

**Russell County Commission**  
**Russell County Commission Chambers**  
**Meeting Minutes February 8, 2023**  
**9:30 A.M. EST**

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

The invocation was given by Chairman Rod Costello.

Commissioner Epps led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments were made.

Chairman Costello 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 Gentry Lee, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Larry Screws, and Chairman Rod Costello. Also present were County Attorney Hope Hicks, and County Administrator Paulette Colbert who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established by the County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

Chairman Costello stated the agenda was approved in Monday's work session on February 6, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Costello asked for approval of the January 25, 2023 Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Epps moved to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

**PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

There were no proclamations or resolutions presented.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

There were no discussion items.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Screws who presented a request to donate \$2,250 from project money to the Russell County cheerleaders as follows: \$1,000 by Commissioner Screws, \$500 by Chairman Costello, \$500 by Commissioner Epps, and \$250 by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Screws moved to accept the project donation request. Seconded by Chairman Costello. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Costello presented a request to donate project money in the amount of \$2,250 to the Russell County Theater Club as follows: \$1,000 by Chairman Costello, \$500 by Commissioner Screws, \$250 by Commissioner Lee, and \$500 by Commissioner Epps. Chairman Costello moved to accept the project donation request. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Costello recognized EMA Director David Martin who presented the following budget transfer request to add a light package and installation onto the new 2022 F250 for \$9,588.90:

Decrease Line Item 550 Motor Vehicles \$6,564.00  
 Increase Line Item 219 Other Miscellaneous Supplies \$6,564.00  
 Decrease Line Item 541 Equip & Furn \$10,000.00  
 Increase Line Item 219 other Miscellaneous Supplies \$10,000.00

Commissioner Lee moved to accept the budget amendment request. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Corbett who presented a request to place a medication disposal box in the courthouse lobby, like what has been at the Judicial Center location since October 2022. Ms. Emi Brooks with East Alabama Mental Health Prevention Services discussed the benefits of having one and preventing opioid addiction. Commissioner Corbett stated that Chief Alexander was present and that the Sheriff's office would be in charge of security and doing all custodial for it, and eventually disposing of the drugs and unwanted medications. Commissioner Corbett moved to place a medication disposal box in the courthouse lobby, and let the administrator decide where the location would be. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

#### **COUNTY ENGINEER:**

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney updated the Commission on finishing the main line on Wendy Road paving yesterday and what his department is working on in other areas.

#### **SANITATION:**

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley announced that the sanitation office will be closed February 20<sup>th</sup> for Presidents Day but garbage pickup will continue to run on regular schedule on the holiday.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

There were no items presented in this area.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR:**

There was nothing presented by the administrator in this area.

#### **CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:**

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented an invoice from Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak. in the amount of \$787.50 for services rendered and expenses incurred, and she requested to pay this from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Screws moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. County Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Hope Hicks updated the Commission on the lease with the Board of Education for the old Pittsview school property that the county wants to turn into a walking trail, community garden and a recreational area. She has received the survey back and has the document finalized, and the Board of Education will vote to approve it at their next meeting. It's a lease for 10 years, with an option to renew 4 more times, so up to a fifty-year lease at \$5 a year. She stated that this requires the Commission to vote to approve this and vote for the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Screws moved to approve the lease agreement as explained by the attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed. Commissioner Screws thanked those involved for helping make this project happen for many to be able to enjoy in Pittsview, District 7.

**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Corbett shared that the redistricting meeting was a success and also thanked the parks and recreation department for their work in keeping up the parks and recreation areas.

Commissioner Epps thanked the Commissioners and the Probate Judge for going to the redistricting meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Announcements were made.

Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Meeting was adjourned.