

STATE OF ALABAMA )  
COLBERT COUNTY )

Minutes of a Regular Meeting  
of the  
Colbert County Commission  
11/03/2020

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Gardiner called the work session to order at 5:00 P.M. with the regular meeting following at 5:30 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. Chairman Barnes offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Gardiner declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Gardiner announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Black made motion to adopt and approve the matters placed on the consent agenda during the work session. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Hovater. Chairman Gardiner 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 October 20, 2020 minutes and approved the same as written.
2. Approved payment of Nov 03, 2020 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Adopted the Following Resolution regarding County Audit:

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**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-0006**

***A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
APRIL BEARDEN FOR HER WORK ON THE RECENTLY  
COMPLETED COUNTY AUDIT***

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Colbert County Commission to examine and audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, collection, or disbursement of money belonging to Colbert County or appropriated for its use and benefit and to prepare and fairly present financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the County's responsibility in this regard also includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts performs regular audits that focus on the reliability and accuracy of the County's financial statements and its compliance with laws, ordinances, regulations, and other requirements; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these audits is to promote citizen confidence in the expenditure of funds under the County's control by ensuring that the County's financial statements present fairly the County's financial position and results of financial operations and whether the County Commission complied with applicable laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, these audits are also used by credit rating agencies in rating the County's creditworthiness and financial strength, which has a direct result on the County's ability to obtain financing for future projects of benefit to the citizens of Colbert County; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has established the position of Chief Financial Officer to oversee the care, management, collection, and disbursement of money belonging to the County or appropriated for its use and benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts recently completed its audit for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the completed audit resulted in an unmodified opinion being issued on the County's financial statements, which means that the Commission's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position and the results of its operations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, tests performed during the audit did not disclose any significant instances of noncompliance with applicable state and local laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the results of the completed audit are of great benefit to the Colbert County Commission and to the citizens of Colbert County, and are a direct result of the hard work and diligent effort of Chief Financial Officer April Bearden and her staff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that the Commission hereby commends and congratulates Chief Financial Officer April Bearden and each member of her staff for outstanding work in overseeing and implementing the care, management, collection, and disbursement of money belonging to the County or appropriated for its use and benefit and in preparing the County's financial statements in a manner that fairly presents the County's financial position and that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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## OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Gardiner announced that the next item of business before the Commission was to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Colbert County E-911 Board due to the expiration of the term of Mr. Garey Austin who currently serves as the County's representative on said board.

Administrator Creekmore stated the following individuals made proper application and met the requirements for appointment and are eligible for appointment to fill the pending vacancy:

Mike Melton

Garey Austin

Chairman Gardiner asked Administrator Creekmore to call the roll of Commissioners so that each Commissioner could state the name of the candidate he or she favors for appointment to the pending vacancy. A roll call vote was had as follows:

Commissioner Barnes	Austin
Commissioner Black	Melton
Commissioner Gardiner	Austin

Commissioner Bailey	Melton
Commissioner Bendall	Austin
Commissioner Hovater	Melton

Upon conclusion of voting, Chairman Gardiner announced that no nominee had received a majority of the votes cast, there being three votes in favor of Mr. Melton and three in favor of Mr. Austin. Chairman Gardiner stated that therefore no person had been appointed to the pending vacancy and that Mr. Austin, the incumbent, will continue to serve as member of the Colbert County E-911 Board until such time as his successor is duly appointed.

Chairman Gardiner announced that the next item of business before the Commission was to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Shoals Economic Development Authority (SEDA) Board, due to the expiration of the term of Mr. Bill Alexander who currently serves as the County's representative on said board. Chairman Gardiner asked County Administrator Creekmore whether the vacant position had been advertised to members of the public, and asked Administrator Creekmore to present to the Commission the names of those persons having made application and being qualified to serve.

Administrator Creekmore stated the following individuals made proper application and met the requirements for appointment and are eligible for appointment to fill the pending vacancy:

Bill Alexander	Edward Mitchell
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Chairman Gardiner asked Administrator Creekmore to call the roll of Commissioners so that each Commissioner could state the name of the candidate he or she favors for appointments to the pending vacancy. A roll call vote was had as follows:

Commissioner Barnes	Mitchell
Commissioner Black	Alexander
Commissioner Gardiner	Alexander
Commissioner Bailey	Alexander
Commissioner Bendall	Mitchell
Commissioner Hovater	Alexander

Upon conclusion of voting, Chairman Gardiner announced that nominee Bill Alexander had received a majority of the votes cast, there being four votes in favor of Mr. Alexander and two in favor of Mr. Mitchell. Chairman Gardiner stated that therefore Mr. Alexander is appointed as a member of the Shoals Economic Development Board. Chairman Gardiner asked the County Administrator to notify Mr. Alexander of his reappointment and to notify the Shoals Economic Development Authority of the same.

Chairman Gardiner announced that the next item of business before the Commission was to set a time for Commission Organizational Meeting Nov. 11, 2020 to be at 12:30.

Chairman Gardiner then asked Administrator Creekmore to call the roll of Commissioners so that each Commissioner could state Yea or Nay for suggested time. A roll call vote was had as follows:

Commissioner Barnes	Yea
Commissioner Black	Abstain

Commissioner Gardiner	Yea
Commissioner Bailey	Yea
Commissioner Bendall	Yea
Commissioner Hovater	Yea

Upon conclusion of voting, Chairman Gardiner announced that November 11, 12:30 meeting date had received a majority of the votes cast.

### **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Chairman Gardiner announced that the Commission would now 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 Sheriff Williamson hired Tracy Vanderford as PT-SRO with starting pay of \$15.00/hr. He also hired Denesha Beckwith as FT-Booking Clerk with starting salary of \$27,661.00. Creekmore announced that Cherokee Library Friends is seeking donations to help sustain them due lack of fundraisers due to Covid.

#### **Chief Financial Officer:**

No Report

#### **County Attorney:**

No Report.

#### **EMA Director:**

Director Michael Smith reported that Safe-T-Shelter has completed the concrete slab for the Abby Church Storm Shelter. This work was completed without the County Engineer being notified to inspect. Director Smith has conferred with NACOLG regarding the issue Safe-T-Shelter will provided documentation from the Mobile Home Manufacturers Association that the work had been inspected and was in compliance. FEMA reimbursement will be unaffected.

#### **County Engineer:**

No Report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Gardiner announced that the next order for business was the payment to Judge Daniel Rosser for the Certification of the voter's list for the November 3, 2020 General Election, in the amount of \$2,178.10. Motion was duly made by Commissioner Barnes, Second by Commissioner Bendall. All Commissioners voted Aye except District 2, Commissioner Black voting Nay. Chairman Gardiner announced that the motion was passed.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made and seconded, Chairman Gardiner announced that the meeting was adjourned.

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

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CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

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COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6

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