

**Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes January 24, 2024
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 Steve Pace with Summerville Baptist Church.

Commissioner Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Melissa Harris and Terrika Barnes from the United Way with Chattahoochee Valley shared their Point in Time County presentation program that helps assist in transitioning from homelessness in our community area.

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 citizens, elected officials, department heads, media, and guests.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Members present were Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Gentry Lee, Commissioner Chance Corbett, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, and Chair Rod Costello. 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, January 22, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Costello requested approval of the minutes from the Commission meeting on January 10, 2023. Commissioner Corbett moved to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried to approve the minutes.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The 2024 Point in Time County Presentation by United Way was presented in the Public Comments.

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Corbett who requested approval for a proclamation for Naomi Elliott to be presented at a later time at her retirement reception. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the proclamation; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Chairman Costello recognized Commissioner Corbett who requested to allocate project funds to Russell County Extension for the 4-H Club Camp. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the total allocation amount of \$1,750.00 with the breakdown as follows: \$500.00 from Commissioner Chambers project funds, \$500.00 from Commissioner Costello's project funds, and \$750.00 from Commissioner Corbett's project funds. Commissioner Chambers seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Costello recognized Tag Commissioner Carrie Bowman who presented the request to pay \$30,050.00 to S&W/Harris for their new tag system software from the MV Tech account. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

The County Engineer had nothing to present.

SANITATION:

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley presented the request for the chair to sign the Waste Away 3-year contract for the landfill currently being used for the county's garbage. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

Sanitation Director Ward Dudley requested the chair to sign finance documents and the Commissioners to sign a resolution to purchase a garbage truck. Motion to approve by Commissioner Corbett; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. In the discussion, Commissioner Corbett noted for the minutes that this has gone through the Sanitation Board, and it puts a vehicle on the road a lot faster than if they did it later. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

There was nothing presented in this area.

ADMINISTRATOR:

There was nothing to present in this area.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert present the request to pay the Hosey-Lancour Construction final invoice for the construction of the Covid Supply Storage building in the amount of \$25,557.96 from the Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. County Administrator Paulette Colbert took a roll call vote of the Commission as follows: District 2: Commissioner Chambers, yes; District 1: Commissioner Lee, yes; District 6: Commissioner Corbett, yes; District 7: Commissioner Screws, yes; District 5: Commissioner Epps, yes; District 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks made a recommendation to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. She stated that the purpose of the executive session is to be discussed with your attorney, the legal ramifications of, and the legal options for pending litigation for controversies not yet being litigated, but likely to be litigated if the governmental body pursues propose course of action. She stated she is as an attorney licensed to practice law in Alabama and this exception is applicable to the planned discussion, and that there will not need to be any action taken by the Commission and can adjourn from the Executive Session. Commissioner Lee moved to approve her request to go into executive session; seconded by Commissioner Reed. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Corbett spoke of the upcoming Crawford Community Center open house and project for the senior program for those over 60 years old for the community.

Commissioner Corbett shared appreciation for the Sanitation workers that work regardless of the weather conditions.

Commissioner Corbett thanked Jennifer Davidson with the Extension office along with our Parks and Recreation crews that planted flowers at the Veterans Memorial in Seale.

Commissioner Corbett brought up the idea of having students from schools come in to do the pledge in future Commission meetings and have them participate and sit in the meetings.

Commissioner Corbett recognized Assistant County Engineer Ray Martin who updated the Commission on the traffic studies from the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

There being no further business, the Commission went into Executive Session, and adjourned from the Executive Session.