

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
4/1/2025

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairperson Bailey called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:58 p.m., the time and place previously scheduled for such work session and regular meeting. All Commissioners answered “present” at the call of the roll except for Commissioner Tyrus Mansell who was absent. Commissioner Tommy Barnes 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

None

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

Edna McPhearson, Colbert 911 Board Member, addressed the Commission. Ms. McPhearson reported that a few weeks ago a virus spread through the 911 center resulting in illnesses which activated a lock down which prevented the public from entering the downstairs area. As of today, all is well. The dispatch consoles currently in use by the dispatchers will not be moved to the new facility, the board has decided to purchase a new system to go into the new building. Ms. McPhearson expressed concern regarding security at the new location as there are no other companies near the facility and there is no light. She was informed that the Sheriff’s Department is conducting frequent patrols in the area. In addition, Ms. McPhearson reported that the 911 Board recently tabled a request to add a head supervisor position in the dispatch center.

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 Barnes. 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 March 18, 2025, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
2. Approved April 1, 2025 bills as presented by County CFO Eaton.
3. Approved re-appointment of Beth Pirtle to the Colbert County 911 Board of Directors for a 4-year term ending April 1, 2029
4. Approved request from D.T.F. to surplus 2006 Dodge 1500 VIN # 1D7HU18226S648025.
5. Approved Job Description for the creation of a new Courthouse Security Position.

6. Approved request from Sheriff Balentine for the purchase of a LUCAS 3.1 Chest Compression System. Expenditure from Opioid settlement funds.
7. Approved Resolution as presented by CFO Eaton to Authorizing the Alabama Department of Revenue to Administer and Collect Sales, Use and Lodging Taxes in Colbert County.
8. Approved authorization for the County Engineer to proceed with the purchase of property on Gate 6 Rd to address continuing drainage issues in that area.
9. Approved to rescheduling of May 6, 2025 Commission Meeting to Thursday May 1, 2025.

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: A compromise has been reached and the weight limit has been removed from the SB110 Bill.

Dillan Jones was terminated from the Road Department on March 26, 2025. David Grifford was hired as a full-time Corrections Deputy, effective April 1, with a beginning salary of \$32,985.27. He replaces Keisha Adams who has resigned. At the Household Garbage Department Charles Johnson has been hired as a litter crew P.T. effective March 13 at a pay rate of \$12.36/hr., and Franklin Townsend has been hired as a FT employee garbage truck helper at the pay rate of \$13.71/hr.

On the 21st of March, CFO Eaton and Administrator Creekmore hosted the ACAA Regional Meeting. Administrators and Staff from Lauderdale, Franklin, Limestone, Morgan, Cullman, And Pickens Counties were in attendance with Sheriff Eric Balentine as the guest speaker who informed the body of the liability of the Sheriff's Department and how it relates and transfers to the County Commission. Creekmore stated that one of the statewide topics with the ACCA is how to get employees, specifically the Sheriff's Department, CPR certified.

Chairperson Bailey added a special thank you to Administrator Creekmore for sharing information about solar farm abatements with another county had requested information. Bailey also thanked Creekmore and Danny Allison for handling the pile of garbage on Cobb Drive

County CFO:

No Report

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

Director Jody Hitt made the following reports: There is an Area 5 EMA Board of Directors and requested he be allowed to serve in the capacity. There was no objection from the Commissioners.

County Engineer:

County Engineer Jeremy Robison made the following report: The foundation for the new water tank is finished and hopefully next week the panels will be installed. There was a lot of damage due to the big flood on March 15th. Damage costs are being calculated by EMA Director Jody Hitt, Assistant Engineer Charles King and himself. Colbert County as a whole reached the FEMA level but the State of Alabama did not, therefore, we will not be getting FEMA funding. The Road Department itself sustained over \$100K in damages. Three roads in Commissioner Barnes district were washed out.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardiner and seconded by Commissioner Bendall authorizing the County Engineer to sign a letter, on as manager of the Colbert Water Department, which addresses the accountability of some major corporations for unclean drinking water that presently contains PFOS and PFOA and the accompanying EPA regulations regarding these chemicals now in place. After much discussion and questions by Commissioner Barnes, The Chair stated that the matter before the Commission was to authorize the County Engineer to sign this letter on behalf of the Water Department A vote was had and Chairperson Bailey asked the County Administrator to call the roll and a roll call vote was had as follows:

District 1	Abstain
District 2	Absent
District 3	Yea
District 4	Yea
District 5	Yea
District 6	Yea

The Chair announced that the motion was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnes thanked all participants for their support and involvement in the Ford City roadside clean-up effort. Over 300 lbs. of trash were removed from roadsides. Commissioner Barnes also expressed his concerns regarding cable installers leaving dirt and debris on rights of way after installation activities. The County Engineer stated he is addressing the issue.

Chairperson Bailey thanked everyone who was involved in the Tuscumbia Warehouse explosion a few weeks ago. Ms. Bailey also announced that April 25th and 26th, there will be a Shoals Trail Ride event held on Mr. Clarence Freeman’s property. The Sheriff’s Department will be providing some security as well as Mr. Freeman.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

CHAIRPERSON

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6