

PUBLIC HEARING FOR
CDBG-CV Project # CV-NC-20-002 Potential Change in Activity:
June 22, 2022

A public hearing of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chairman Chance Corbett.

BUSINESS:

Chairman Corbett recognized Ben McGarr with the Lee-Russell Council of Governments who presented the status of the CDBG-CV Project # CV-NC-20-002 change in activity and to give residents an opportunity to provide input on a formal amendment to that project. Mr. McGarr stated that this money is from the CARES Act and not with the American Rescue Plan Funding that the county received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Commissioner Lee. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed and the public hearing was closed.

Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes June 22, 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 Reverend Don Abrams with Trinity UMC.

Commissioner Screws led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Jill Hardy with East Alabama Humane Society spoke about the Russell County facility, the medical cases, and requested monetary help for the facility.

Ms. Gary spoke about residence rental assistance for her parents or single parent homes who serve at Knowledge Works Learning Academy and wanted to know how they can get financial assistance in Russell County. Chairman Corbett asked her to stay and get more information after the meeting.

Chairman Corbett thanked BEAM Cable TV for broadcasting the meeting live for the public on Facebook, and The Citizen of East Alabama for covering the meetings. He welcomed the elected officials, department heads, media, and guests.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Members 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 County Attorney Hope Hicks, and County Administrator Paulette Colbert who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established by the County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

Chairman Corbett stated the agenda needed to be approved due to not having a work session on Monday night due to the holiday closing. Chairman Corbett stated to add under Business Items Project Funds distribution for Commissioner Chambers, along with Commissioner Epps request to add under Discussion the Update on Economic Development Advisory Committee by Economic Director Victor Cross. Commissioner

Epps moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed and the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Corbett asked for approval of the minutes of June 8, 2022, Commission meeting. Commissioner Costello moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman Corbett recognized Representative Chris Blackshear who thanked Secretary of State John Merrill for all of his work he has done for the state the past 8 years, specifically Russell County. Representative Chris Blackshear presented a commendation from the Governor of Alabama in honor of Ms. Jean Bentley Faulkner. Secretary of State John Merrill recognized Ms. Faulkner with the State of Alabama Honorabilis and shared how much she is appreciated in Montgomery and throughout the great state of Alabama.

Chairman Corbett recognized Ben McGarr with the Lee-Russell Council of Governments with the CDBG-CV Project #CV-NC-20-002 Reallocation of Funds Resolution. County Administrator Paulette Colbert read the resolution as follows:

Russell County Commission RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Russell County Commission was awarded \$500,000 by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 (Project # CV-NC-20-002); and

WHEREAS, the Commission budgeted \$86,000 for rental assistance to be distributed by the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley and United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was informed by United Way that documentation required for rental assistance by ADECA was unobtainable and has returned the \$86,000 for rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has decided it to be in the best interest of the County's residents to reallocate the \$86,000 to be added to the budgeted amount for equipment purchases; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to follow all policies and procedures related to the Formal Amendment process prescribed by ADECA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Russell County Commission hereby authorizes the reallocation of \$86,000 to be added to the budgeted amount to purchase equipment to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19, and authorizes the Chairman to sign and submit the necessary paperwork to ADECA to complete the Formal Amendment Process.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 22nd day of June, 2022.

Commissioner Epps moved to approve the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. Roll call vote was taken by County Administrator Paulette Colbert as follows: District 4: Commissioner Reed, no; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 3: Commissioner Costello, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion and resolution was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett presented the request for medication disposal drop box installation. Sheriff Heath Taylor stated that they participate every year in the program where they have a day to allow people to come and bring unused medication. He recommended to put it in the Judicial Building where more deputies are during the day, rather than at the Courthouse. Chairman Corbett stated no approval was needed and he requested the Sheriff to coordinate the installation with Maintenance Director Leon Watson.

Chairman Corbett recognized Economic Development Director, Victor Cross who updated the Commission on the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett moved to appoint Ms. Jeannie Jenkins to serve on the East Alabama Mental Health Board. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Sheriff Heath Taylor who requested permission to sell the following vehicles that are titled to the Commission, giving Mrs. Colbert the authority to advertise them in the paper and then they will place them on Govdeals. He stated the dates this would occur would be advertised on the 30th and the 7th of July and they will place them on Govdeals on the 11th. Proceeds of the sales will be paid to the commission:

- #647: 2000 Ford Explorer-titled to Commission -VIN # 1FMZU62X1YUB33343
- #701: 2005 Ford F150 - titled to Commission -VIN# 1FTRX14W75NA51240

Commissioner Epps moved to accept the Sheriff's recommendation to declare these vehicles surplus. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Chief Building Official Bubba Roberts who presented the following budget transfer request: Budget Line Item # 530 (Improvements) for \$2,520.00 to Line Item #239 to be used for approved office renovations to include the replacement of ceiling tiles from Acousti for \$1,154.16 and a purchase from Interstate for new light fixtures and bulbs for \$1,260.00. Commissioner Costello moved to approve the transfer request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Chambers who presented project funds distribution request. Commissioner Chambers stated that he wanted to donate \$1,000 from his project funds to the East Alabama Humane Society along with Commissioner Lee for \$1,000, Commissioner Costello for \$1,000, Commissioner Screws for \$1,000, Chairman Corbett for \$1,000, and Commissioner Epps for \$1,000. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the total donation of \$6,000. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Roll call vote was taken by County Administrator Paulette Colbert as follows: District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 3: Commissioner Costello, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes. Motion passed.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney had nothing to present.

SANITATION:

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley had nothing to present.

ADMINISTRATOR:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert had nothing to present.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay an invoice from Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc. in the amount of \$14,452.82 for architectural services rendered through May 31, 2022 for design contract for the COVID Sheriff/ EMA Building to be paid from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Reed moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Roll call vote was taken by County Administrator Paulette Colbert as follows: District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 3: Commissioner Costello, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay an invoice from Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak for services rendered and expenses incurred in the amount of \$1,182.50 to be paid from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. Roll call vote was taken by County Administrator Paulette Colbert as follows: District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 3: Commissioner Costello, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the approved expenditures/amounts paid monthly update report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks spoke about the abatement hearing regarding Giles Road that was held yesterday, and stated Judge Johnson granted their motion to dismiss. Mr. Friend has already started the cleanup process.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Chairman Corbett discussed the purchasing policy amendment concerning listing specific items in departments' budgets for purchases under \$15,000. After further discussion, Chairman Corbett requested Mrs. Colbert bring back a recommendation to the Commission at the next meeting to help them come up with a solution so they can move forward on it.

Commissioner Reed spoke about moving on sending money to the non-profits from the American Rescue Act Fund money. After further discussion, they are following guidelines and working on county projects first.

Commissioner Epps spoke about the Sanitation Department notifying the public and customers of garbage pickup changes due to holidays or schedule changes. Sanitation Director Ward Dudley stated that since the Juneteenth holiday was approved late by the governor, they were not able to print the revised pickup schedule before the monthly bills went out but typically it is noted on the public's bills.

Chairman Corbett congratulated Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church with their 140 years anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Reed moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.