

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2018
9:30 A.M. E.D.T.

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Jim Caldwell with Central Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag was led by Commissioner Carl Currington.

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, Commissioner Gentry Lee, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Cattie Epps and Commissioner Larry Screws. County Commissioner Chance Corbett was absent. Also present was County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator Horne who kept the minutes. A quorum was established.

Chair Martin asked for a motion to approve the June 13th, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Currington motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Administrator Horne polled the Commission. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Currington) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) abstained; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 1 vote abstained; the motion passed.

Commissioner Epps stated after the work session on Monday evening and after reading over the portrait policy, and after getting information from some of the family members, I would like to ask the Commission just to approve the portrait this morning. The family wants to do something special for Ms. Della when we do unveil the portrait. I would ask that we just approve it at this time and then we will hang it. I make a motion to hang the portrait in the area of the information desk and as you enter the Courthouse. Commissioner Lee stated that the Commission has the same problem they had two weeks ago. The policy says all seven Commissioners have to be present. Commissioner Epps said that it does say that, so all seven Commissioners aren't here, so we can't do anything. Commissioners Screws motioned to table it, seconded by Commissioner Currington. Chair Martin stated that the next Commission meeting will be, July 9th, 2018. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff Heath Taylor presented application for a liquor license for Fred and Lester's Steakhouse and Pub. He stated that just the ownership of the business changed. It is an established restaurant located at 32 Bradley Road, Fort Mitchell, AL 36856. The Sheriff's Department has no issues with the current location nor the business and we have no issues with the incoming owner of the business. Commissioner Epps made a motion to approve the license. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Sanitation Director Wanda Hardie requested a budget amendment in the amount of \$54,000. The reason is because in October/November of 2017 we had major mechanical issues on two of the day cabs. Those trucks were down for two months. Therefore, I had to hire a driver to haul the garbage to Salem Landfill. This is where most of the money is coming from to place back into the budget. Commissioner Screws made a motion to approve. Seconded by Chair Martin. County Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Administrator Horne stated at the previous Commission Meeting I provided information regarding a job position that was advertised in January for the Code

Enforcement Department. We received three applications. I presented to the commission at the last commission meeting the top two who met the criteria that was advertised. I want to say this is a very difficult choice. Both applicants that were presented to you are highly qualified, and I certainly think they will serve the county very well.

At this time, I want to recommend extending the position to a U.S. Military retired veteran. His name is Mr. Tommy Wayne Pafford. He will be considered a full-time employee with benefits as all other Department Heads. The salary advertised is \$40,000. Mr. Pafford indicated during his interview he would accept the starting salary. He will have a six-month probationary period and will be evaluated prior to a permanent status Department Head which coincides with the county's personnel policy for regular general county employees. Once Human Resources completes their processing, pre-employment physical and back ground checks this offer of employment will be extended to him. We recommend the hire date of July 9th, 2018. The Commission would have to approve the hiring in this case because the law requires your authorization and vote. With approval of the hiring, the Probate Judge has the authority to swear Mr. Pafford in as a Solid Waste Officer because he will be working with sanitation on delinquent sanitation accounts and also county nuisances. Under Title (40-12-10) Mr. Pafford's duties also include the collection and enforcement of business licenses within the county as the business license inspector. Currently, there are two retired employees working part-time for that department. There is a need for a full-time person in Code Enforcement and Collections. We should have a full-time employee there so that the two current employees can pass on the knowledge, training and information in the event they should retire again this would provide for continued and consistent services under that department for years to come. Commissioner Currington made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. Commissioner Epps stated she would like to recommend when the county hires new employees that we make sure they get all the material they need and all the training for the job they are being hired for at that time. County Administrator stated she was glad Commissioner Epps brought this up. She has already met with Mr. Friend who will be working with this new employee as well as Mr. Gary Leeds. They have both agreed to share their knowledge, information and provide training. County Administrator polled the Commission. District 1(Lee) abstained; District 2 (Currington) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 7(Screws) voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 1 vote abstained; the motion passed.

County Attorney Funderburk talked about the Class Action Lawsuit. Basically, Kane County in Utah sued the United States its been declared a National Class Action and we are being notified that we can join that. So, it is a typical Class Action Suit if they make any money we will get some money and if they don't we won't. We are not incurring cost. The County in Utah is claiming the United States did not adequately compensate the counties with money that was due under the law that was passed by the Federal Government. I would suggest that the County Administrator LeAnn Horne as the person to sign these forms that you authorize the county to join in the Class Action Lawsuit. Commissioner Currington made a motion to approve. Seconded by Chair Martin. County Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

County Commissioner Epps made the announcement that the committee from the WestRock Company has donated \$10,000 to the Fort Mitchell playground. \$5,000 will come out of the WestRock Company budget this year and \$5,000 will come out of their next 2018-2019 year's budget. The Commission will be receiving a check for \$5,000 in November or December of this year. I also would like to thank Shawn Blakeney who filled in for me who gave a fantastic presentation and was very convincing in showing them needs of the playground in Fort Mitchell. County Attorney Funderburk stated since this was not on the agenda and since issues may be brought up that will be brought up in the Executive Session should not be influenced by that information. If your going to take that up before we take up the matter of going into executive session you need to follow the rules.

County Administrator LeAnn Horne announced that July 4th is on Wednesday, and the Courthouse and Judicial Center will be closed. The Judicial Center will also be closed on July 5th.

County Attorney Funderburk stated they would be coming back after the Executive Session to take a vote. County Commissioner Martin motioned to recess into Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Russell County Commission returned from Executive Session. Chair Martin motioned to reconvene. The Commission authorized County Attorney Funderburk to send a letter the City of Phenix City to let them know Russell County did not owe them money. Commissioner Currington motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned.