

The Russell County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
9:30 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chair Martin, She explained to attendees that due to Hurricane Irma the Monday night work session was cancelled and there will be changes in the meeting agenda. She also thanked EMA Director, Bob Franklin and his staff and all who volunteered to help during the storm.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Corbett.

Public Comments:

Thomas Logan discussed Lakeview Drive and its need for maintenance and paving. There are 17 families that live on the road.

Mr. Logan also discussed tourism on the river and the County's need to funnel money toward these revenue opportunities.

Charles Wilson and David Lowery spoke about today's business item; 6 Irvin Drive land abatement. They discussed poor conditions of the property and the nuisance that the occupant creates throughout their neighborhood.

Eddream Lawrence requested that the Commission amend the proposed 2017-2018 road paving projects by dropping some of the roads listed for District 7 to allow for the inclusion road paving for Samuel Road.

Reverend Tom Weise discussed the Macon-Russell Community Action Agency, and how he thinks that this program is a waste of tax payers' money due to their nonrepresentation of Russell County. He stated that they are supposed to have 7 representatives for Russell County but instead have 4 representatives from Hurtsboro, which only have approximately 500 residents. He named several discrepancies and rumors of taking the program from Macon County and giving it to Lee County.

Bill Friend discussed theft of property belonging to the Parks and Recreation Department and how the Russell County Sheriff's Department was able to locate the stolen property within 2 days. He thanked the Sheriff for their work.

Linda Perry criticized the Engineering Department for not cutting dead trees that are located on county easement of Tarver Road. She has requested for this to be taken care of for months before they fall and do damage to her property.

Chair Martin welcomed elected officials, department heads, media and guests. She also thanked the Citizen news for their coverage of the Commission meeting.

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

Chair Martin requested for Administrator Horne to go over the agenda because there are items that will be deleted.

Administrator Horne stated these items were asked to be removed:

Plaque for the 11-12 year Ladonia Dixie Youth \* Commissioner Currington

Tourism Update \* Lucas Brown / Judge Harden

Sheriff's Budget Amendment \* Sheriff Taylor

Dirt Road Policy and the Driveway Permit Approval \* Shaun Blakeney

Ball League Report \* Michael Cox / Commissioner Currington

Letter of Support for Casual Sales Tax and the Fees for Sports Fields and Usage \* Bill Friend; postponed until the next meeting.

Commissioner Currington motioned to approve the agenda Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The motion carried.

Commissioner Reed requested placing the Wiregrass Appointment under business and appoint Leroy Davis to the position. Administrator Horne stated it was under discussion just to inform the Commission that position was available. Commissioner Screws asked that it remain under discussion today and present that at the next meeting, rather than do that today. Commissioner Reed agreed to leave it under discussion for today. Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Martin requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 9th, 2017. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the meeting minutes with a correction to the meeting date. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

The Posthumous Proclamation for the family of Dr. Johnnie Robinson Jr. was read by Administrator Horne and presented to family members.

The Proclamation for Corine Dixon Alexander, who will celebrate her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 28th was read by Administrator Horne and presented by Commissioner Epps to Mrs. Alexander's daughter.

A certificate of recognition was given to Hurtsboro Mayor Vivian Covington to be presented to the Elite Alabama Wildcat Basketball Team, who are the State Games of America Champions for 2017.

The GYN Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation was presented to Doris Moody, a representative from the Laura Crandall Brown Foundation. Ms. Moody gave a brief history of the foundation and symptoms of the disease.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve all of the prior proclamations presented today. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Screws discussed the proclamation for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Year of the Tuskegee – Morehouse Football Classic to be held in October. The Commission signed the proclamation which will be included in their celebration. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps discussed contracts for County rental property, the Fort Mitchell Senior Center, the Old Seale Courthouse and the Crawford Masonic Lodge. She stated that all of the contracts are different and she believes the contracts should be the same unless there is a reason why.

Commissioner Epps also brought up complaints she received from 2 renters of the Old Seale Courthouse. One complained that they picked up the key to decorate for their event which was for the next day and found the renters for the day after had taken their decorations and had thrown them away and replaced those with their decorations for the next event. They had contacted the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Epps informed the Commission that she had several complaints that the elevator was not working.

Commissioner Epps said there was a complaint that the Fort Mitchell Senior Center had also been doubled booked. Also there have been a lot of complaints from Seale Courthouse renters concerning their treatment when they returned to pick up their damage deposits; if they did not have pictures to show that the building was clean, they did not want to give them their damage deposit back.

She feels that there should be one contract, especially with the fees. If there are different fees, because it is a different type function it also needs to be stated. We need one standard way of leasing the buildings. The person that is in charge of leasing should be consistent and trained on how to lease the buildings. She thought they need to come together to draw up an agreement and treat all citizens properly, when they are leasing county property and buildings.

Commissioner Corbett asked Commissioner Epps if it is her take on it, that the size of the Old Seale Courthouse and the number of people that can occupy that building, should be charged the same amount of rent as the Fort Mitchell Senior Center, which holds about 1/3 of the people.

Commissioner Epps said that is not her take on it. The Seale Courthouse contract did not include the price of rental. The person leasing the building should know how much they are leasing the building for before they rent the building. Prices of the rental properties do not have to be the same price, but the rental price should be listed on the contract.

Commissioner Corbett stated the Courthouse Committee determined the rental fee based on the size of the building, the recent installation of the elevator and because of the extensive clean ups due to renters leaving the place in a mess. The damage deposits for renters who misuse the buildings are not returned. Brochures for each facility are in the Commission Office waiting areas for everyone to see.

Commissioner Corbett informed the Commission that he keeps up the rent amounts of each venue, and the number of people they will hold. Every time someone calls Carla or Tina they are able to ask those questions and get answers.

Commissioner Epps replied that she is not saying that the renters don't know, I'm saying that information is not listed on the contract and it needs to be noted on the contract. We need to have more information and I want everyone to be on the same page.

Commissioner Corbett replied that information is listed on each of the venue pamphlets and they were presented at one of the Commission meetings for their review.

Commissioner Corbett also stated the installation of the elevator in the old Courthouse was the greatest thing that had happened to that building. The parking lot was paved, and the sidewalks were repaired.

The reason the elevator was not working was because it had been struck by lightning. Someone was brought in and worked overtime just to fix the elevator for the event that you mentioned. Parts were brought in from Atlanta to fix it the morning prior to the event, but discovered there was another part needed to complete the job. That was the reason the elevator was not working that day. The repairs were completed on Monday.

Administrator Horne agreed with Commissioner Epps the contracts have evolved through the years. If the Commission didn't mind she would like for the County Attorney to look at all of the contracts and make them more uniformed. It is confusing to the staff working with them. I will make sure the Commission is provided with the updated contracts. She would like them to be consolidated to make them easier and more user friendly for both the staff administrators and those filling out the contracts.

Probate Judge Alford Harden Jr., announced that his office has hired Mary Terry. She will work 3 days a month as our Senior Citizen Counselor, helping with planning of their estates. This is what Mrs. Terry has done for many years at the bank from which she retired from. She will start the first Tuesday after the third of each month the following Thursday and the following Tuesday in the afternoons. Seniors can come in and ask question about estate planning, and she will be able to direct them to the proper place, whether it be a financial planner or an Attorney. She will be able to help them with any of their needs that our office can help them with. This is not a budgeted item and is coming strictly from our indexing fund.

Commissioner Corbett said that he wanted to make it a point that he has been hearing the Commission has had several different appointments to committees and would like to request that all the appointments to come to the Commission, whatever the appointments are. We have had some that were looking for the Chamber President, Tourism, and several others. I want to make sure those come back to the table and we get a chance to know that before we go to the public. I just request that those be brought back to the Commission to make those appointments publicly, so everyone on the Commission know who those appointments are.

Commissioner Epps asked is that a Chair decision to bring someone in?

Commissioner Corbett answered that he believed it was not. Unless we give the Chair direction, it should come back to this Commission. That is the point I'm trying to make, I think it should come back to the Commission for a vote. The Chair is appointed to be ceremonial and run the meeting, but any actions should come back to the Commission to take action.

Attorney Funderburk stated a lot of these things are not actually performers to an official board. It's a committee, so things like the Chamber of Commerce doesn't have an official committee that searches for someone on which the County is an honorary type of position, but all of that should come back to the Commission.

