

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
01/17/2023

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Barnes called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 6:25 p.m., being the time and place previously scheduled for such work session and regular meeting. All Commissioners answered “present” at the call of the roll with the exception of Commissioner Mansell who was absent. Commissioner Gardiner offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Barnes declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Black with the Colbert County High School spoke on behalf of the school’s Beta Club Program. She is over the Beta Club student led community service project. Ms. Black is asking the Commission for advice or funds on how to get her kids involved in their community service projects. Commissioner Tori Bailey as well as Chairman Tommy Barnes requested her contact information to help with said project.

Auburn Extension Director Karen Crow announced Extension will host an open-house tomorrow afternoon between the hrs. of 2-3:30 p.m. in the basement of the Courthouse. Crow also announced that there will be an estate planning work shop February 9 from 10-12:00 p.m. She is in the process of hiring a 4H agent and announced to be looking out for more 4H events.

Keith Jones of NACOLG reported that they have grown exponentially since they were before the Commission in 2019 and expressed his appreciation for the Commission’s support. Jones provided a packet listing all of their projects. He announced that January 26 is the next board meeting at 11:00 a.m., May 19 is Senior Citizen Day at the Coliseum. They are expecting 60-100 people and informs Jennifer Black that they would be happy for the Beta Club to help. Jones introduced each of his department heads who described each of their tasks: Tiffany Boyd-Director of Governmental Services, Cindy Roberts-Aging Services, Shelia Bentley-Medicare Waiver Program, Joseph Holt-Planning and Transportation.

State Representative Kerry “Bubba” Underwood of District 3 spoke in his capacity as Chairman of the Tri Cities Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Underwood stated that if there are any complaints, involving the landfill or solid waste operations that these complaints should be in writing and sent to both Tri-Cities and CWI. Commissioner Isom stated that we need some progress on the condition of Cane Creek Road which provides access to the boat ramp. Representative Underwood stated that he realizes the road was meant for something else and would also like documentation of cost associated with it. He will then make contact with CWI. Representative Underwood stated that he would do a better job communicating. Commissioner Gardner expressed his appreciation on keeping Tri Cities assignment after taking office. Commissioner Barnes also expressed his appreciation and stated that we will draft that letter to help do our part.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Lee Cox submitted a 2023 second quarter invoice from Tennessee Valley Juvenile Detention Center. Cox reported that they have exceeded their allotted detention days by 96 days. She explained that the criminal complaints have risen and they are experiencing enormous delays in placing youth with the Alabama Department of Youth Services. Cox reported that one of their repeat offenders have been with TVJDC for over 130 days while waiting for a bed within the DYS system, and is still waiting. She expresses that it would be great if the Commission could provide an additional bed.

Mayor Silcox of the Town Leighton expressed his appreciation for all of the support given by the Commission and for allowing the engineers come out to help with their baseball field.

Sheriff Eric Ballentine reported that he and his staff has had a busy first day and that there were a few kinks to work out however, they are optimistic. He asks for our patience while working through this process.

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Barnes announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Gardiner made motion to adopt and approve the matters placed on the consent agenda during the work session. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Bailey. Chairman Barnes stated that the adoption and approval of a consent agenda comprised of the following items of business was properly before the Commission and stated the matters as follows:

1. Waived reading of January 3, 2023 minutes and approved the same as written.
2. Approved payment of January 17, 2023 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Approved purchase of advertisement in the Times Daily Progress Edition in the amount of \$1,458.50.
4. Approved Tennessee Valley Youth Services Overuse Bill in the amount of \$13,248.00
5. Approved request for payment of accrued unused Annual Leave to Jamie Klaska in the amount of \$11,950.
6. Approved request for payment of accrued unused Annual Leave to Dena Hagan in the amount of \$11,294.40.
7. Accepted Rebuild Alabama Report as presented by the County Engineer.
8. Approved a request from the County Engineer to reduce speed limit on the South portion of Bainbridge Road from 45 mph to 35 mph and to install signage with flashing lights.
9. Set public hearing on application by White Oak Liquor for an Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control License for Feb 07, 2023 @ 5:00 P. M.
10. Approved to replace Coroner Truck using ARPA funds with a 2023 Ford F250 Super Cab 4x4 Pick Up Model X2B at a State Bid price of \$44,707.00
11. Approved request for payment of accrued unused Annual Leave to the Tony Thorn Estate in the amount of \$12,004.80.
12. Approved request for payment of accrued unused Annual Leave to Jennifer Withers in the amount of \$3,492.88.
13. Approved request by the Sheriff to eliminate two Part Time Jailer positions and to create one Full Time Jailer position.

14. Appropriated an additional \$10,000.00 from Road and Bridge Fund for Corridor Study for River Road and TVA Reservation Properties.
15. Approved purchase of an additional bed space at Tennessee Valley Youth Services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairman Barnes announced that the Commission would hear reports from staff. Upon being recognized by the Chair, the following reports were heard by the Commission:

County Administrator:

Administrator Roger Creekmore reported that Probate Judge Daniel Rosser promoted Vickie Kirk to Assistant Records Room Supervisor which will be grade 5 step 1 or 5%. Donna Brown has been hired as a Tag Clerk at \$30,183.84. Creekmore reported that Judge Brown has placed Donna Eddy in the position of County Law Librarian and she will be given the \$300.00 monthly stipend. Creekmore reported that Maria Strickland has been hired as Chief Clerk in the Sheriff's Office with an annual salary of \$40,001.77, additionally, Elizabeth Batts has been hired as the new Jail Administrative Clerk with an annual salary of \$32,751.60, and Sherry Cornelius has been hired as the new Civil Clerk with an annual salary of \$32,751.60. Molly Fountain will be retained in the position of Criminal Clerk at an annual salary of \$30,385.23. He reported that Sheriff Balentine is consolidating two part-time jailer positions and making them one full-time position. Creekmore also reported that Dena Hagan has moved to Colbert County Soil and Water Conservation office.

Chief Financial Officer:

CFO April Eaton presented financial reports for first quarter 2023. She reported that overall budget compliance was good. Peggy Mighty at NACOLG has requested the use of the County's "Go Gov" site to apply for a grant for Shoals Solid Waste Recycling, with the County being responsible for administration of the grant. Ms. Eaton asked the Commission if this was acceptable and received no objections from the Commissioners.

County Attorney:

Attorney Edgar Black reported that he has reviewed the Chief Deputy contract and verified that there was one minor change that was agreed upon by Chief Deputy Lee Smith.

EMA Director:

EMA Director Michael Smith reported that a person camping at Cook Creek was reported as having chest pains. 911 personnel located said person with GPS technology. Deputies, EMS, and Volunteer FD were able to perform a rescue. The initial call was about 9:30 p.m. and the person was taken out from Cook Creek about 4:30 a.m.

Director Smith also reported that he and Jody Hitt assisted Lawrence County EMA with damage assessments in Moulton and East Lawrence last week following the Lawrence County tornado. NWS determined it was an EF-1 tornado. Colbert County was on the northern edge of expected severe weather area and the schools made the right call to remain in session.

County Engineer:

County Engineer Jeremy Robison reported the passing of shop employee Tony Thorne.

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

None

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6

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