

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
12/17/2024

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairperson Bailey called the work session to order at 5:01 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:48 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 David Isom who was absent. Commissioner Mansell offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Bailey declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Lewis addressed the Commission in regard to Hawk Pride Off Road Park. Mr. Lewis stated that on Wednesday, November 27 people were running the off-road vehicles starting a 10 am and extending past midnight. Mr. Lewis also stated that on Saturday night and Sunday night the off road vehicles were active past 3 a.m. Mr. Lewis stated that the off road vehicles create a very loud noise disturbance. Mr. Lewis called the Sheriff's Department and deputies told him they could hear the noise as well. Mr. Lewis stated that he asked the deputy what was going to be done about this and did the event have a special event permit issued, to which the deputy responded that he didn't know. The deputy called Lt. White who told him to tell Mr. Lewis to come to the courthouse Monday morning. Mr. Lewis further stated that if a permit was issued, the rules of the permit should be enforced. Mr. Lewis stated his opinion that the permit is not written for the community, it is written for the landowner and the people who pay and make money off of it. Mr. Lewis stated that the members of the community should come first. Mr. Lewis stated he moved to the community to have peace and quiet and the presence of the off road park prevents that. Mr. Lewis also stated that he is able to hear noise emanating from North Alabama Speedway on Highway 247. Mr. Lewis stated that if permits are issued, they should be enforced. Lastly, Mr. Lewis drew the Commission's attention to the last statement of the permit on page 18 of 22 which states that if it is determined that the special event will interfere of the rights of nearby residents, the event should not be allowed to proceed.

Paul Hester spoke stating that the special events at Hawk Pride Off-Road are a major problem for the community. Mr. Hester noted that Mr. Rick Berry posts to Facebook to remind the Park's users that noise must cease at midnight. Mr. Hester expressed to the Commission that Mr. Berry does not ensure the guests are following that rule. Mr. Hester also stated his belief that most of the Park's users come from out of state. Mr. Hester stated that Rick Berry is from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Mr. Hester expressed his belief that the County sees little to no revenue from the events held at the Park.

An interjection was made by Chairperson Bailey that there have been times where she, as a citizen, has been frustrated by the actions of surrounding property owners. She reiterated that the Commission is restricted in the actions it can take regarding events held on private property. Chairperson Bailey also stated that the Commission has attempted to find solutions to the noise problem but the Commission's resolutions do not have the force of law and the Commission cannot enforce criminal penalties for violations.

Ms. Debbie Bradford addressed the Commission regarding the Leighton Senior Center. Ms. Bradford is requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$13,317.48 to renovate the center, which has been in existence for over 40 years. Ms. Bradford stated that the Leighton Senior Center is not on par with the other Senior Centers in our county Ms. Bradford stated that the town of Leighton has set aside \$4,700.00 towards the renovation of the center. They are going to need

more money than stated because they are going to need new chairs, desks and shelving. They are going to need about \$10,000.00 up front to cover flooring, ceiling tile, etc.

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Bailey announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Gardiner made a motion to adopt and approve the matters placed on the consent agenda during the work session. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Mansell. Chairperson Bailey 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. Approved December 3, 2024, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
2. Approved December 17, 2024, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
3. Approved LaGrange Senior Center Aging Services Contract with NACOLG.
4. Approved County Agreement with the Alabama Secretary of State regarding payment for matters related to voting.
5. Scheduled Public Hearing for PMPatel Inc., Welcome Liquor, application for 011-Lounge Retail Liquor - Class II, Package, for Jan 7, 2025.
6. Approved \$4,700.00 appropriation to the Town of Leighton for renovations to the Leighton Senior Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairperson Bailey 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 made the following reports: From the Road Dept. Brandon Allison is no longer employed effective December 5, 2024. From the Sheriff Dept. Austin Lee Hester was terminated December 11, 2024.

County CFO:

CFO April Eaton made the following report: The resolution from the last meeting has allocated all of the ARPA Funds. All records have been reconciled, all ARPA funds are obligated.

County Attorney:

No Report.

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report.

County Engineer:

Chief Engineer Jeremy Robison reported as follows: Reminded the Commission of the Luncheon at the Road Department with L.O. Bishop on December 18, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardiner and seconded by Commissioner Barnes for the approval of an application for ANHCO 1050 LLC, The Stage at LaGrange, 040 - retail beer (on or off premises, 060 - retail table wine (on or off premises). The Chair stated that the matter before the Commission was approval of said liquor license and called for any discussion. There being no further discussion, Chairperson Bailey asked the County Administrator to call the roll and a roll call vote was had as follows:

District 1	Yes
District 2	No
District 3	Yes
District 4	Yes
District 5	No
District 6	Absent

The Chair announced that the application was approved and directed the County Administrator to notify the applicant and the local ABC Office of the Commission’s action.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

NONE

Commissioner Gardiner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Commissioner Barnes. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 P.M.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6