

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

of the

Colbert County Commission

07/07/2026

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Isom called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:30 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. Commissioner Mansell offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Isom declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Isom 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 Bailey. Chairman Isom 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 June 16, 2026, meeting minutes, with necessary changes, and waived reading of same.
2. Approved July 7, 2026, bills as presented by the County CFO.
3. Approved Dispatch Contract, for 2027 between 911 and Colbert Co. Sheriff’s Department.
4. Approved Insolvents, Errors, Litigations and Unsold Tax Liens for 2025.
5. Approved Commissioner Tommy Barnes as ACCA Legislative Committee Nominee.
6. Approved requested payment of Unused Annual Leave for Rylie Myrick in the amount of \$178.36.

7. Approved requested payment in the amount of \$2,268.35 to Daniel Rosser for Certified Voters List for the June 16, 2026, Run-Off Election.
8. Approved request for payment for Absentee Election Management to; Jordan Thompson, in the amount of \$400.00, Lydia Haygood in the amount of \$350.00, and Blakely Green in the amount of \$350.00.
9. Approved request for payment to Mark Eady for Absentee Election Manager, in the amount of \$4,200.00.
10. Approved request for payment for Absentee Election Supplies in the amount of \$122.95.
11. Adopted the following resolution approving the expenditure of \$70,080.97 of 287(g) funds for the purchase and outfitting of a Ford F-150 Responder patrol vehicle for the Colbert County Sheriff's Department:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0035

A RESOLUTION APPROVING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS RECEIVED FOR
COLBERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION IN ICE /
287(g) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Colbert County entered into a Service Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement for specific enforcement actions; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund of Colbert County was paid a One Time Stipend / Reimbursement in the amount of \$195,000.00 as a result of the Colbert County Sheriff's Department participation in the 287(g) program; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has responsibility for the allocation and expenditure of monies contained in the County General Fund; and

WHEREAS, Eric Balentine, the Sheriff of Colbert County, is requesting the expenditure of 287(g) funds for law enforcement purposes, specifically, the purchase and outfitting of a patrol vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that having a reliable Sheriff's Department vehicle fleet is an essential element in the protection of the county citizenry. Therefore, the Commission desires to approve the allocation of 287(g) funds for the purchase and outfitting of a Ford F-150 Responder for patrol purposes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission, having deemed that the purchase and outfitting of a vehicle for the Sheriff's Department is a necessary, reasonable, and proportionate expenditure of the 287(g) funds, elects to allocate \$70,080.97 of the 287(g) funds for the purchase and outfitting of a Ford F-150 Responder vehicle for the Sheriff's Department.

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12. Adopted the following resolution approving the expenditure of \$22,183.50 of 287(g) funds for the purchase of bullet proof vests for the Colbert County Sheriff's Department:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0034

A RESOLUTION APPROVING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS RECEIVED FOR
COLBERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION IN ICE /
287(g) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Colbert County entered into a Service Agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement for specific enforcement actions; and

WHEREAS, the General Fund of Colbert County was paid a One Time Stipend / Reimbursement in the amount of \$195,000.00 as a result of the Colbert County Sheriff's Department participation in the 287(g) program; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has responsibility for the allocation and expenditure of monies contained in the County General Fund; and

WHEREAS, Eric Balentine, the Sheriff of Colbert County, is requesting the expenditure of 287(g) funds for law enforcement purposes, specifically, the purchase of bullet proof vests for Sheriff's Department personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the need to protect Sheriff's Department personnel while in the performance of their duties is essential. Therefore, the Commission desires to approve the allocation of 287(g) funds for the purchase of bullet proof vests for the protection of personnel.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission, having deemed that the purchase of bullet proof vests for the protection of Sheriff's Department personnel is a necessary, reasonable, and proportionate expenditure of the 287(g) funds, elects to allocate \$22,183.50 of the 287(g) funds for the purchase of bullet proof vests for the Sheriff's Department.

13. Adopted the following resolution selecting Engineers of the South as the engineering firm for the County's Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY25 Supplemental Disaster funding application:
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RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0033

A RESOLUTION SELECTING AN ENGINEERING FIRM FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) FY25 SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission published a legal advertisement in the Times Daily newspaper on May 26, 2026, soliciting statements of qualifications from professional engineering companies to provide services on an as-needed basis; and

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission followed local, state, and federal procurement guidelines by forming a list of pre-approved vendors to be called upon as needed for a period of three (3) years from the publication date referenced above; and

WHEREAS, each set of qualifications received was reviewed and, using the evaluation factors identified in the legal advertisement, assigned a score to determine the most qualified and advantageous firm for Colbert County's planned EDA request; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Evaluation and Selection Committee has determined Engineers of the South to be the responsible firm most advantageous for the Colbert County Commission to use for submission of its EDA application, as well as the design, inspection, and implementation of the EDA project, should the County's EDA request be funded.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission that it has determined Engineers of the South to be the responsible firm best suited to assist Colbert County with submission of an application for FY25 EDA Supplemental Disaster grant funding.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Colbert County Commission authorizes its Chairman to enter into a contract with Engineers of the South to provide the full range of engineering services necessary for the successful design, inspection, and implementation of the EDA grant project, should the County's EDA request be funded.

