

**Russell County Commission  
Russell County Commission Chambers  
Meeting Minutes February 23, 2022  
9:30 A.M. EST**

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

The invocation was given by Pastor McGruder with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Seale.

Commissioner Corbett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments were made.

Chairman Corbett thanked BEAM Cable TV and The Citizen of East Alabama for covering our meetings and stated that our meetings are on Facebook Live for our citizens unable to attend. He welcomed our elected officials, department heads, media, and guests.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Member's present were Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Rod Costello, Commissioner Gentry Lee, Commissioner Scott Chambers, and Chairman Chance Corbett. Also present was Interim County Attorney Hope Hicks and County Administrator Paulette Colbert who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established by County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

Chairman Corbett stated there was not a work session Monday night, so the agenda needs to be approved. Commissioner Epps moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The agenda was approved by the Commission unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Corbett asked for approval of the minutes of February 9, 2022, Commission meeting. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion to approve the minutes passed.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Reed who presented a proclamation for Mother Mary Mission to Coach Brown. It was read aloud by County Administrator Paulette Colbert as follows:

**Russell County Commission  
PROCLAMATION  
HONORING  
Mother Mary Mission**

**WHEREAS**, the Russell County Commission wishes to recognize Mother Mary Mission that was founded by Father Harold Purcell of St. Jude Catholic Mission of Montgomery in 1939; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother Mary Mission has opened now for 82 years as a church, school, and gathering place for the Seale Road community; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother Mary Mission at one time had over 6000 students in grades K through 12; and

**WHEREAS**, many of Mother Mary Mission graduates have excelled as professional educators, doctors, lawyers, clergy, community leaders, entertainers, and sports heroes; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother Mary Mission is experiencing a renewal with the help of the alumni who have played at the highest professional level in the sports of football, baseball, and basketball; and

**WHEREAS**, the professional sports alumni have pledged themselves to a project of renewal, especially for the Educational Facilities; and

**THEREFORE**, The Russell County Commission, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 23, 2022 as a day to recognize

“Mother Mary Mission Renewal Day”

in Russell County, Alabama.

This Proclamation adopted and approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2022.

Commissioner Reed moved to approve the proclamation honoring Mother Mary Mission. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

There were no discussion items.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Reed with a donation request from Mother Mary Mission. Commissioner Reed spoke of Coach Brown, who was present, and commented on the outstanding job he has done in the community with the kids in different areas and spoke about the veteran’s female homeless shelter. Commissioner Reed requested to donate \$5,000.00 of his discretionary funds to the mission, and stated it was already budgeted. Commissioner Reed moved to make the donation from his budgeted funds. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. Chairman Corbett asked Mrs. Colbert to make sure the paperwork is correct and that they can give a donation to the organization. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Reed who presented resolving the local police jurisdiction confusion. Commissioner Reed stated that they needed to do this a few months ago because they have to let the city know, about 24 months in advance, if the Commission intends to take over and move the jurisdiction back. Chairman Corbett stated that this is not the police jurisdiction, but this is about the planning jurisdiction, and they have the ability to do so by the legislation that was passed. Once they decide to do that and they have given notification to the city, it would then take effect 2 years later. Ms. Hicks explained that there is a different law for planning and a different law for permitting, they are 2 different things. It was her understanding that Russell County is not actively involved in planning, like subdivision planning, but is involved in permitting and there are 2 different laws that they are dealing with here. She said the Commission would need to decide if they are going to start doing planning or if you want to put the city on notice that you’re going to do planning, or if what Commissioner Reed, she believes, is talking about is permitting and if you want to give the city notice that you intend to take over permitting outside of municipal corporate limits, then she said the Commission can vote to do that. Commissioner Lee stated that he thought that it was discussed before if they started doing this that they’d have to hire additional people so the additional revenue would be a lot less than paying salaries for additional people. Chairman Corbett stated it is normally the goal when there is not a work session before the commission meeting not to bring controversial issues up and he thinks they need to discuss this at a work session and have Mr. Roberts here with the attorney to delve into this issue. Commissioner Screws stated that they can add this to the early work session schedule. Chairman Corbett agreed and asked Mrs. Colbert when they come in early to