Commissioner Corbett announced that if they are to represent the Commission, I would like to have a say in it and would like to vote on it. That is all I'm asking.

Commissioner Reed informed the Chamber has their own independent board; the Commission doesn't make that decision in who they pick to be their President. The County doesn't have any input in that decision.

Vic Cross informed the Commission that it is an independent board, but the Board has to select a search committee. The Chamber receives funds from the County and the City and since it is a City and County Chamber; he thought they wanted to have the County's input to whom that person should be. He thought that it is vital that the County have their input.

Commissioner Reed replied he thought that was long overdue.

Administrator Horne announced the Wire Grass Appointment was added to the agenda to inform the Commission that there will be an appointment and will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Sheriff Taylor reported that the original boiler for the Jail had to be replaced. It had been patched for several years and had gotten to the point that it was not repairable. It was over the \$7,500 amount that the Commission had requested notification for purchase.

Commissioner Corbett discussed the Old Post Office located on 14<sup>th</sup> Street gave summary of earlier discussions for the use of the building. After thought about the best

use of the building, it was suggested by others to use the main floor as a space for meetings and conferences, etc. or possibly rent the building. This is a beautiful historic building that should be preserved. The basement of the building is not suitable for meetings, but could be broken up for offices. The late Judge Greene had created a museum in the basement, but artifacts displayed in the building are no longer there, but the display cabinets and lighting are. Also, there had been discussions with the City and the Museum Board of making a Museum in the Coulter Building or other location.

He would like for the Commission to take a step to protect the area's history for the future, so people will have a place to learn about Russell County, Phenix City, Hurtsboro, Seale, Fort Mitchell, Hatchechubbee and Glennville. A place they can go to see artifacts from this region. He believes this is a project that would take very little of the County's money and could be set up quickly.

Therefore, he proposed that the basement of the Old Post Office / Library be designated for the future Russell County Museum and the Administrator begin preparing the space for such, including allowing the Sheriff to provide a security assessment. Beginning installing locks and security systems to protect any future collections. Also, for the Administrator to begin allowing collections in the space once the security systems are installed and track donations and others in the same. The last part of his proposal is for the Attorney to draft an agreement that the Commission may consider and approve to partner with the established Museum Committee which is currently named the Phenix City Museum. We could request them to change that and to allow that entity to be the fundraising and coordination engine for the museum project.

Commissioner Corbett stated that his suggestion would cost very little money, because the facility is already set up for a museum and Judge Green did a great job doing that and luckily for the Commission, none of that was disturbed when the collection was redistributed.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to dedicate that space as a museum for artifacts and art and to ask the Attorney to begin working on documents. Seconded by Commissioner Currington.

Commissioner Currington informed the Commission that the basement has seven spaces that could be designated as the seven County Districts. Each Commissioner could bring what they would like to show the history of their District.

Commissioner Reed stated that he would not support this because Troy State was still interested in the Coulter Building for it to be a museum and want to use their own resources. If we don't make a move the Coulter building will be sitting for 30 or 40 years empty if we don't make a move on their trust to build it. I'm for that. Troy would like to come before the Commission and talk.

Commissioner Corbett he has not been into the Coulter Building, but he has had a conversation with Troy. He did still support Troy getting the Coulter Building. This

would tie in with this project very well and Troy is very excited about this proposition concerning the basement of the Old Post Office.

Commissioner Reed stated he would like to move forward with Troy State. The Commission does not need to move on this project right now. We should wait awhile.

Commissioner Screws asked Commissioner Corbett if he was just asking the Commission for appropriations or just to see how much money this project would cost.

Commissioner Corbett replied he was not requesting appropriations for this project, the building is already set up for this. The only finding that would come out of the budget now that would be approved is to change the locks on the building, because we do not know who has keys. Moving forward, if for example, you have something that you would like to place in the Museum, we would not want people having access to come and go as they want and also let the Sheriff to do a security assessment on the building and decide if it needs an alarm system or does it need one, just to secure the property at this time. Anything that is brought up will be brought back to this Commission. Any agreement with the Museum Committee, any involvement with Troy trying to tie the two together. He reminded the Commission that the first rendition the Museum Committee put together had bridged the two buildings. He is not proposing that, but was saying that they wanted to put the two together even then. He could not see putting a lot of county money into the basement of the building when it is already set up for a museum; utilize it. At this time not appropriate money, but designate and get directions moving forward with a museum in the Old Post Office / Library; let the Sheriff do the security assessment and the Attorney do documents to let the 501 C3 work the fund raising portion of the project.