14. Approved proclamation, Saddle Up for St. Jude/Shenandoah.

15. Approved appointment, Muscle Shoals Regional Airport Board to applicant Dr. William Collignon Jr.

16. Approved reappointment to the N.W. AL. Regional Healthcare Board of Dr. Alford Boyd Jr. and Melanie Huguley.

17. Approved letter support for application to create Opportunity Zones.
18. Approved change order to Limestone Building Group for full replacement of roof on building “B”, office tower, of the Justice Center in the amount of \$260,145.00, taken out of Capital Improvement.
19. Approved half page Ad request for a Special Helen Keller addition of the Colbert County Reporter in the amount of \$394.00.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairman Isom 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 Creekmore announced that Tomato Sandwich Day will be held on the lawn, Friday July 31. And, the 250th yr. celebration will be held on the courthouse lawn August 1. More details to come. Riley Myrick was terminated from the Road Department effective June 18, 2026. Donald Gonzalez was hired at HHG as a 30-hr. PT Litter Crew member, beginning June 19 with the starting pay of \$12.73/hr. On July 2, Donald Gonzalez was then moved to HHG FT Helper with the starting pay of \$14.74/hr. On July 6, Kevin McKinney was also hired at the HHG agency as 30 hr. PT Litter Crew with a starting pay of \$12.73/hr. Creekmore informed the Commission that on the next agenda the board appointment to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourism Association Board where CFO Eaton now sits currently.

County CFO:

CFO Eaton provided the Commission with a revenue and expenditure report. There are a few departments that are over budget, however, they are uncontrollable costs such as insurance, vehicle repairs, overtime due to call outs, etc. Eaton is happy to report that in early June, we finished spending all the Covid money. Eaton has 2 remaining reports, and it will be completed. In the next week, she will be preparing the budget preliminary to send to department heads. She will present a few budget meeting dates at the next meeting. Eaton reported that RSVP was awarded \$103,000. We can only pay back the Commission 1 month worth which is \$5,000.

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report

County Engineer:

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Tommy Barnes stated that he was at the Shoals Solid Waste meeting last week and Spring Valley Solar / Urban Grid in the Cotton Flats is back active. They want to activate their options of land. Barnes thought it was a dead subject. Barnes stated that when the Shoals Solid Waste Authority approved that option, they thought it was just for the landfill. They will see what their options are and will provide the details later. The mayors are supportive of whatever the county wants to do. He stated that he is not anti-solar, he just does not like the location in the historic area.

Barnes addressed Jake stating that they will have to keep their eyes on the County Road Line and 2nd street area stating that we've got to get that cleaned up eventually or it will drag on to the end of the year.

Barnes stated that he was honored to meet and have a good conversation with Governor Andy Beshear of Kentucky.

Commissioner Bailey stated that there was the unveiling of the historical marker at Leighton Training School, Saturday July 4th. Bailey said that they had a good turn-out. Lots of folks were in town for the Class reunions and the 4th.

Commissioner Bailey announced that the W. C. Handy Brochures are available and are also available on the website at <https://wchandymusicfestival.com> for view. The festival begins July 15th and the headliner will be a little different this year. It will be free and held at the Renaissance. Commissioner Bailey stated that there are a number of events happening in Colbert County which have increased quite a bit. There will be Riverside Jams at Riverfront Park, and an event will be held at the Willie Green Center in Tuscumbia. We already have things going on in the streets and Russell BBQ is doing something everyday.

The Mayor of Muscle Shoals is welcoming everyone to their big street party. Commissioner Bailey expressed her excitement to see an increase in support. Bailey announced that there is a display at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art through August 1. It is about Muscle Shoals musical heritage and includes WZZA. She states that there are lots of interesting things happening that are making places in Colbert County more of a destination that brings people here and this benefits our local economy. She stated that she is really proud of what we're doing here and thanks the Commission for its support.

Being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was duly adjourned.

COMMISSIONER BARNES, DIST. 1

COMMISSIONER MANSELL, DIST. 2

COMMISSIONER GARDINER, DIST. 3

COMMISSIONER BAILEY, DIST. 4

COMMISSIONER BENDALL, DIST. 5

CHAIRMAN ISOM, DIST. 6