

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR  
ABATE NUISANCE COMPLAINT AT Kinnett Drive and Fred Street, Phenix City  
JULY 28, 2021**

A public hearing for abatement nuisance complaint at *Kinnett Drive and Fred Street in Phenix City* was called to order by Russell County Commission Chairman Corbett.

No public comments were made.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor of closing the public hearing by saying aye. None opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

The public hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR  
ABATE NUISANCE COMPLAINT AT 15 Candi Lane, Ft. Mitchell  
JULY 28, 2021**

A public hearing for abatement nuisance complaint at *15 Candi Lane in Ft. Mitchell* was called to order by Russell County Commission Chairman Corbett.

No public comments were made.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Epps and seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor of closing the public hearing by saying aye. None opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

The public hearing was closed.

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Russell County Commission  
Russell County Commission Chambers  
Meeting Minutes July 28, 2021  
9:30 A.M. EST

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Don Abrams with Trinity UMC.

Commissioner Screws led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments were made.

Chairman Corbett thanked Cable TV of East Alabama, The Citizen of East Alabama for covering our meetings and we have Facebook live for people not able to attend. He welcomed our elected officials, department heads, media and guests.

Chairman Corbett stated that the agenda was approved unanimously Monday night at the work session.

Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Member's present Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Gentry Lee, and Chairman Chance Corbett while Commissioner Rod Costello was not present. Also, Interim County Attorney Meagan McCarthy was present and filling for Ms. Hope Hicks and County Administrator Paulette Colbert, who kept minutes.

A quorum was established by Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Corbett presented to approve for July 14, 2021. Commissioner Epps made a correction that the scholarship welcome was made by Mr. Cedric Darty. Motion to approve minutes was made by Commissioner Epps and seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion to approve the minutes unanimously.

### **PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Chairman Corbett presented Interim EMA Director David Martin with the Safety Coordinator Resolution Approval. Mr. Martin presented a resolution in naming the Safety Coordinator for the Safety Incentive discount program that is through the County Risk Services. Commissioner Lee motioned to allow the Chair to sign the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Chairman Corbett presented Jennifer Davidson, Extension County Coordinator, who presented the annual Alabama Extension Report to Commission.

Chairman Corbett presented Interim EMA Director David Martin with the request for expenditure over \$7,500 for siren maintenance. It was not a request for action but a report to purchase over \$7,500. Mr. Martin stated they currently have 42 sirens and want Mobile Communications of America do inspection and maintenance repair.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Chairman Corbett presented Enforcement Bill Friend with the two public hearing abatements at the beginning of this meeting. The first public hearing was for Kinnett Drive and Fred Street in

Phenix City. Mr. Friend requested the Commission by resolution to declare the property to be a public nuisance and order the abatement of the nuisance. Motion made by Commissioner Screws and seconded by Commissioner Epps. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett presented Enforcement Bill Friend with the public hearing abatement at the beginning of today's meeting for 15 Candi Lane in Ft. Mitchell. Mr Friend requested the county Commission by resolution to declare the property to be a public nuisance and abate the property. Motion made by Commissioner Epps and seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett stated that next item on the agenda covers the installation of the cable for the courthouse with two different purchases and with two different companies. He stated that he had a meeting with Mr. Jason Rang, Chief Technology Officer with Cable TV of East Alabama BEAM, about the courthouse wiring to be replaced and Mr. Rang introduced a different solution that would be a phase one approach in getting the county in the right direction for information technology security. Chairman Corbett wants to have Mr. Rang come to the August 9<sup>th</sup> work session to discuss his other option, as opposed in spending \$20,000 on the purchases on the agenda, which was \$11,000 for cabling and \$8,700 for the installation. Mr. Rang's proposal is much less at \$14,000 and it comes with customer service and support for the program and allows us to keep the current cabling, and because of the hardware change, it will allow future expansion. Motion to postpone until a later date by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee discussed it should all be bundled together in the same project (to include phones), and he had heard from auditors before say that if it's the same thing, no matter if it's not the same project, then they should be bundled together. He doesn't know if it has changed. He asked for the attorney to give a good breakdown on it, and if it is ok to do it this way. Chairman Corbett stated that the Interim Administrator received information from the auditors and this way is legal and by the books. Chairman Corbett stated that if they go with the new solution, it will be a moot point and will be able to move forward is below the bid law and probably in the \$13,000 range vs. \$\$20,000 (good savings) and take the county in a phase one approach to get where we need to be as a Commission in a county this size. Commissioner Lee reclarified that his motion was to postpone both business items. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett presented the update on the County Administrator search results by the search committee after taking applications and interviews has been accomplished. They had 2 interview dates with good candidates. The committee has come out to unanimously recommend the Commission consider appointing permanently Ms. Paulette Colbert to the position. Moved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. Commissioner Lee requested a roll call vote. Roll call vote was done by Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 4: Reed, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett spoke about appointing a replacement for her position in the tag office. Commissioner Reed moved to appoint Ms. Carrie Dunn (Bowman) as the next Motor Vehicle License Commissioner. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Screws stated that he thinks they need to go through an interviewing process for the position as an effort to show diversity, and he doesn't have a problem with her (he doesn't know her). Commissioner Reed stated that Ms. Paulette Colbert has done an outstanding job training her people in her office. There are 2 ladies that are both qualified and always runs it when she's out so that's why he said they go ahead and appoint Ms. Carrie Dunn (Bowman) the next Motor Vehicle License Commissioner and that's why he moved it. Commissioner Lee stated that she has served in the position for years and has done a good job and he think she deserves to be promoted. Commissioner Epps stated that she thinks in the Personnel Manuel states that if you have a qualified person already in a position, that person can be promoted to the next level and that is what they are trying to do with this. To promote a person to the next level without going through the process. Call for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, no. District 4: Reed, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion and announced Ms. Carrie Dunn Bowman as the new Motor Vehicle License Commissioner.

