

**Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes June 14, 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 Keith Lee with House of Prayer Christian Church in Columbus, Georgia. Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Ursula Craft and Ms. Teresa Mueller spoke about break-away mailboxes.

Mr. Leroy Davis shared the Russell County Wiregrass deadline for grants.

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 Gentry Lee, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Chance Corbett, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Larry Screws, and Chair Rod Costello. Commissioner Scott Chambers 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, June 12, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Costello requested approval of the minutes from Commission meeting on May 24, 2023. Commissioner Epps moved; Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Commissioner Reed requested approval of a proclamation for Dennis Vaughn that will be presented at a later date due to the family not being present. Commissioner Reed moved; Commissioner Corbett seconded to approve the proclamation. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Screws who requested and moved to give the Russell County Veteran's council \$500.00 of his project money. Seconded by Commission Corbett. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Lee who requested and moved to fund each the Art Council of Phenix City \$2,000.00 and \$2,000.00 to Friends of Phenix City Russell County library from his project money. Seconded by Commission Corbett. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Epps who requested and moved to give the Mt. Olive Volunteer Fire Department \$2,000.00 of her appropriation project money. Seconded by Commission Screws. All Commissioners in favor said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Ms. Natalie Kirkland, from the Revenue Commissioner's office (standing in for Revenue Commissioner Naomi Elliott) who presented and requested the chairman sign the 2022-2023 final settlement documents to be turned into the State of Alabama. Commissioner Lee moved; Commissioner Screws seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

Chair Costello recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who requested to rebid their annual striping since they did not receive a bid in time for their original striping bid, but knows of companies interested in bidding. He requested to advertise on June 23rd and June 30th, open bids in the Commission chambers at 2:30 pm ET on July 6th, with the awarding at the July 12th Commission meeting. Commissioner Epps moved; Commissioner Reed seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Costello recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who requested to bid out a CRAF project through the ACCA County joint bid website for Padgett's Road. First section from 169 to Hitchitie Road, from where they stopped before. It will be advertised June 28th, July 5th, July 12th, and bids opened July 19th. Commissioner Epps moved; Commissioner Corbett seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SANITATION:

Chair Costello recognized Sanitation Director Ward Dudley with a request to approve dumpster rate service increase on commercial dumpsters (not on residential services), effective October 1st. Commissioner Screws moved; Seconded by Commissioner Corbett to approve the request. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Costello recognized Sanitation Director Ward Dudley who requested the chairman sign the ADEM contract for \$150,000 for three-years to do some roadside projects that will include illegal roadside dumpsites from 4 cubic yards up to 25 within 150 feet of the center line of the county road. Commissioner Corbett moved; Commissioner Epps seconded. 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:

Chair Costello recognized Commissioner Screws who requested to add a building to the Pittsview project demolition bid. Commissioner Screws moved; Commissioner Corbett seconded. 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 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the pavilion bid report for the multiple sized pavilions that were opened May 25th. Commissioner Corbett moved to accept the bids and award it to the lowest contractor as follows:

<u>Pavilion Size</u>	<u>Quoted Price</u>	<u>Contractor</u>
Option 1: 24'x 20'	\$ 12,500.00	SRS CONTRACTING

Option 2: 24' x 30'	\$ 15,000.00	SRS CONTRACTING
Option 3: 24' x 40'	\$ 18,555.00	MARINGO CREEK POLE BARN
Option 4: 24' x 50'	\$ 21,835.00	MARINGO CREEK POLE BARN

Seconded by Commissioner Screws. 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 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed.

Commissioner Corbett requested and moved to purchase one 24' x 40' pavilion from Maringo Creek Pole Barns to be placed at the Crawford Community Center, using ARPA funds already set aside. 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 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed.

Commissioner Corbett requested and moved to purchase one 24' x 30' pavilion from SRS Contracting to be placed next to the veteran's memorial located inside the Seale Sports Complex and walking trail using ARPA funds already set aside. 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 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed.

ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks had nothing to present.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Reed spoke about Mr. Harvey Glance's passing and preparing a proclamation at a later date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

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