discuss the ARP money, to include this as a topic since Attorney Hope Hicks will also be at the work session. Commissioner Epps moved to postpone this until further notice. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Reed who presented the Mayor's Education & Charity Ball donation request. Commissioner Reed stated that last year he contributed \$2,200.00 to the mayor's ball and he spoke about the outstanding job they've done, to include, when 9 kids received \$2,000.00 each at Russell County High School. He wanted to expand it and make a donation from his discretionary funds in the amount of \$4,000.00, which was the balance left in his fund to this organization. Attorney Hicks suggested, since he's not completely sure of his balance, to make a motion to give the remainder of the funds in his discretionary account, so there's no question in case there's only \$3,500 left. Commissioner Reed moved to give his remaining balance to this event. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chairman Corbett recognized Maintenance Director Leon Watson who requested permission to sell some surplus vehicles. Mr. Watson stated that the Maintenance Department is requesting permission today to sell 2 of their older vehicles on GovDeals.com. The first one is a 2005 Ford Explorer, Asset # 34646, and it has a busted transmission in it and the repair would exceed the vehicle's worth. The second vehicle is a 2005 Ford F-150, Asset #32618, and it also has been out for most of his time with the county. He requested to surplus them and place them on GovDeals.com and return the funds to the general fund account. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request to surplus the two vehicles. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Attorney Hicks stated that she just wanted to make sure the sale is advertised just as if we were doing a sale on the courthouse steps. She said that simply putting it on GovDeals.com doesn't meet the advertising requirements. Chairman Corbett asked Mrs. Colbert to look into this and make sure it is done the right way. Mrs. Colbert agreed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

#### **COUNTY ENGINEER:**

Assistant County Engineer Ray Martin presented the two business items. One was the request to purchase a John Deere 5055E utility tractor for \$42,950.29 and a flex-wing bush hog for the price of \$12,873.60. They are both budgeted items that will be bought as a unit from SunSouth. Commissioner Epps moved to accept the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Assistant County Engineer Ray Martin presented the second business item to request to surplus 14 items as follows:

<u>Capital Asset #</u>	<u>Description</u>
32772	2006 International Dump Truck
34369	2006 Single Axle Dump Truck
32987	2007 Caterpillar Motorgrader
35131	2017 Mack Tandem Axle Dump Truck

Mr. Martin stated the above would be sold at the JM Wood Auction in Montgomery next month and the below remaining items would be listed on GovDeals.com. Chairman Corbett stated if they are on GovDeals.com, to make sure to follow the correct procedures as Ms. Hicks stated earlier. Mr. Martin agreed and proceeded with the below list:

<u>Capital Asset #</u>	<u>Description</u>
34736	John Deere Mower Z951B, 60 inch
31626	John Deere Mower with Bagger
30440	1998 Chevrolet Mid-Sized Pickup
30437	1998 Crew Cab Dump Truck
31723	1970 Water Truck
---->	County Property # PR002 /2008 Ford Pickup
32981	2007 Ford F150 Pickup
32982	2007 Ford F150 Pickup
30380	2001 Chevrolet Tahoe
30125	1996 John Deere Tractor

Mr. Martin stated that all of these items have well exceeded their life, and most haven't been used in quite a while and they've stripped parts off of what they could on all of them, except for the items that will be sold at auction. He said that a lot of these items have already been replaced and they've not had a chance to surplus them. Commissioner Costello moved to approve the request to surplus these items. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR:**

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the county fees for alcohol licensing. She stated that 080 Liquor County Wholesale Licensing Fee that was highlighted in their packets shows that the fee has been reported at \$50.00 since 2008. Prior to 2008, she went back to 1998, it was reported as \$500.00. She couldn't find anything that changed that fee, and the levies for 2008 were approved by the Commission with no changes. Therefore, she feels this was a typographical error and she asked if the Commission would like the fee to be changed back to \$500.00. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the fee change. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented a request to pay attorney fees to Ball, Ball, Matthews and Novak, PA from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund in the amount of \$877.50. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the invoice payment from the fund. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the monthly approved expenditures/amounts paid from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund report update. No vote was needed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert reminded the Commissioners that it was discussed at the last Commission work session to schedule an early work session meeting after the county attorney reviewed the ARP Grant applications. Attorney Hope Hicks stated that she will be ready to talk about it the next work session. She will be able to come in early on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm ET to discuss this along with the permit/planning item. Commissioner Chambers moved to approve the 4 pm ET work session on March 7, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Screws reminded to make a public notification of this change. Mrs. Colbert agreed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Hope Hicks had nothing to present at the meeting.

#### **COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Screws discussed to add to the agenda an area for the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund until all money is spent, so it will not be mixed up in business items.

Chairman Colbert recognized County Administrator Paulette Colbert who introduced Mr. Khalil Nunes who filled the Commission IT Support position that was in this year's budget. Commissioner Corbett stated that he wanted the Commissioners to meet him since he would help them in different projects or other areas and wanted to clarify that the introduction is not starting a new process, but he thought it was important in this position.

Commissioner Screws stated that he feels the people in-house who apply for the ARP grant from inside the Commission, needs to send in something in writing so the Commission can look them over (from the departments). He mentioned that he said it once before, but they didn't say yay or nay on the request. Commissioner Corbett agreed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Ft. Mitchell Pioneer Day will be on April 9, 2022
- Crawford Market Days is coming in April to November on the 3rd Saturdays: 8 am to 2 pm

Commissioner Screws moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed.

Meeting was adjourned.