Commissioner Screws asked if he was only saying change the locks and have the Sheriff do an assessment? Those are the only two things you are asking, nothing else?

Commissioner Corbett agreed that was it, except to also allow the Attorney to draft documents.

Attorney Funderburk asked if the Commission wanted him to bring the Museum Committee and let them make whatever suggestions that they would like.

Commissioner Corbett reiterated that is also to let the Attorney work on a document not to approve it just work on it and bring it back to the Commission.

Commissioner Epps asked who this committee is, is this the Museum Committee?

Attorney Funderburk answered that it was the same, though he did not know who was on the list, but he had been talking to Scott Holmes who heads the Committee. He will talk to him to bring back their suggestions to see if the Commission would like to work with them.

Commissioner Corbett stated that he knew for certain that if the Commission goes in this direction, the county will want to be able to appoint committee members and they have agreed to that. This is a positive step and stated that later down the road we need to get the City involved as well.

Commissioner Screws requested Commissioner Corbett to take his motion and name those four items so there will not be any misunderstanding.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to move forward naming the basement of the Old Post Office / Old Library building located at 500 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Phenix City as the Russell County Museum, unless that name did changed at a later time, We ask the Sheriff to do a security assessment on the building to decide to do anything other than changing the locks; do we need anything else to protect any type collections that will be in there, and ask the County Attorney to begin working with the current Museum Committee, DBA Phenix City Museum, to work on an agreement that if they are willing, be the “legs” of this project.

Attorney Funderburk detailed that if Troy is interested, then all they had to do and have to do is to agree to the reversion clause, which they have not agreed to do. You cannot just give them the building.

Commissioner Corbett announced that Troy has zero ties to this project at this time. If Troy moves forward then we would want to look at what could be done to tie the two together.

Commissioner Reed said the County has spent a lot of money on that building. We should be putting different departments in that building instead of worrying about a museum, at this time. We have spent three or four hundred thousand in that building and we are discussing putting a museum in the basement. He thought that is an insult to the tax payers, and he would not support it.

Commissioner Currington seconded Commissioner Corbett’s motion.

Chair Martin called for the vote. District 2 Currington voted, yes; District 3 Martin, voted, yes; District 4 Reed; no; District 5: Epps, voted yes for securing the building; District 6, Corbett voted, yes; District 7, Screws voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 1 no vote, the motion passed.

Commander Leroy Davis with American Legion Post 135 informed the Commission that the Veterans Park Project is taking longer than they had planned and requested to reallocate \$10,000 that was given by the Commission for the Veterans Park. He would be able to take those funds to help Veterans today with projects like the Veterans’ Banquet and the Boys and Girls State Programs. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve reallocation of the funds. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Corbett clarified that they are not reallocating anything; the Commission is saying they support the Veterans Organization to transfer to the CVVO for the Veteran’s Banquet. The vote was unanimous.

Sanitation Director, Wanda Hardie requested a departmental transfer to clear up some budget line items as follows:

Garbage Fund 511

Decrease 172	Landfill Dumping	\$20,000.00
Increase 234	Motor Vehicle Repair	\$15,000.00
Increase 304	Contract Services	\$1,000.00
Increase 316	Wrecker Service	\$4,000.00
	Total	\$20,000.00

Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

Coroner Sumbry requested a departmental transfer as follows:

General Fund 001

Coroner 52400

Decrease 001 52400 251	Telephone	\$3,000.00
Decrease 001 52400 265	Registration & Train	\$1,000.00
Increase 001 52400 113	Salary & Wages	\$3,100.00
Increase 001 52400 124	FICA	\$900.00
	Total	\$4,000.00

Commissioner Reed motioned to approve the transfer. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

EMA Director Bob Franklin gave an update on the response of the EMA employees, county departments, volunteer fire departments and Churches to Hurricane Irma and damages that were incurred due to the storm. He thanked them for their help.

