

Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes November 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 Reverend Don Abrams with Trinity UMC.

Commissioner Chambers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made.

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.

Assistant County Administrator Tina Thomas 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 Assistant County Administrator Tina Thomas who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established by the Assistant County Administrator Tina Thomas.

Chairman Corbett stated that the agenda was approved at the Monday night work session on November 21, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

There were no proclamations, resolutions, or presentations made at this meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett recognized Commissioner Costello who shared an update on the electric charging stations. He stated that we met the criteria for the ADECA grant but were not approved. He stated that there might be a possibility later to reapply for the grant to get additional charging stations for Russell County and Russell County citizens. He will keep the public updated as he hears more.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Corbett recognized Chief Appraiser Heath Crowe who presented a request to pay the Flagship GIS annual invoice in the amount of \$36,200 for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett recognized Ms. Pam Fair with the Safe Kids Program for Alabama. Commissioner Lee moved to donate a total of \$2,200 to the Safe Kids Program for Alabama from the Commissioner's project money accounts. Breakdown as follows: Commissioner Lee to donate \$500, Commissioner Chambers to donate \$300, Commissioner Reed to donate \$200, Commissioner Costello to donate \$300, Chairman Corbett

to donate \$300, Commissioner Screws to donate \$300, and Commission Epps to donate \$300. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Corbett presented the election of the chair and vice-chair. Commissioner Corbett nominated Commissioner Rod Costello for chair. No other nominations were made, and Commissioner Lee moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed for Commissioner Costello as chair effective December 1, 2022. Commissioner Lee nominated Commissioner Chance Corbett as vice-chair. No other nominations were made, and Commissioner Lee moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed for Commissioner Chance Corbett as vice-chair.

Chairman Corbett presented the commissioner voting order, noting the chair does not draw because the chair always votes last. After drawing numbers, the voting order was drawn as follows: voting #1 is Commissioner Lee, voting #2 is Commissioner Epps, voting #3 is Commissioner Corbett, voting #4 is Commissioner Chambers, voting #5 is Commissioner Reed, voting #6 is Commissioner Screws, and voting last is Commissioner Costello since he will be the chair. This is the voting order when a call to voice vote is made.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney had nothing to present in this area.

SANITATION:

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley presented the request for approval to purchase dumpsters, which is a budgeted item, through SourceWell for \$22,152.35. Since it is on a contract, there is no need for bidding. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Costello. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR:

There were no items presented by the assistant administrator.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

There were no items under the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund area.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks updated the Commission that she has reached out to get a date for a mediation. She has also received some deed information from the probate judge about the Pittsview school property, to show where it was divided into three parcels instead of one and trying to get it figured out. Ms. Hicks stated that she has also sent Ms. Colbert the revised Animal Shelter agreement, and justification for the additional pay through the ARPA funds.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Chairman Corbett thanked those have helped with decorated for Christmas and spoke about employee's appreciation of the certificates they received.

Commissioner Lee spoke about the date for rescheduling of redistricting. Chairman Corbett stated he has February 7, 2023 preliminarily set in Montgomery with the Reapportionment Office for 9:00 am CT, 10:00 am ET.

Commissioner Epps discussed report information from the Economic Director that she would like to be put on the December 28th agenda regarding the Fort Mitchell sewage. She also asked if Mr. David Ellis with the Planning Commission, to bring a report with information on zoning for the 28th meeting.

Commissioner Costello discussed needing a board replacement for his appointed Planning Commission board member, Mr. Lunsford, who resigned due to health issues. The reappointment will have to be outside the city limits, and at least 25 years old to be on the board.

Commissioner Lee mentioned needing a Sanitation Board appointment for Mr. Sinkule, who recently passed away, and asked Commissioners to think of who they would suggest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Meeting was adjourned.