

STATE OF ALABAMA        )  
COLBERT COUNTY        )

Minutes of a Regular Meeting  
of the  
Colbert County Commission  
05/02/2023

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Barnes called the work session to order at 5:02 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:55 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. Commissioner Mansell 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**

Dr. David Merritt is seeking help with the VRBO next to his home. He has been a resident of Colbert County since 1978. Dr. Merritt states that he has witnessed indecent exposure, loud music, obscenities, and littering on his property. He states that the VRBO is destroying his way of life and feels that his sense of security is in jeopardy. Chairman Barnes stated that Administrator Creekmore, Commissioner Bailey, and himself are part of the ACCA Legislative Committee and will put the issue before the ACCA requesting assistance on a legislative level. Probate Judge Daniel Rosser, stated that the County has no zoning laws and the Legislature is the place to fight this battle. Sheriff Eric Balentine commented that CCSO is sympathetic to the situation, unfortunately, the Sheriff’s Department does not have a lot of avenues to pursue. However, Sheriff Balentine stated that he will answer the call as often as Dr. Merritt calls.

The CEO of Helen Keller Hospital, Kyle Buchannan, thanked the Commission for its commitment and support with regard to its recent grant application.

**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 April 18, 2023 minutes and approved the same as written.
2. Approved payment of May 2, 2023 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Approved Riverbend Board Appointment of Kathy Yordy to replace Mary Gates who resigned. Adopted the following Resolution:

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-0026**

*A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RIVERBEND CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH*

WHEREAS, a member of the Board of Directors of Riverbend Center for Mental Health, namely Mary Gates, has resigned effective April 27, 2023, and the Commission being desirous of making the necessary appointment to said board to fill the now vacant seat for the remainder of its term; and

WHEREAS, Board Member Gates's term was scheduled to expire on April 1, 2027 at 12:00 noon.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that Kathy Yordy be and she is hereby appointed to serve a term on the Riverbend Center for Mental Health commencing on May 2, 2023 and ending on April 1, 2027.

The County Administrator is hereby directed to notify the above-named person of her appointment and further to notify the respective board of said appointment.

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4. Approved Secretary of State GIS Software Program beginning year 2026 at the rate of approximately \$10,000 per year.
  5. Authorized participation in grant agreement relating to Project 22-LW-1069 by adoption of the following Resolution:
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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-0025**

*A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT*

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has been selected to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program and intends to use grant funds received, along with County funds, for improvements at the Rose Trail Park Facility; and

WHEREAS, the County is desirous of making a commitment to provide matching funds for said grant equal to \$250,000 or 50% of the total project cost.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission, that its Chairperson be, and he is hereby authorized to execute the grant agreement relating to Project 22-LW-1069, and deliver the same, along with a copy of this resolution to such persons as he deems necessary to effectuate the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colbert County Commission hereby commits matching funds to Project 22-LW-1069 in the amount of \$250,000 or 50% of the total project cost.

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6. Awarded painting for the upstairs Judicial Courts in the amount of \$39,500 to Tommy Davis Painting who was the only bidder.
7. Approved one-time appropriation of \$3,400 to the Muscle Shoals Fire Department for training of personnel for operation of newly purchased drone.
8. Approved one-time appropriation of \$3,000 for Leighton Public Library renovation project.

**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 spoke on the county's garbage situation. Creekmore stated that although the County does not own or operate the Cherokee landfill, we are suffering the effects of its closure. We began to transport our rubbish to Franklin County but, as of May 4<sup>th</sup> they are not going to be able to continue accepting it. As a result, we are going to have to transport roadside pick-up rubbish to Morgan County which will slow down our operations. Residents are impatient and the calls are increasing. Creekmore states that we are hoping the situation with the Cherokee landfill will be resolved sooner than later and we are still looking for alternatives.

Creekmore also reported that Amy Ethridge has been hired in the Revenue Commissioners office starting May 15, 2023, as Administrative Assistant 1 at pay grade 4 Also in the Revenue Commissioner's office, effective June 1, 2023 Jasmin Anderson will be replacing Kelly Robinson as Chief Collections Clerk, pay grade 11, and Amanda Lindsey will go to Assistant Assessing Clerk at her current pay grade. In the Sheriff's Department, Destiney Contreras was hired, effective May 01, 2023, with a starting salary of \$30,499.56 replacing Shaun Popejoy.

### **Chief Financial Officer:**

None

### **County Attorney:**

None

### **EMA Director:**

EMA Director Michael Smith reported that The State of Alabama has requested the disaster declaration and we are awaiting on FEMA's response. Also, Renovation bids will be open next Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. in the old Commission Chambers.

### **County Engineer:**

Chief Engineer Jeremy Robison reported that they are finishing up winter mowing. He also reported that he has two openings in the shop and will be conducting interviews next week. Robison stated that regarding the Rebuild Alabama Plan, they are getting ready to start chip sealing and hopes the chip seal machine will make it through the summer.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

None

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CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6