 35 mph and on Screws Road being 25 mph, due to the curves on Gammage Road and the narrowness on Screws Road.

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Max Herring polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to post Gammage Road speed limit to 35 mph and Screws Road to 25 mph.

Commissioner Epps stated: It was brought to my attention by the Coroner there has been some restitution to him that has not been given. I am calling the Coroner up to give some facts of proof that this should have been taking care of a while back.

Coroner Sumbry stated: I just wanted to bring to your attention back in 2011 as you can see on the copies I gave you. It relates to the Coroners salary 9/16/2011 then it goes to 10/14/2011. The pay period that is missing is 9/30/2011. I am asking for your approval that this restitution be paid to me.

Chair Lee stated: So, you are saying you were not paid on 9/30/2011?

Coroner Sumbry stated: That is correct.

Commissioner Reed stated: I spoke to Max Herring about this he said he was going to bring it to me. Max, how much exactly do we owe the Coroner?

Max Herring stated: It is \$913.29.

Chair Lee stated: Sometimes elected officials miss a pay period. I know we as County Commissioners miss one every now and then because the numbers, the way they rotate has to be divided out right. I do not know if this is that or not. I cannot imagine a pay period being missed. I guess it could happen. I am going to suggest someone make a motion that this be taken care of if it is found that it was not paid, and it was supposed to be paid made. That is my motion.

Commissioner Reed seconded.

Commissioner Reed stated: I had looked at it too. Max was showing me on a piece of paper. I think we owe him a little bit of interest too because when you pay your income tax, they charge you for you.

Commissioner Lee stated: The motion is this be taken care of and paid if it is verified by our payroll representative, our Administrator and the clerk's that have to do it. What happens if we pay this and the auditors say we should not have paid this. We as Commissioners have to pay it back. Not the Commission Budget but the Commissioners. Just want you to understand that.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Mr. Sumbry, how did we get this far down the road with this? That is almost nine years ago. Is it just an oversight? As far as on your side, I am sure you realized you had missed a check.

Coroner Sumbry stated: I am sure I did. Back then it is hard to say what happened so I cannot say, but knowing me if I had seen it back then I attempted to bring it to the County Commission.

Commissioner Corbett stated: You attempted too?

Coroner Sumbry stated: I probably did if I had seen it back then but if I didn't, it is just an oversight.

Commissioner Lee stated: The motion is get together with payroll and the Administrator and make sure. I just want to make sure you know this is the motion.

Commissioner Corbett stated: Max, are you doing this work now? Do you agree at this point?

Max Herring Human Resources and Payroll Representative stated: Yes

Commissioner Lee stated: I am sure it was missed. I just want to make sure the motion is if it is not then don't do it.

Max Herring polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous to pay Coroner Sumbry \$913.29 if it is determined the pay was missed in 2011.

Commissioner Corbett stated: The Coroner has brought something to our attention at the next Work Session if we have a Work Session. It is our intentions about his salary and pay. There was a local legislation that was entered by Representative Gray. We had a meeting to discuss that, so I wanted to bring it up at the next meeting with a Work Session.

Commissioner Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Lee adjourned the meeting.

Attest: _____ Signed: _____
 County Administrator Chair