

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
02/21/2023

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 5:57 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 Bendall offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Barnes declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Paul Hester commented on continuing traffic and other issues associated with events at Hawk Pride Mountain Off Road. He stated that something has to be done. He's afraid that someone may get killed or injured. Administrator Creekmore stated that Special Events License would be on the agenda for the March 7 Commission meeting.

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 Mansell 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 February 7, 2023 minutes and approved the same as written.
2. Approved payment of February 21, 2023 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Appointed Edna McPherson to E911 Board for term ending 01/01/27 and reappointed Dewey King to E911 Board for term ending 03/01/27, and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-0014

*A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE COLBERT COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS BOARD*

WHEREAS, the term of two members of the Colbert County Emergency Management Communications Board (E911 Board) have become and the Commission being desirous of making the necessary appointments to said board; and

WHEREAS, notice was given to the public of said pending vacancy and applications solicited for membership to said board; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals made proper application and met the requirements for appointment, are eligible for appointment to fill the pending vacancies:

Edna McPherson

Dewey King

WHEREAS, Edna McPherson and Dewey King were determined to be qualified applicants by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, there being two applicants to fill two vacancies on the E911 Board, the Commission unanimously consented to the appointment of Edna McPherson and Dewey King to fill said vacancies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that Edna McPherson be and she is hereby appointed to serve a term on the E911 Board commencing immediately and ending on January 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dewey King be and he is hereby appointed to serve a term on the E911 Board commencing on March 1, 2023 and ending on March 1, 2027.

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

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4. Approved Standard Architect Contract (AIA Document B104 - 2017) with Robert W. Whitten for professional services related to LaGrange Senior Center Architectural Agreement with Robert W. Whitten Architect, LLC.
 5. Approved and accepted Hazard Mitigation Grant for Project 4554-0010 in the total amount \$137,737.60, 90% of which will be paid through federal grant funds and 10% of which will be paid through local match for 52 LaGrange Dr. Muscle Shoals Storm Shelter.
 6. Approved request by Adria Buckwalter for payment of accrued unused annual leave in the amount of \$781.56.
 7. Approved and adopted the following Resolution to participate in ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund :

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-0015

A RESOLUTION TO RENEW PARTICIPATION IN THE ACCA LIABILITY SELF-INSURANCE FUND FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

WHEREAS, Colbert County is a member of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama Liability Self-Insurance Fund, Inc. ("Liability Fund") for the contract period ending December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the County's participation in the Liability Fund has been a significant benefit to the County since becoming a member; and

WHEREAS, the representation and service provided by the Liability Fund continues to be in the best interest of Colbert County and its officials and employees; and

WHEREAS, Colbert County would benefit by agreeing to extend its participation in the Liability Fund for an additional three year period beginning January 1, 2024, and concluding December 31, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission that it renews its participation in the Liability Fund for calendar years 2024 through 2026 and hereby directs its Chair to immediately execute the 2024-2026 ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund, Inc. Participation Agreement.

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8. Approved the following Resolution regarding salary and benefits of the Colbert County Coroner as follows:
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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-0016

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND ALABAMA CODE §45-17-62 CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE COLBERT COUNTY CORONER

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission is desirous of amending the provisions of *Alabama Code* § 45-17-62 remove certain expense allowances currently payable to the coroner by including the amount currently payable as an expense allowance in the coroner's annual salary, to be effective for the term of office beginning after the 2026 General election; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission is further desirous of providing a method by which the coroner's salary would be increased by uniform increases in compensation granted equally to all county employees and specifying that the person holding the office of coroner may participate in any County or State sponsored health insurance or retirement plans under the same terms as all county employees.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission that the Commission supports the introduction and passage of local legislation in the same or substantially similar form as that shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission respectfully requests members of the Colbert County legislative delegation to introduce and seek the passage of such legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator and County Attorney are hereby authorized to present this Resolution and any attached exhibits to members of the Colbert County legislative delegation and to take such action as they deem necessary in connection with the introduction and passage of the proposed legislation attached as Exhibit "A" to this Resolution, including, but not limited to, publishing notice of the same once per week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper or newspapers published in Colbert County.

9. Approved one-time additional appropriation for Colbert Animal Services in the amount of \$10,000.
10. Approved Requested by Chysen Leugnas Reposo unused accrued annual leave in the amount of \$480.96.
11. Approved Appointment of Michael Bulls to the Greater Shoals Broadband board of directors by adoption of the following resolution:
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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-0017

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE GREATER SHOALS BROADBAND AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the term of a member of the Greater Shoals Broadband Authority Board has expired and the Commission being desirous of making the necessary appointment to said board; and

WHEREAS, notice was given to the public of said pending vacancy and applications solicited for membership to said board; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals made proper application and met the requirements for appointment, are eligible for appointment to fill the pending vacancies:

Michael Bulls

WHEREAS, Michael Bulls was determined to be a qualified applicant by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission therefore gave unanimous consent to the appointment of Michael Bulls to said Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that Michael Bulls be and he is hereby appointed to serve a term on the Greater Shoals Broadband Authority Board of Directors. The term shall begin immediately and shall end on such date as determined by action of said Board.

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

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 the following new hires in the Sheriff's Department: Joshua C. Bradford will be starting February 16, 2023, as a Certified Deputy at an annual pay rate of \$33,788.84. Jack Reed as Certified PT Deputy effective March 1, 2023, at a pay rate of \$15.00/hr., David Dyson as Full Time Jailer, effective March 1, 2023, at an annual pay rate of \$30,499.36, James Hamm as a Certified Deputy, effective March 16, 2023, at an annual pay rate of \$33,788.84, Amanda Boczar as Certified Deputy, effective March 1, 2023, at an annual pay rate of \$33,788.84 and Wheeler Lovelady as Investigator with rank of Sergeant effective March 1, 2023, at an annual pay rate of \$40,648.63. From the Probate Judge: Jason Brewer replaced Tommy Brewer as the Mental Health Officer at \$600.00/Mo. Administrator asked if there were any objections to sending a letter of support for the Shoals Solid Waste Recycling Grant recently submitted by NACOLG, there were no objections.

Chief Financial Officer:

Chief Financial Officer April Eaton reported that she has reached out to CB&S Bank, First Southern Bank, Bank Independent Bank and First Metro Bank in search of the best interest rate for financing for loans associated with Rebuild Alabama paving projects.

County Attorney:

None

EMA Director:

EMA Director Michael Smith reported regarding the SE Sheffield Shelter that they have received word from NACOLG, the demolition project on this property is finally moving forward within the next couple of weeks and we can now move forward with the shelter project. The total project is estimated at \$71,628 (\$53,721 federal, \$17,907 local). The SOW is a 10x24 shelter with a 48-person capacity. The original bid has expired therefore this project will need to be bid again. Director Smith reported on the update on the New EMA/911 facility. He received word that the project is ready to bid and the bid opening date will be set for the first week in April. Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday is Friday-Sunday, February 24th-26th. The list of eligible or non-eligible items are in packets. Approval for funding for Community Storm Shelter to be placed at the Muscle Shoals Early Learning Center on 6th St. The total funding is \$137,737.60 (\$122,163.84 federal, \$13,573.76 local). The SOW is a 10x48 shelter with a 96-person capacity. Smith reported that the first official LEPC meeting was held on January 24, 2023. Membership

adopted these bylaws, but must also be adopted and approved by the Commission and signed by the Commission Chair.

County Engineer:

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Barnes posed a question to EMA Director Smith regarding accuracy and timing of local weather forecasts by the National Weather Service and asked Director Smith to attempt to schedule a meeting with NWS and the local School Boards.

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6