

**Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes July 27, 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 Mark Waldrop with Epworth UMC.

Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Kai Gary spoke about the American Rescue Plan Grant regarding Knowledge Works Learning Academy.

Mr. Carlston Lowe and Ms. Doris Lowe spoke about their concerns of a firing range in their Ft. Michell neighborhood.

Mr. Melvin L. Harris spoke about a firing range near 87 Oswichee Road.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Corbett asked for approval of the minutes of July 13, 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:

There were no proclamations, resolutions, or presentations to present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett presented the request for an ARPA funding meeting and suggested it be held on August 10th, 30 minutes after the Extension luncheon meeting concludes in the Commission chambers, to talk about ARPA funding projects, funding, and priorities in moving forward. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the meeting suggestion. Commissioner Reed seconded. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett presented the request for a date for redistricting in Montgomery. After sharing dates with the Commissioners, he stated that he will come back after he checks the availabilities at the Montgomery office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Epps who moved to set aside (earmark) \$6 million for the Fort Mitchell sewer system from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. Chairman Corbett stated that they are not allocating these funds, but merely setting them aside before they have another discussion for allocation. Commissioner Reed moved to postpone this discussion until a later meeting which supersedes any other discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. Roll call vote was taken by County Administrator Paulette Colbert as follows: District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner

Screws, no; District 5: Commissioner Epps, no; District 3: Commissioner Costello, no; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, no. Motion to postpone failed. Motion on the table was to set aside money for Ft. Mitchell sewer system from the ARPA funds. 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, no; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, no; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, no. Motion failed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Epps who moved to set aside \$2 million dollars for broadband for the growth of the county from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Lee seconded. 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.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Screws who moved to donate \$2,800 of his project money to the EMA to put house numbers on mailboxes in Pittsview and Cottonton. Seconded by Commissioner Epps. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Sheriff Heath Taylor. He requested the following sheriff office, jail, and animal control budget transfers:

Russell County Sheriffs' Office Transfers:

Take \$87,503.09 from Line 219-Other Miscellaneous Supplies

Deposit into lines:

- Deposit \$60,000 into Line 212-Fuel & Lubricants to get thru year
- Deposit \$5,000 into Line 214-Minor Equipment to balance line
- Deposit \$2,000 into Line 223-Copy Machine Lease to get thru year
- Deposit 20,000 into Line 234-Vehicle Maintenance to get thru year
- Deposit \$70 into Line 253-Advertising to balance line
- Deposit \$433.09 into Line 260-Travel to balance line

Total=\$87,503.09

Russell County Jail Budget Transfers:

- Take \$21,142.19 from Line 541-Equipment & Furniture
- Take \$20,000 from Line 250-Communications
- Take \$55,000 from Line 304-Contract Services
- Take \$43,557.81 from Line 239-Other Repairs & Maintenance
- Take \$8,000 from Line 214-Minor Equipment (\$1,000 \$5,000)

Total=\$147,700

Deposit into Lines:

- Deposit \$300 into Line 234-Vehicle Maintenance to balance line
- Deposit \$1,400 into Line 329-Training to balance line
- Deposit \$64,000 into Line 242-Natural Gas & Water to get thru year
- Deposit \$30,000 into Line 212-Fuel & Lubricants to get thru year
- Deposit \$50,000 into Line 218-Inmate Food to get thru year
- Deposit \$2,000 into Line 223-Copy Machine Lease to get thru year

Total Deposit=\$147,700

Russell County Animal Control Transfers:

- Take \$1,500 from Line 215-Tires & Tubes
- Take \$1,500 from Line 250-Communications
- Take \$1,250 from Line 265-Registration & Training

Total=\$4,250

Deposit into Lines:

- Deposit \$3,823 into Line 212-Fuel to get thru year
- Deposit \$256 into Line 234-Vehicle Repairs to balance line
- Deposit \$171 into Line 327-Uniforms to balance line

Total=\$4,250

Commissioner Lee moved to accept all the sheriff's requests for the sheriff's office, jail, and animal control budget transfers. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott who presented the following budget transfer request:

DECREASE	LINE 211 OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$5000.00
	LINE 304 CONTRACT SERVICES	\$2000.00
	LINE 307 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SER	\$2500.00
INCREASE	LINE 252 POSTAGE	\$7000.00
	LINE 251 TELEPHONE	\$2500.00

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

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Lee who moved to transfer \$1,000 of his special project account into Commissioner Reed's special project account. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett presented Community Foundation administration fees for CDBG-CV funding and to approve the entire administration cost of \$14,500. Commissioner Costello moved to accept the request. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. 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.

