

**Russell County Commission  
Russell County Commission Chambers  
Meeting Minutes July 12, 2023  
9:30 A.M. EST**

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Vice-Chair Chance Corbett.

The invocation was given by Mr. David Ellis.

Commissioner Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments were made.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett 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 Chance Corbett, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, and Commissioner Larry Screws. Commissioner Cattie Epps and Chair Rod Costello were 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.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett stated the agenda was approved in the work session on Monday, July 10, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett requested approval of the minutes from Commission meeting on June 28, 2023. Commissioner Lee moved; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

There were no proclamations, resolutions or presentations made.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

There were no discussion items.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized Judge Harden with a voting precinct change in Crawford from the Crawford Fire Department to the Crawford Community Center, which is ADA compliant. Commissioner Lee moved; Commissioner Chambers seconded the motion. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized Maintenance Director Leon Watson with the awarding of the courthouse painting bid to Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$334,456.35 for the recoating of the courthouse. Commissioner Screws moved; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized EMA Director David Martin who requested the Commission approve the chair to sign the updated Fort Moore All Hazard-All Emergency Mutual Aid Assistance memorandum of agreement. Commissioner Chambers moved; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized Commissioner Lee with a project funds request of \$200.00 to sponsor four foster children for a technology workshop event with Project Greenlight. Commissioner Lee moved; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized Commissioner Screws with a project funds request of \$1,500 to the Hatchechubbee Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Screws moved; seconded by Commissioner Lee. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **COUNTY ENGINEER:**

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who presented the annual striping bid results. He requested awarding the bid to Ozark Striping. Commissioner Lee moved; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who presented the request for the chair to sign a funding agreement for their MPO project for the Owens and McClendon Road resurfacing project. It includes Owens Road, from Patterson Road to McLendon Road and also on McClendon Road from Owens Road to Freedom Walk. This is a budgeted item and will be using county funds in the amount of \$78,190.15. Commissioner Screws moved; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed.

#### **SANITATION:**

There was nothing discussed.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

There was nothing discussed.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR:**

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the district 1 E-911 Board Member appointment that is expiring August 12, 2023. Commissioner Lee stated that he would like to reappoint Mr. John Rogers for the position. Vice-Chair Chance Corbett stated that he doesn't believe reappointments require a vote.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the district 1 and district 7 Personnel Review Board member appointments expiring August 12, 2023. Commissioner Screws stated that he would like to reappoint Mr. Jerome Battle and Commissioner Lee stated that he would like to reappoint Mr. Michael Cox for those positions.

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

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney with the Pittsview School Project bid results request. Commissioner Lee moved to postpone this request until the next meeting since two commissioners are absent from the meeting, and since this project does not have money set aside, they have not had a chance to have their voice on the request; Commissioner Chambers seconded. County Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; and District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes. Motion passed to postpone the request until the next meeting.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who presented the Ladonia Sports Complex lighting bid results. He recommended awarding the installation of the lighting to S. Electrical Contractors in Phenix City for the amount of \$226,780. Commissioner Chambers moved; seconded by Commissioner Lee. Commissioner Lee stated that this money has already been voted on by the entire Commission. Mr. Blakeney stated that the price came in lower than expected, and the materials will come from a state bid with the total project being around \$670,000. County Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; and District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes. Motion passed.

Vice-Chair Chance Corbett recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who presented the request to send bids out for the restrooms for Ladonia and Fort Mitchell. Mr. Blakeney stated that this money has already been set aside for the restrooms at these facilities. He did not have the dates yet but stated has the drawings and needs to put the bid together, but probably will send the bids out next week and will have to advertise for 4 weeks. Vice-Chair Corbett stated that Mr. Blakeney will need to get with the Commission office with the dates and if they need to become a vendor. Commissioner Chambers moved; seconded by Commissioner Reed. County Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; and District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes. Motion passed to send out bids.

**ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Hope Hicks notified the Commission of a lawsuit filing by Ursula Craft regarding the mailbox removal and it has been assigned to Mr. Joshua Willis of Webb McNeil Walker PC. She stated that she has spoken to Mr. Willis, and he will proceed with defending this.

**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Reed spoke about adding seating (benches) in front of the courthouse for the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Announcements were made.

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