

**Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes October 25, 2023
Russell County Commission Chambers
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 Reverend Brady Baird with Seale United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Trena Lowe spoke about County Road 44 (Bowden Road) issues and concerns.

Reverend Brady Baird with Seale UMC spoke about Rock the Steeple event on November 10th at 6 pm ET.

Chair Costello thanked the Commission's IT department for broadcasting the meeting on Facebook live for the public, and The Citizen of East Alabama for covering the meeting. 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 County Attorney Hope Hicks, and County Administrator Paulette Colbert, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established by the County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

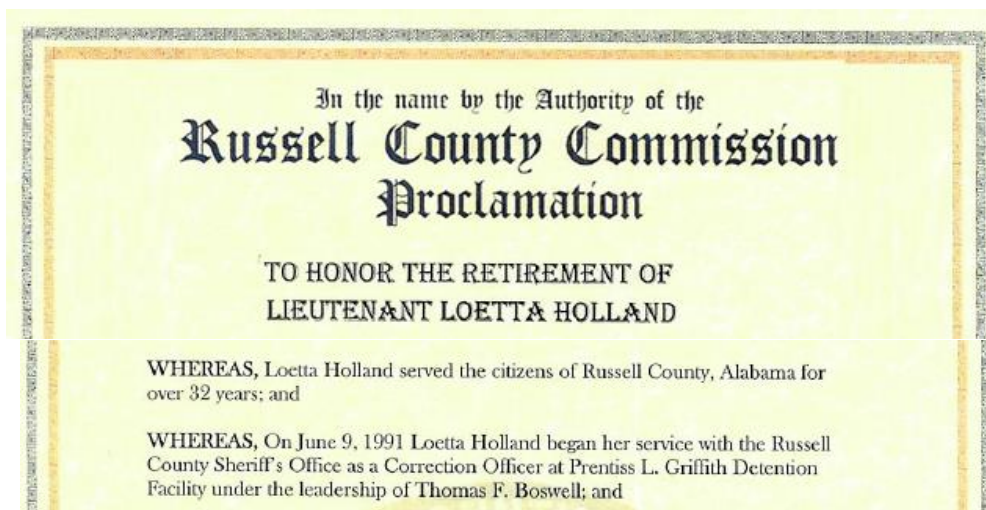
Chair Costello stated that the agenda was approved at the work session Monday night, October 23,2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Costello requested approval of the minutes from the Commission meeting on October 11, 2023. Commissioner Screws moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Epps. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. Motion carried to approve the minutes.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Reed who presented a proclamation for Lieutenant Loetta Holland. The proclamation was approved at a previous Commission meeting. County Administrator Paulette Colbert read the following:



WHEREAS, Loetta Holland was soon promoted as the first African American female Correctional Sergeant and shortly after that was promoted to Correctional Lieutenant or Jail Warden where she was responsible for the daily operations of the entire facility; and

WHEREAS, During Lieutenant Holland's tenure she took much pleasure in supervising, training, and mentoring many young correction officers who came through the ranks; and

WHEREAS, Loetta is a graduate of Hardaway High School, Voorhees University, and A & M University of Alabama Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, Loetta Holland was a member and served as President of the Alabama Jail Association. She has actively participated in assisting and obtaining help for underprivileged children and adults. She is a member of the Phenix City Russell County Leadership Academy and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and

THEREFORE, we, the members of the Russell County Commission, hereby extend to Lieutenant Loetta Holland our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to Russell County, Alabama, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to her for continued success and happiness for years to come.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chairman Costello recognized Sheriff Taylor who notified the Commission that the Russell County Board of Education will fund an additional School Resource Officer and change an existing part-time SRO to full time in Ft. Mitchell.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Costello recognized Chief Building Official Bubba Roberts who presented a salary adjustment request for his employees. Brian Tice, who has received the status of ICC Certified Building Inspector, and Rebecca Boswell who has received the status of ICC Certified Permit Technician. He requested to increase Brian Tice's annual salary by \$2,895.98 and Rebecca Boswell's annual salary by \$1,817.09. Commissioner Lee moved to accept the salary adjustment recommendations; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Maintenance Director Leon Watson who requested permission to solicit bids for a new chiller for the Judicial Center. Mr. Watson stated it will be advertised in the local newspaper from 11/2/2023 to 11/16/2023 for the purchase. The Maintenance Department will perform the installation. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 am ET on 11/20/2023 and opened at 10:30 AM ET in the Commission Chambers. He will request it be on the work session agenda on 11/20/2023 for awarding at the Commission meeting on 11/22/2023. Commissioner Screws moved to accept the request; seconded by Commission Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Screws who moved to make a project fund donation to Beyond Expectations in the amount of \$1,000.00; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Screws who presented the Pittsview project MOU with The University of Alabama for the Equitable Initiative Healing Zone. It was determined that a few changes need to be made to the MOU and will be brought back at a later meeting.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney stated that the Hip shade structure to be installed at the Crawford playground came in under budget.