Commissioner Epps left the meeting to attend a funeral.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Screws who stated that Dr. Auturo Menifee from Research and Development with the University of Alabama had grant money for the Pittsview project. Commissioner Screws moved to have Dr. Menifee put the money into the Pittsview property, allow him to spend the money for the project, and let the Chair sign any necessary paperwork. Commissioner Costello seconded the motion. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Costello who presented Russell County High School Coach Griggs who spoke about scoreboard advertising. Commissioner Costello moved to allocate \$500 of his special project money to go towards the sign advertising. Chairman Corbett gave \$800 from his special project money, Commissioner Chambers gave \$500 of his special project money, Commissioner Lee gave \$700 project money for a total commitment of \$2,500 for the scoreboard advertising from the Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Costello who presented Russell County High School Coach Griggs who spoke about the Russell County football funds fundraiser. Commissioner Costello moved to give his remaining \$2,500 special project funds, Commissioner Lee gave \$1,000, and Commissioner Chambers gave \$500 totaling \$4,000 to the football fundraiser. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney requested to purchase a 50-inch mulching head for the MowerMax boom mower in the amount of \$22,895, and he would need a quick attach kit for the additional head for \$1,850 which totals \$24,745. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

SANITATION:

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley presented a budget transfer request to decrease Line Item 304 (contract services) by \$8,000 and increase Line Item 272 (insurance) by \$8,000. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley presented the Sanitation building remodel bid report for a cost of \$517,000 and shared a copy of the bid drawing and requested approval of the bid. Chairman Corbett stated that the Sanitation board met last week and approved the amount (it is the budgeted amount). Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley stated that he is looking into replacing the additional 32-gallon cans and providing customers with an additional 96 gal can for a reduced amount of \$10.00 per additional can instead of the current price of \$20.00 per can. He discussed the benefits of this changeover. Commissioner Lee moved to postpone this agenda item to a later date. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the Planning Commission at-large appointment that is expiring July 28th. She stated that Planning Commission Chairman David Ellis recommended to reappoint Mr. Jim Monk to continue to serve as the at-large appointment. Commissioner Costello moved. 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 was not present; District 3: Commissioner Costello, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, abstained due to a family connection. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented ACCA Legislative Committee nominee by the Commission to serve on the ACCA legislative committee. Commissioner Lee moved to allow Commissioner Corbett to continue to serve in that position. Commissioner Reed seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the ACCA Conference conflict with the August 22nd Commission work session and August 24th Commission meetings being the same week. Commissioner Lee moved to cancel both meetings. Commissioner Reed seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the request to purchase a vehicle from ALDOT surplus property for the County Commission office. The request is to purchase a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan with 59,358 miles from the Alabama Department of Transportation surplus property for \$21,603. It would not be a take home vehicle but would be used by the commissioners and staff including the IT employee to travel between worksites. She stated it is not a budgeted item, so if approved, she will need to request a budget amendment.

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

County Administrator Paulette Colbert stated that since the Commission approved the purchase of the vehicle, she presented a request for the below budget amendment to be made:

Public Building Road & Bridge Fund 112	
Decrease line item 51100 307 Other Professional Services	\$21,603.00
Increase line item 51100 550 Motor Vehicles	\$21,603.00
General Fund 001 (County Commission)	
Decrease line item 51100 113 Other Salaries and Wages	\$542.25
Add line item 51100 315 Vehicle License Plates	\$42.25
Add line item 51100 212 Fuel and Lubricants	\$500.00

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

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

Chairman Corbett recognized Maintenance Director Leon Watson from Maintenance and the Department of Tourism with a request to solicit bids for two two-sided LED digital signs at Fort Mitchell and Crawford. One sign to be installed at 4520 US Hwy 80 West at the Crawford Walking Trail, and the other one sign to be installed at 561 Hwy 165 at the Ft. Mitchell Visitors Center. An advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper on 8/11/22, run for 3 consecutive weeks, ending on 8/25/22. Mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on 8/31/22 in the Russell County Commission Chambers at 1000 Broad Street at 10:00 AM EDT. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 am EDT on 9/9/22, and bids will be opened in the Commission chambers on 9/12/22 at 10am EDT. Tentative bid awarding will be held at the Commission meeting on 9/14/22.

Commissioner Chambers moved to accept the request. 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 was not present; 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 Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc. in the amount of \$20,179.48 for architectural services rendered through June 30,2022, for design contract

for the COVID Sheriff/EMA building to be paid from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. 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 was not present; 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 \$360.00 to be paid from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Costello moved to approve the request. 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 was not present; 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 in the Commissioner's binders.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks requested, after her segment, to go into executive session. The topic to be discussed is dealing with real estate, which would qualify under the exemptions for the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request to go into executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Lee stated as a note (referring to a 3-minute public comment made), that the Commission cannot pass ordinances, that it must be local legislation or a state law that they go by, and the Commission can't pass an ordinance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

Sheriff Taylor updated the Commission on the COVID Command Vehicle.

The Commissioners went into executive session. Commissioner Lee moved to reconvene from executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. All Commissioners present were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett moved to allow the Chair to work with Attorney Rick Chancey to purchase property from the owners of the Crawford Maintenance Club on Highway 169 South, Phenix City, up to \$80,000, and for it to be paid out of Capital Improvement Fund (this is not located in Phenix City, it only has a Phenix City address).

Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. 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 was not present; District 3: Commissioner Costello, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; and District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes. Motion passed.

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