Commissioner Corbett pointed out that anytime normal operations have been suspended for the county, there are certain groups of people that have to continue working, EMA, Engineering, Sheriff's Office, Parks and Recreations. He wanted to be sure that those employees are compensated for doing so. He understands that the take on that responsibility when they were hired. They are making the same amount as those employees who are sitting at home with their family and the other employee who is out during those times taking care of the citizens and their family is at home having to fin for themselves. He would like for those employees to be compensated right for that. He would like for the Administrator to lead these efforts to meet with those department heads to discuss this and figure out how to be fair to those employees.

Mr. Franklin discussed a previous bid for a security camera system for the Courthouse, earlier in the year which was rejected. The camera system will be purchased from a grant award from the State Home Land Security and will reimburse the purchase of a camera system 100%. He requested to send for bids again and schedule a preconstruction walk thru, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the bid opening October 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00

a.m. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Franklin also requested approval for Commission Chair to sign documents accepting additional \$12,000 EMPG State funding that is offered because He has kept up his certifications and additional training. The funds are for reimbursement of Mr. Franklin's salary. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Epps. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Franklin reminded the Commission that they had applied for safe rooms for 5 parts of the county. There has been approval for two of the safe rooms to be located in the areas of Seale and Fort Mitchell. Also approval was received for 1 personal safe room. Any additional shelters have been frozen by FEMA. Money allocated to this program has been reapplied to the Houston, Texas to help with damages caused by Hurricane Harvey. FEMA does not budget for disasters ahead of time. Therefore, those funds go to operations in Texas and now in Florida. At this time it is not sure when funding for the safe rooms will return, but the two presented today are approved by FEMA. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve for the Chair to sign the documents. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Epps asked if money raised for disasters go to FEMA?

Mr. Franklin stated FEMA is federally funded. All fundraised money goes to the Red Cross or different organizations that are at the disaster areas. You can designate where money you give to the Red Cross goes. He also suggested that people research organizations before you give to make sure they are reputable. He did encourage donating to help those disaster victims.

Commissioner Epps stated her Domination always sends money, but they sent it to the District and the District sends it where it is needed.

Chief Appraiser Heath Crowe presented the Digital Information Cooperative Agreement. This agreement is between Russell County and the Alabama Department of Transportation. It requires the backing of the Commission and Chair signature. We will share the information that was just received from the 2017 aerial photography project; in return they will provide the County with a \$12,000 grant. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney discussed a traffic study that had been approved for Evans Road and Hwy 80 to see if it warranted a traffic light. The results of the study show that a traffic light is needed at that intersection. The total cost of the traffic signal will be approximately \$100,000. The State will pay \$50,000 leaving the additional \$50,000 for the county to pay. Mr. Blakeney has talked with Administrator Horne and they have found funding for the light. Commissioner Currington has talked to Lee County's Commissioner for that area about possibly contributing to the project since it most benefit Lee County citizens coming out of Evans Road onto Hwy 80. Russell only

owns 1/10 of a mile on Evans Road. He is requesting at this time to match the \$50,000 to ALDOT for placement a traffic signal at Evans Road. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Currington.

Commissioner Screws asked to see how much Lee County is willing to give to the project.

Commissioner Currington stated that he had already asked Commissioner Long of Lee County, if their Commission will pay \$25,000 of the installation. Commissioner Long met with the Lee County Engineer to discuss the project but has not given an answer yet.

Commissioner Reed stated that he supports this, he would like to wait to see how much they are willing to give.

Mr. Blakeney stated there are 2 to 3 accidents there each week and if they wait someone may be killed.

Commissioner Corbett informed the Commission to get the DOT's approval of a project like this is huge. This is not the first time a signal at this location has been requested and it was denied before. He did not want to wait. He would like to move forward with the project and save a life. Look at the difference a light made at the intersection of Hwy 431 and 169 and the accidents that occurred there. If you have never been at this intersection go to Wendy's and try to pull back onto Hwy 80.

Mr. Blakeney stated the study shows there are 4,500 cars a day coming out of Evans Road; 85% of those are turning left onto Hwy 80.

Commissioner Corbett said if Lee County is gracious enough to give money towards this project, which would be wonderful. If they say no, either way we need this traffic light.

Commissioner Currington informed them that most of the accidents happen in Russell County either way this affects us.

