

**Russell County Commission**  
**Russell County Commission Chambers**  
**Meeting Minutes March 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 Reverend Brady Baird with Seale United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Chambers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Jennifer Davidson, County Coordinator with the Alabama County Extension office, shared a presentation and updated the Commission with the County Extension projects and programs they have completed and are presently working on.

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 presented the agenda that was approved in the work session on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Reed requested to add to the agenda, under Business, the redistricting draft maps approval (from when they went to Montgomery). No objections were made from the Commissioners.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Costello presented the approval of the minutes from Commission meeting on February 22, 2023. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

**PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

There was nothing presented in this area.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

There were no discussion items.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Chairman Costello recognized Sheriff Taylor who presented an ABC license approval. Sheriff Taylor stated this is an owner change for Whiskey Barrell Sports Bar and Grill which required a new ABC license. He stated that after they have finished their investigation, they do not see any reason to not grant the license at this time. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Reed who moved to approve the draft copy of the redistricting maps created on February 7, 2023 that was emailed to them by Ms. Donna from the reapportionment office. 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 for approval of the draft copy of the redistricting maps.

**COUNTY ENGINEER:**

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney had nothing to present.

**SANITATION:**

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley had nothing to present.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Economic Development Director and Tourism Victor Cross had nothing to present.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the Russell County Water Board appointment that will be expiring April 12, 2023. Commissioner Screws moved to approve Mark Godwin's reappointment to the Water and Sewage Board. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. 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 Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the two Wiregrass RC&D appointments that are due to expire on March 31, 2023. She stated that the current board members are Mr. Leroy Davis and Mr. Wesley Beasley. Mrs. Colbert stated that she was informed yesterday that there was a change to their bylaws that give sponsoring organizations two committee member appointments, with one of them having automatic appointment to the council, (the council votes on projects). They need to know which one of the appointments that the Commission would like to have as the auto appointment to the council. She stated that the other can qualify for the at large position appointed by their board, and they will notify us after their board votes if the other committee member was selected. Commissioner Epps moved to postpone this appointment until the next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed to postpone until the next meeting.

**CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:**

There was nothing presented in this area.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Hope Hicks had nothing to present.

**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Screws discussed that the Russell County Board agreed and approved the 25- and 25-year renewal on the Pittsview property from the three 10-years renewal that was previously setup, and he said that the fee did not increase.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Announcements were made.

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