

**Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes March 22, 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 Don Abrams with Trinity United Methodist Church.

Chairman Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments 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 the work session on Monday, March 20th, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Costello requested approval of the minutes from Commission meeting on March 8, 2023.

Commissioner Epps moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

A proclamation was presented to TEARS, Inc. recognizing April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioner Reed moved; Commissioner Corbett seconded to approve the proclamation. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Costello recognized EMA Director David Martin with a budget amendment request to decrease line item 219 (other misc supplies) and increase line item 234 (motor vehicle repairs & Maintenance \$8,000.00. Decrease line item 214 (minor equipment) and increase line item 234 (motor vehicle repairs & maintenance) \$9,500.00. 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 Lee who moved to approve making a donation to Relay for Life from Commissioners' project funds as follows: Commissioner Lee - \$1,062.98, Commissioner Costello - \$500.00, Commissioner Corbett - \$337.02, Commissioner Reed - \$300.00, Commissioner Chambers - \$400.00, Commissioner Screws - \$200.00, and Commissioner Epps - \$200.00 for a total contribution of \$3,000.00. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. 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 unanimously,

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 Wiregrass RC& D appointments which will be expiring March 31, 2023. Commissioner Corbett moved to re-appoint Leroy Davis and designate him as the automatic appointment to the council and to appoint Ms. Marcia Johnson to fill the other position. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay an invoice from BEAM for \$1,000,000.00 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Lee seconded to approve payment of the invoice. 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 unanimously.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay an invoice from Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak in the amount of \$45.00 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Chambers seconded to approve payment of the invoice. 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 unanimously.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay United To Save Ourselves \$10,000.00 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Lee seconded to approve payment. 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 unanimously.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay an invoice from Hosey-Lancour Construction LLC for project RCSO-Covid Supply Storage Building in the amount of \$85,283.20 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Reed seconded to approve payment of the invoice. 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 unanimously.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested approval to pay an invoice from Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc. for architectural services rendered through February 28, 2023 for project 2022-006 RCS Covid Supply Storage Building in the amount of \$2,035.19 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Reed seconded to approve payment of the invoice. 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 unanimously.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks requested the Commission approve and allow the Chair to sign a memorandum of understanding between Russell County Commission and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. This will help to reduce illegal dump sites and scrap tires in Russell County. She also recommended appointing Ward Dudley as the Solid Waste Officer and Bill Friend, Jackie Thorne, Jeffery Thomason, and Rachael Davis as Deputy Solid Waste Officers. She also recommended the primary contact to be Bill Friend. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Reed seconded to approve the attorney's recommendation. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

Attorney Hicks requested to go into executive session following the announcements and to adjourn from the executive session. She certified, as an attorney and licensed in the state of Alabama, that the conversations to be held in executive session would be to discuss the legal ramifications and the legal options for pending litigation. She certified that this would be an appropriate conversation for an executive session. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Reed seconded the attorney's request for executive session. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Corbett spoke of the Pioneer Day and Quilt Show in Ft. Mitchell on April 22nd.

Chair Costello received requested the status of the LED signs in Crawford and Ft. Mitchell. Crawford's foundation is being placed and are awaiting approval from DOT to place the one in Ft. Mitchell.

Commissioner Epps thanked the Sheriff's department for their support at the Women's Missionary Society Conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

Commission adjourned from executive session.