

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2014
9:30 A.M. EDT

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

Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Kelli Roberts gave a public announcement concerning the Chattahoochee Outdoor Academy will hold classes at the White Water Express, Phenix City location. This will be the regional academy for training of Kayaks, paddle boarding and in the future will teach fly-fishing. The grand opening will be Saturday, July 19th to begin at 9:00 a.m.

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Tillman Pugh, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk and County Administrator LeAnn Horne, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established.

The invocation was given by Chair Martin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Screws.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the June 25th, 2014 meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps motioned to approve and was second by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Corbett presented a proclamation to the Family of Donald Rumsey, a retired county employee, who recently passed.

James McGill, Chamber of Commerce's economic development head, made a proposal for a legislative lobbyist for Russell County, Garrett Jemison. Mr. McGill requested to set up a "Meet and Greet" with Mr. Jemison and to discuss legislative proposals and grants that the Commission wishes to pursue.

Probate Judge Alford Harden Jr., presented a revised referendum for the "Limited Self Government" for review. The Commission is required to approve a resolution requesting the Probate Judge to place this referendum on the ballot in November. The resolution will be sent to the balloting company and the Secretary of State. Commissioner Pugh motioned to approve the wording for the referendum and to proceed with a resolution for approval at the July 23rd Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Judge Harden and Sheriff Taylor discussed the new gun law and how it affects public and privately own buildings and polling places. Sheriff Taylor also discussed the Attorney's General's opinion on the gun law.

Judge Harden discussed the July 15th Election and the constitutional amendment concerning cotton farming and subsidies paid by the state.

Announcements made by Chair Martin were:

- Chair Martin announced the proposed cut of the military personnel at Fort Benning and the adverse effect on the surrounding areas. She read an address where comments may be sent and suggested that the public write letters to give their opinion on how the personnel reduction will affect Russell County's economy. A letter will be written on behalf of the Commission.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Application Workshop will be held July 15, 2014 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa
- Run Off Election July 15th.
- The Unveiling of the Creek Heritage Trail at the Old Seale Courthouse will be July 25th at 1:00 P.M.

Special Enforcement Officer Gary Leeds warned the public of coyote sightings at the Ladonia Walking Trail behind Ladonia School. The Russell County Game Warden Mika Allison requested residents to call her at (334) 381-0023 if they see a coyote. As soon as she establishes that there are coyotes in that area she will call the Natural Resources Office to have them removed.

Commissioner Epps announced she is scheduled to attend the NACo Convention in New Orleans.

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.