Commissioner Epps requested to call for the vote, because one life saved is a life worth saving. Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Mik Cole presented Fort Benning Advertising, and discussed the Stars and Stripes which she is encouraging the Commission to approve to placing advertising in their publications for the County.

Commissioner Corbett suggested they should probably look at this going forward with tourism funds, if the Commission is going to use anything for it. This should probably be discussed at budget time as well.

Administrator Horne asked Mrs. Cole if the publication she presented was the actual Stars and Stripes and how many are published and distributed.

Stars and Stripes representative, Ms. Marshall answered questions about the publication and that the advertisement that Mrs. Cole was requesting approval for, had a deadline of yesterday. The cost of ½ page for six issues is \$4,800, which will be \$800 per issue and could be paid that way instead of an upfront charge. A business card size for 6 issues is \$2,400 at a cost of \$400 per issue.

Administrator Horne asked if she had conversations with the Chamber's Tourism Director, Lucas Brown. She stated that currently they have the funding and Ms. Marshall would have to go to them about purchasing the ad. The Commission will not have tourism funding until October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Marshall said the ad is for the November /December issue if that would make a difference with funding. She did state that they could hold out for payment until late October.

Mrs. Cole has discussed other publications that have come forward for advertisements and were told by the Chamber's Tourism Department they did not have funding.

Commissioner Screws motioned to table this request to give the Administrator a chance to see what she needs to do. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Attorney Funderburk stated that the Commission does not have control of the tourism money until October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Administrator Horne also said her other concern is having a proof of the advertisement for Commission approval within that time frame.

Ms. Cole stated she could have that back within 24 hours.

Administrator Horne polled the Commission. The vote was unanimous.

Special Enforcement Officer Bill Friend requested for the Commission to acknowledge a nuisance exist at 6 Irvin Drive. 2 neighbors spoke at today's public comments concerning the issues at this property. He showed pictures of the conditions at this location. This property was up for abatement in October 2015. The owner Mrs. Hurst requested time to clean it up, which she was granted and was given from October 2015 until May 2016. Mrs. Hurst was able to clean all the debris at that time and only the building was left. The case was closed. Two months later, Mr. Snow began to bring debris back until the property was in the same shape again. Mrs. Hurst has again requested time to clean the property, but she does not want to work on it while Mr. Snow is on the premises. We cannot do that. Also, as long as the structure stands Mr. Snow will keep returning. This property is in the Phenix City limits and Phenix City Building Inspector has declared the building unsafe. The county can now tear the building down. Commissioner Screws motioned to abate the property, Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Friend also requested to schedule a public hearing for land abatement of 6 Irvin Drive, September 27<sup>th</sup> prior to the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Currington. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne stated that due to Hurricane Irma the budget meeting set for September 11<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. She proposed to reschedule the Budget Meeting for September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30. A.M. Commissioner Reed requested that the meeting be scheduled for 10:00 a.m. since this was not a regular Commission Meeting. Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the budget review, for September 22 at 9:30 a.m.; seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Chair Martin called for the vote. District 2 Currington voted, yes; District 3 Martin, voted, yes; District 4 Reed; no; District 5: Epps, voted yes for securing the building; District 6, Corbett voted, yes; District 7, Screws voted, yes. 5 yes votes and 1 no vote, the motion passed.

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Epps announced she had appointed to serve on NACO's Arts and Cultural Committee and was reappointed to serve on the Human and Education Department for NACO and she continues to serve on the ACCA Trustee Board.

Commissioner Epps also discussed the Macon-Russell Community Action. They are thinking of merging with Lee County and have requested her help in saving the program. She asked if there was a County office that Macon-Russell could use because at this time, they are renting a building that is more than they needs and finances. She would like for them to stay in Russell County. Macon-Russell is a good agency for the low income. The only organization that Russell County is involved with is Light/Heat Program and we receive 60% of the Federal money to run that program and she hated to see Russell County lose the opportunity to bring this program to our area and run it with Macon County. They are in jeopardy and need help.

Commissioner Epps also informed the Commission that Macon-Russell is in search for a new Director and their Chair has resigned. There is a lot of work to be done to save this program and she would like to see the agency saved if possible.

Commissioner Screws motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.