

**Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Meeting Minutes July 26, 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 Reverend Dr. Warren with Colbert AME Church in Seale, Alabama.

Commissioner Screws led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments were made.

Chair Costello thanked the Commission's IT department for broadcasting the meeting Facebook live for the public, 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 Scott Chambers, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, Commissioner Larry Screws, and Chair Rod Costello. Commissioner Chance Corbett was not present. Also present were the District Attorney Rick Chancy, 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, July 24, 2023.

Chairman Costello spoke of our Attorney Hope Hicks being out of town so District Attorney Rick Chancy was present.

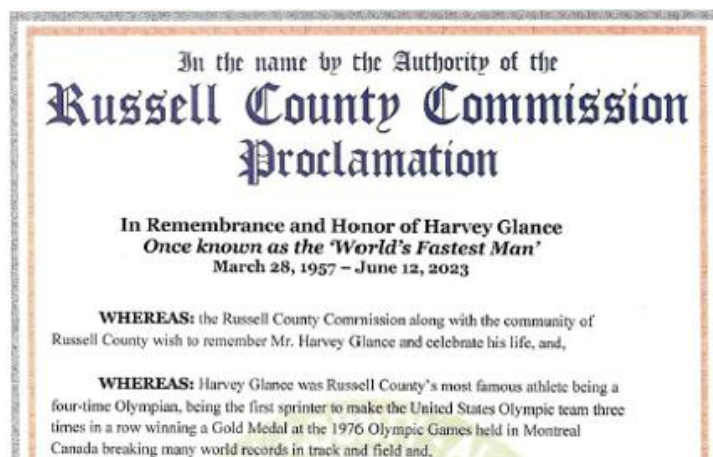
Chairman Costello stated that the Pittsview project on the agenda will be moved to the next meeting so that all seven Commission members would be present for it.

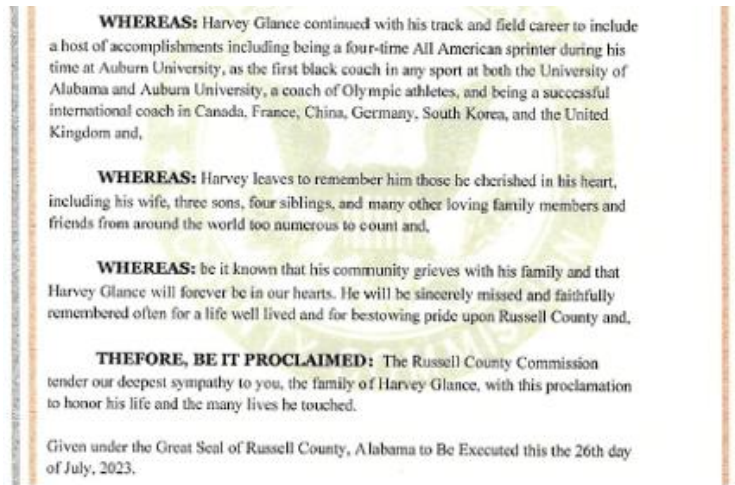
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Costello requested approval of the minutes from Commission meeting on July 12, 2023. Commissioner Lee moved; Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Both Chair Costello and Commissioner Epps abstained since they were not present in the July 12th meeting. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Commissioner Reed presented the following Harvey Glance proclamation that was approved at the June 14th meeting.





DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Costello recognized EMA Director David Martin who requested to use \$7,500 of the OPIOD settlement money to purchase GO Bags for RCSO patrol vehicles. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request. Seconded by Commission Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Enforcement Bill Friend who requested to remove Ray Rents in Columbus, Georgia from the county vendor list until they can become compliant with getting their business license. Commissioner Chambers moved to remove them off of the list. Seconded by Commission Reed. 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 concrete pipe. He stated they will send out bids this week, advertise on August 3rd and 10th, open bids August 17th in the Commission chambers at 2:30 pm ET. Commissioner Screws moved; Commissioner Chambers seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Costello recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who requested (under Parks and Recreation) to approve the purchase of materials for the Ladonia Sports Complex Christmas lights project at \$17,690 with Commissioner Chambers using \$9,300 of his project money towards it, along with \$8,390 of Parks and Recreation money that was budgeted for this project. Commissioner Lee moved; Commissioner Reed seconded. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SANITATION:

The Sanitation Department Director had nothing to present.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The Economic Development Director had nothing to present.

ADMINISTRATOR:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the Board of Equalization nominee request. Mr. Tommy Rayford is currently serving and desires to be reappointed. The nomination will be submitted to the Alabama Department of Revenue for their approval. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the request. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert reminded the Commission that the ACCA annual conference is to be held the week of August 21st which is a Commission meeting week and in the past the work session and meeting were cancelled. Commissioner Screws moved; Commissioner Reed seconded to cancel both the work session on August 21st and the Commission meeting on August 23, 2023. 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 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 requested scheduling a budget meeting. Commissioner Lee moved to schedule a regular called Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. ET in the Commission Chambers for the purpose of the 2023/2024 budget. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

Chair Costello recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney with the Pittsview School project bid. Commissioner Lee moved to postpone this agenda item to the next meeting to allow for all seven commissioners to be present. Commissioner Chambers 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 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed to postpone.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested to pay the final invoice from BEAM in the amount of \$1 million from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Motion to approve by Commissioner Lee; Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. 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 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 requested to pay an invoice from Hosey-Lancour Construction, LLC. in the amount of \$185,085.00 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Motion to approve by Commissioner Screws; 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 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 requested to pay an invoice from Hecht-Burdeshaw Architects, Inc. in the amount of \$2,856.00 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Motion to approve by Commissioner Chambers; 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 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 requested to pay an invoice from Cott Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$11,700.00, which is part of the \$122,858.60 that was approved in December for digitizing records in the Probate office from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Motion to approve by Commissioner Epps; Seconded by Commissioner Chambers. County Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: District 1: Commissioner Lee, abstained; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion passed.

ATTORNEY:

There was nothing presented in this area.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Screws spoke about selling out-of-date items in stores and what can be done in this area. Enforcement Bill Friend stated that he will look further into it and bring it back to the Commission. Attorney Hope Hicks texted into the meeting stating that she will look into this and the laws protecting the citizens also.

Commissioner Epps gave an update on herself, along with her experience going to the NACo conference.

Commissioner Reed shared the news of the passing of Mr. James Sellers.

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.