SANITATION:

The Sanitation Director Ward Dudley requested to surplus the following three vehicles: 2001 GMC YUKON – 3GKEC16T116278718, 2009 FORD EXPEDITION – 1FMFU15509EA78153, 2014 FORD F-150 – 1FTEX1CM7EKF626562001. He will run them in the newspaper for two weeks and then post them on GovDeals. Commissioner Chambers moved to accept the request; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The Economic Development Director had nothing to present.

ADMINISTRATOR:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert requested the Commission approve the county depositories for the 2023/2024 fiscal year as presented. Commissioner Screws moved to accept the request; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RUSSELL COUNTY DEPOSITORIES**2023/2024**

GENERAL FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
CONTINGENT FUND	TRUIST BANK
PISTOL PERMIT REVENUE LOSS FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	TRUIST BANK
FT MITCHELL SENIOR CENTER FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
MASONIC LODGE FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
COURT COST FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
LADONIA PAVILION RENTALS FUND	TRUIST BANK
GASOLINE TAX FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
PUBLIC BUILDING ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND	TRUIST BANK
SECONDARY ROAD FUND	TRUIST BANK
MINERAL SEVERANCE FUND	TRUIST BANK
REAPPRAISAL FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
JUVENILE DRUG COURT FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
REBUILD ALABAMA FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
FEDERAL AID EXCHANGE FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
CDBG-CV FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
LOCAL ASSISTANCE & TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
GARBAGE FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
PAYROLL FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
OPERATIONS FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
DONATION FUND	TRUIST BANK
LAW LIBRARY FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
WORTHLESS CHECK FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY FUND	TRUIST BANK
REVENUE COMMISSIONER SPECIAL FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
REVENUE COMMISSIONER MANUFACTURED HOMES FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
MOTOR VEHICLE SPECIAL TRAINING FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE COMMISSIONER SPECIAL FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
90-92 MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE COMMISSIONER FUND	SYNOVUS BANK
LAND REDEMPTION FUND	TRUIST BANK
JUVENILE SERVICE FUND	TRUIST BANK
TOBACCO TAX FUND	PHENIX-GIRARD BANK
BEER TAX FUND	TRUIST BANK

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented the 2024 holiday schedule request for approval, which she stated is the same schedule approved by the governor including any additional days that the governor might grant during the year. Commissioner Screws moved to accept the request; seconded by Commissioner Epps. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

Chairman Costello recognized County Engineer Shawn Blakeney who presented the bathroom bid results for the restrooms at Ladonia and Ft. Mitchell from October 5th. He stated the low bidder was Hosey-Lancour in the amount of \$289,000.00 for both restrooms and he stated this will be over by \$45,802.00 (not including the cost for the septic) from the money that was set aside for this project. Commissioner Chambers moved to reject the bid and to reschedule it with direction from Maintenance Director Leon Watson; seconded by Commissioner Lee. 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. The motion passed.

ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hicks requested to go into executive session following the announcements and to adjourn from the executive session. She stated that this executive session would be to discuss the general reputation and character of an individual and the job performance of certain public employees. She certified that this would be a reason for an executive session under the Alabama Open Meetings executive session rules and that there will not need to be any action taken by the Commission. Commissioner Screws moved to go into executive session and to adjourn from the executive session; Commissioner Epps seconded the attorney's request. All Commissioners present were in favor and said aye. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Reed spoke of adding deer crossing signs along the roadways to help drivers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

The Commission went into executive session and adjourned in the executive session.