

**Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes July 13, 2022
9:30 A.M. EST**

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Vice-Chair Rod Costello.

The invocation was given by Worship Pastor Todd Horne with Golden Acres Baptist Church.

Commissioner Epps led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eric Kelly announced that there will be a children's science program next Monday – Thursday from 6 – 8 at 15 Kitetown Rd, Seale, AL at the Uchee Pines Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Vice-Chair Costello thanked BEAM Cable TV for broadcasting our 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, guests, along with the citizens watching and attending the meeting.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Members present were Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Vice-Chair Rod Costello, Commissioner Gentry Lee, and Commissioner Scott Chambers. Chairman Chance Corbett was not present. 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Costello asked for approval of the minutes of June 22, 2022, Commission meeting. Commissioner Epps moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

There were no proclamations, resolutions, or presentations to be made.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Vice-Chair Costello recognized EMA Director David Martin who requested to delay the siren parts purchase in the amount of \$21,215.00 from Mobile Communications America. He stated he will come back at a later time to request to bid.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Vice-Chair Costello recognized EMA Director David Martin who requested to postpone his budget transfer request that he originally wanted to present to the Commission.

Vice-Chair Costello recognized Commissioner Screws who presented a request to lease Pittsview School property from the Russell County Board of Education for one dollar per year to the Russell County Commission, and if we do not use the property, it will revert to them. Commissioner Screws requested both attorney's draw up a lease to present to both boards and to go from there. Commissioner Screws moved to accept the leased property from the Russell County Board of Education, for hopefully 99 years, with a one dollar lease per year. Commissioner Epps seconded the motion. County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission 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. Motion passed.

Vice-Chair Costello recognized Maintenance Director Leon Watson who presented the awarding of the old Seale Courthouse painting. Mr. Watson stated that this is a pre-budgeted project for repainting of the exterior of the old Seale Courthouse. After taking in three estimates, it came in under budget. Mr. Watson recommended awarding it to Herrington Paint Company in the amount of \$24,700.00. He asked approval from the Commission to move forward on this pre-budgeted project. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney requested the following budget transfer due to the increase of fuel prices:

- Increase Line Item #212 by \$50,000 (Fuel & Lubricant)
- Decrease Line Item #113 by \$50,000 (Other Salaries & Wages)

Commissioner Lee moved to accept the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney requested the following Parks and Recreation Department budget transfer due to needing to fix their vehicle transmission along with fuel costs:

- Increase Line Item #212 by \$7,000 (Fuel & Lubricant)
- Decrease Line Item #113 by \$7,000 (Other Salaries & Wages)
- Increase Line Item #234 by \$5,000 (Other Repair & Maintenance)
- Decrease Line Item #113 by \$5,000 (Other Salaries & Wages)

Commissioner Screws moved to accept the request. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

SANITATION:

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATOR:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert made the Commission aware of District 2's appointment to the E911 Board expiring on August 8th. District 2 Commissioner Chambers stated that he has spoken to C.W. Smith, and he wants to stay on the board. Commissioner Chambers moved to keep C.W. Smith on the board. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented that the Alabama legislature passed alcohol laws that created two new license types to be issued by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board which consists of a Hospitality Management Program License and Food or Beverage Truck license. There are no limitations on the maximum fee amounts. Commissioner Lee moved to set the Hospitality Management fee at \$500.00 and the Food Truck fee to \$150.00 (that is 50% of what the state license is). Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented a recommendation to retain the purchasing policy that was in place in 2009, changing the dollar amount needed for Commission approval from \$7,500.00 to \$15,000.00 and request departments list any substantial purchases above their routine needs under \$15,000. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission 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. Motion passed.

HUMAN RESOURCES: *Information was in Commissioner's packets.*

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

Nothing was reported under the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund area.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

The attorney had nothing to report in this area.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Sheriff Heath Taylor recognized Mr. Holmes who updated everybody on the Covid Supply Storage Building plans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

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