

**Russell County Commission  
Russell County Commission Chambers  
Meeting Minutes May 24, 2023  
9:30 A.M. EST**

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Alice Hubbard with True Believers Ministry.

Commissioner Screws led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

Chair 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 Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Larry Screws, and Chair Rod Costello. Commissioner Gentry Lee was not present. 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.

Chair Costello stated the agenda was approved in the work session on Monday, May 22, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chair Costello requested approval of the minutes from Commission meeting on May 10, 2023. Commissioner Corbett moved; Seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Commissioner Reed requested approval to compose a proclamation for Dennis Vaughn to be presented at a later date. Commissioner Reed moved; Commissioner Corbett seconded to approve composing the proclamation. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Chair Costello presented Michael Holt with BEAM who presented a presentation updating the Commission on the progress made and the future plans within the county from the use of the ARPA funds the county had provided for them.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Chair Costello recognized Maintenance Office Manager Sheri Massey, who was filling in for Maintenance Director Leon Watson, with a request to purchase a dump trailer from Alabama Rock in the amount of \$13,500 to haul their mini excavator. This is a budgeted item. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Chambers seconded to approve the request. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Costello recognized Maintenance Office Manager Sheri Massey requested a budget transfer as follows:

- Decrease line item 214 (minor equipment) and increase line item 211 (office supplies) by \$4,000.00
- Decrease line item 304 (contract services) and increase line item 541 (equipment over \$5,000) by \$14,500.00

Commissioner Corbett moved; Seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the request. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**COUNTY ENGINEER:**

Chair Costello recognized County Engineer Director Shawn Blakeney who requested to award the following annual bids to the following vendors:

BID # 002-23 LIQUID ASPHALT- Split with Hunt Asphalt Emulsion Inc & Ergon Refining Emulsion, Inc.

BID # 004A-23 BITUMINOUS PAVING (PUBLIC WORKS BID)- Award to East Alabama Paving.

BID # 005-23 GRASSING- Award to Parker Grassing.

BID # 006-23 CORRUGATE STEEL AND HDPE PIPE (Corrugate Steel Pipe had No Bids), Award HDPE Pipe to Thompson Supply.

BID # 007-23 AGGREGATE- Award to Columbus Quarry.

BID # 010-23 MOTOR GRADER BLADES- Award to Thompson Cat.

BID # 014-23 FENCING- Award to Georgia Fence Wholesale, Inc.

Commissioner Corbett moved; Seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the request. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SANITATION:**

Chair Costello recognized Sanitation Director Ward Dudley with a budget transfer request. He requested to transfer \$2,000.00 from line item #214 (minor equipment) to line item #242 (natural gas and water).

Commissioner Screws moved; Seconded by Commissioner Corbett to approve the request. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

The Economic Development Director had nothing to present.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

The County Administrator had nothing to present.

**CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:**

County Administrator, Paulette Colbert requested paying the following invoices from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund:

- Invoice from John Strickland for bathroom designs and prints in the amount of \$800.00
- Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$2,856.69
- Ball, Ball, Matthews, and Novak invoice in the amount of \$315.00
- Hosey-Lancour Construction LLC invoice in the amount of \$217,674.00

Commissioner Screws moved to approve to pay all four invoices from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: 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. District 1: Commissioner Lee was not present. None opposed. Motion passed.

**ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Hope Hicks had nothing to present.

**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Corbett spoke about the Crawford Community Center ribbon cutting ceremony.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Announcements were made.

There being no further business, Commissioner Screws moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Epps seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Meeting was adjourned.