

Russell County Commission
Meeting Minutes August 14, 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 Reverend Steve Pace with Summerville Baptist.

Commissioner Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Jennifer Davidson with the Russell County Extension Office shared a presentation of their past year events and workshops presented by their office.

Mr. Donald Housey, Sr. with Prince Hall Shriners spoke of discretionary funding to support their organization community projects.

Ms. Lora Gaddy spoke of voting issues at the Ft. Mitchell Volunteer Fire Department on Highway 165.

Mr. Ricky Johnson spoke from the Fort Mitchell National Cemetery about the Wreaths Across America and future allocated funding support.

Mr. Leroy Davis shared the Wiregrass grants awarded to the county in various areas.

Chairman Costello reminded everyone to silence their phones during the meeting.

Chairman Costello thanked our Keith Lee with the Russell County Commission IT Department for Facebook Live, The Citizen of East Alabama for covering the meetings. He welcomed our elected officials, department heads, media, and guests.

County Administrator Chandra Wright called roll of the Commission. Members present were Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Gentry Lee, Commissioner Chance Corbett, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Ronnie Reed, and Chairman Rod Costello. Commissioner Cattie Epps was not absent. Also, present were County Attorney Hope Hicks, and County Administrator Chandra Wright, who kept the minutes.

A quorum was established by the County Administrator Chandra Wright.

Chair Costello stated that the agenda was approved at the work session on Monday night, August 12th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Costello requested approval of the minutes from the Commission meeting on July 24, 2024. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried to approve the minutes.

PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

There were no proclamations, resolutions, or presentations presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There was no discussion items presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

There was no business items presented.

COUNTY ENGINEER:

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented a request to sign the Adopt a Mile Program application for 92 Flournoy Road going south for a mile towards Highway 80. Mr. Blakeney requested the Chair to sign the application. Commissioner Screws moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented the final adoption of the floodplain ordinance and requested the approval for the Commission to sign the ordinance so it can be submitted to FEMA. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented a requested a position change (due to recent things that have happened in their office. He requested to convert their Administrator Assistant 3 position at \$19.55/hour to change it to a Mechanic 1 position at \$17.50/hour. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented a budget transfer request to buy a hoist for their shop:

- Decrease Line Item # 541 -*Equipment & Furniture Over \$5,000* by \$10,000
- Increase Line Item # 219 -*Materials & Supplies* by \$10,000

Commissioner Chambers moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney presented a Parks & Rec. budget transfer request as follows:

- Decrease Line Item # 212 -*Fuel & Lubricant* by \$5,000
- Increase Line Item # 219 -*Other Misc. Supplies* by \$5,000

Commissioner Chambers moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Corbett. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. Motion carried.

SANITATION:

The Sanitation Director had nothing to present in this area.

ADMINISTRATOR:

The County Administrator had nothing to present in this area.

CORONAVIRUS RESCUE ACT FUND:

From the Coronavirus Rescue Act funds, County Administrator Chandra Wright requested the remaining unobligated ARPA funds in the amount of \$20,994 to purchase software to move our new hire employees forms to an online process, as well as automating the evaluation process. The total cost for the software is \$32,654, so the remaining balance would be \$11,660 will go into the upcoming fiscal year 2024/2025 budget. Commissioner Corbett moved to approve the request; seconded by Commissioner Chambers.

Commissioner Corbett noted that the P.O., the check cut, and everything needs to be done by November.

County Administrator Chandra Wright 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 4: Commissioner Reed, yes; and District 3: Chairman Costello, yes. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY:

Attorney Hope Hicks had nothing to share.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Corbett shared an update of the community garden at the Crawford Community Center, which was funded 100% by the Wiregrass grant, along with Russell County Extension volunteers that came out to help with the setup.

Commissioner Corbett spoke about the upcoming Labor Day holiday fair at the old Seale courthouse on Monday, September 2nd from 10 am to 4 pm Eastern Time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements were made.

There being no further business, Commissioner Corbett moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Chambers. All Commissioners were in favor and said aye. The meeting was adjourned.