Chairman Corbett presented Interim EMA Director David Martin with the request to move a siren form Joyce Drive to Stephens Loop. Mr. Martin stated that this is a request from a documented medical issue from someone that lives in the area of Joyce Drive, and it would be in the best interest of the Commission to move the siren to the fire department on Stephens Loop, and it's a budgeted item. Chairman Corbett stated it costs \$5,900 to move it. Commissioner Epp motioned to approve and seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Lee stated he thinks there are other options to explore before actually moving the siren because he doesn't know the liability that's involved when moving a siren since it adds people that can hear it but also takes away from people that have been used to hearing it, so he wondered if there's other options. He asked David if there was a silent test on the particular siren because he says some of them have it. Commissioner Epps said that she went by the siren Monday and observed that the siren head is right at their back door. Where they will move it will not affect the neighborhood since it's all in the same vicinity. She thinks it's safe to move it where they want it, and the neighborhood would be less affected in the center of the community. Mr. Martin answered that it is possible to run a silent test on it but the problem is in the event of an actual storm there may be an issue with it actually going off. He stated that sirens are meant to be heard outside and it's going all through the house. Commissioner Lee asked if the house was there before the siren was put in? Mr. Martin wasn't sure. Chairman Corbett stated the siren was put in about 2007 or 2008 and he's not sure it was there either. The Commissioners discussed it further and, in the end, Chairman Corbett stated that due to the documented medical condition and pleas heard from them, he will support this. Interim County Administrator Paulette Colbert polled the Commission as follows: District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 4: Reed, yes. District 1: Lee, no. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion. Chairman Corbett added that there will not be a need for a budget amendment. Mr. Martin and Ms. Colbert have worked together, and he has the money to cover it in siren maintenance.

**COUNTY ENGINEER:**

Chairman Corbett presented County Engineer Shawn Blakeney with the award bid for the Russell County courthouse. Mr. Blakeney stated that the bid award for the milling and paving of the parking lot and the striping goes to Wayne Gentry Builders in the amount of \$58,763.91. Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the bid award and seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett presented County Engineer Shawn Blakeney with the award bid for the CRAF Project. Mr. Blakeney recommended the Chair to sign the bids won and that the CRAF Project bid award goes to East Alabama Paving in the amount of \$891,137.09. Motion made by Commissioner Reed and seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Mr. Blakeney stated the roads for this project covers Railroad Street .67 miles, Owens Road section 1 for 11.38 miles, Owens Road section 2 for ½ mile, Cutrate Road 1.22 miles, and Padgett Road 3.01 miles which it a total of 6.78 miles. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett presented County Engineer Shawn Blakeney with the Grissom Lane sign. Mr. Blakeney stated that he recommends changing the Grissom Lane sign that is currently green but it's a non-county-maintained road and is the only road in the county with a green sign that's not maintained. He suggests changing it back to a blue private road sign so the citizens and everybody knows it is a private road and non-county maintained. Motioned by Commissioner Epps and seconded by Commissioner Reed. Chairman Corbett commented that he has heard from Ms. Grissom and her daughter that this road was never a county road, and their sign was placed in an effort to try to help them many, many years ago so he feels it is the right thing to get it back to where it should be which is a private road. Further discussion was had by the Commissioners. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

County Administrator Paulette Colbert had nothing to share.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

Interim County Attorney Meagan McCarthy was present and filling in for Ms. Hope Hicks. She presented a matter to the Commission that is appropriate to be discussed in an executive session. She stated under Alabama code section 36-25a-7 states that executive sessions are allowed to discuss the consideration the government body is willing to offer accept when considering the purchase, sales, exchange, lease, or market value of real property. She stated that the executive session does not plan on the Commission to take action, so she recommended the Commission move to the executive session at the end of today's meeting and then adjourn the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session. Commissioner Lee moved the and seconded by Commissioner Reed. Ms. McCarthy added, before the vote, that she, as a licensed attorney to practice in the State of Alabama, made the oral declaration that the matters to be discussed are appropriate for executive session under code section 36-25a-7.

All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously for the executive session meeting.

### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Reed shared the Mayor of the City of Phenix City will have his annual scholarship program at the amphitheater at 7:00 pm, this Thursday. He asked everyone to please come and support him while he is giving a scholarship away to the students at Russell County High School and Central High School.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Crawford Market Days on August 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 am to 2 pm EST
- Mayor's Scholarship Program at the Phenix City Amphitheater: Thursday, July 29th at 7 pm EST
- Heart Center Bus will be in Crawford on July 30<sup>th</sup>
- Job Fair at Ft. Mitchell Fire Station from 8 am to 4 pm EST on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting went into closed Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned in the Executive Session.