

The Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2019
9:30 A.M. EST

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

Reverend Steve Pace with Summerville Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Danny Phillips asking for an update on the status of his family cemetery on Boswell Road County 41.

Commissioner Corbett stated: It is in my district; I would like to read the laws on it and bring it back to the Commission. I want to know what we are required or allowed to do as Commissioners.

Commissioner Screws stated: Madam Chair, I would like to place this on the agenda for the next Commission Meeting.

Chair Martin stated: We will have a Work Session on August 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Jennifer Davidson gave the annual Alabama Extension Office update.

Chair Martin thanked Cable T.V. of East Alabama and the Citizen of East Alabama for their coverage of the Commission Meetings. She also welcomed Elected Officials, Department Heads, Media and Guests.

Assistant County Administrator Vickie Perry established a quorum. Members present were; Chair Peggy Martin, Vice Chair Cattie Epps, Gentry Lee, Carl Currington, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Also, present was the County Attorney Kenneth Funderburk. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Martin requested approval of the July 24, 2019 minutes.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to table the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lee and Currington. The vote was approved.

Commissioner Screws stated: I would like to add to the next agenda a proclamation for the Lewis Temple Holiness Outreach Ministries.

DISCUSSION:

Emergency Management Director Bob Franklin stated: As per policy I was just letting the Commission know the EMA Department is purchasing a side by side. The purchase price is \$14,800.

BUSINESS:

County Maintenance Director Leon Watson, Jr. stated: I would like to award the bid for the HVAC system for the Courthouse to the lowest bidder that meets specifications. I would like to award the bid T & D Mechanical.

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was approved.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: I have a contract drawn up for the Ladonia Sports Complex and Russell County Sports Complex in Seale. The agreement is stating letting the River City Baseball use the facilities for practice only. They are not allowed to use any County equipment for maintaining the fields. The County will go out once a week to maintain the fields. In this agreement it does state the leagues have priority over all the fields.

Commissioner Lee stated: Madam Chair, I didn't see we were added to their insurance policy as an additional insured.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: I talked with Mr. Daniel's yesterday he is still working on the insurance. I will make sure the insurance is taken care of.

County Attorney Funderburk stated: We do need to be added as a lost payee.

County Commissioner Lee stated: We can write it in these contracts so we will have protection.

Commissioner Epps stated: Madam Chair, in the past we have had a problem keeping up the restrooms. You said they would be using the fields. Who will be responsible for making sure the restrooms are clean?

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: The County will clean the restrooms. We started about six-months ago daily maintaining the restrooms. If it gets more than usual, then we will have a conversation with them.

Commissioner Screws stated: After the Work Session Monday I received a couple of calls to say that this person was involved in the one we had years ago. They just changed their name to do whatever. There are some litigations pending. I don't know. What I ask is that we take a moment or two to investigate whether or not this is something we want to get involved in? Based on what I hear, I have no facts or anything. If it turns up alright, I am for it.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: I have no problem letting them play. My job is to protect the County. That is why I brought the contracts to the Commissioners is to do it the legal way.

Commissioner Screws stated: I have no problem with them using the fields, I need to state that. The children that they work with need to practice. What I was told there were some legal problems with this particular travel ball. I ask we take a look into this matter before we sign the contract.

Commissioner Lee stated: Madam Chair, I think Mr. Danielson stated in the Work Session Monday night they have been doing this for three years. That kind of concerns me they have been using them for three years and we didn't know about it.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated: I know that River City has not been using the field for three years. They have only been in existence for less than a year.

Commissioner Screws made a motion to table until an investigation can be done. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was approved.

Commissioner Lee stated: I would like to reappoint Mr. Eddie Seymour to the 911 Board. He has indicated he would like to continue to serve.

Chair Martin stated: We have the ACCA Legislative Nominee. Commissioner Corbett has been serving in the past, I would like for him to continue to serve. He indicated at the Work Session Monday he would like to continue to serve.

Announcements were made.

We stress that all agenda items should be in by 12:00 p.m. prior to the next Work Session.

Commissioner Epps stated: I do have a proclamation to put on the next agenda. Right now, I do not have all the information, but I will let Kelly know in a timely manner.

Commissioner Lee stated: Madam Chair, our policy is; when we give proclamations, we are aware of what the proclamation says and we vote on it and approves it, then award it at another meeting. It could be really embarrassing if it was something we didn't agree to and voted it down and they were here. This concerns me that we keep getting away from this rule. All we have to do is have the proclamation written, presented to the Commission, approve it and then awarded at a later date.

Commissioner Corbett stated: We also have a policy about how to get things on the agenda, having to submit in a timely manner and a description so the Commission will be aware of what the item is. We seem not to be following that either.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.

Attest: _____ Signed: _____
County Administrator Chair