

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
08/03/2021

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Bendall called the work session to order at 5:02 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 6:17 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 except Commissioner Barnes, who was absent. Commissioner Tyrus Mansell offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Bendall declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. John Elkington gave an update on the progress of the Inspiration Landing project. Mr. Elkington presented the Commissioners with an economic impact study which stated shows that the development is an economic engine that will employ 736 people. The project is designed to enhance tourism by leveraging our area’s natural resources and our music heritage.

Pastor Greg Beasley, pastor of Valley Grove church addressed the Commission and commented that while he is not against economic development, he had received information that Mr. Elkington had plans for construction of a gambling casino as part of the Inspiration Landing project. He went on to say that if the Alabama Legislature were to pass a gambling bill there could be a casino here. Mr. Elkington responded, stating that there are no current plan and has never been any plan to locate a casino in the Inspiration Landing development. Pastor Beasley asked the Commission to oppose any future bills that would expand gambling in the State which may arise in the Alabama Legislature and pleaded with the Commissioners to research the subject. Commissioner Bailey responded that revenue is being lost to other states thru lack of gambling and that there is a degree of responsibility on individuals to make good decisions.

Mr. Dwight Wilson, counselor for gamblers anonymous addressed the Commission and stated that gambling is destroying lives and families.

Mr. Stanback owns property in the county and addressed the Commission expressed his opposition to an additional monument for James Deshler being placed on the Courthouse Lawn. He also expressed that Deshler High School’s name should be changed to someone who represents all people. He says that it’s time. Chairman Bendall informed him that any name change of Deshler High School would be the responsibility of the Tuscumbia Board of Education. Commissioner Bailey stated she has attended a meeting to speak against adding an additional confederate monument on the Courthouse lawn. She pointed out that change has been made in the Courthouse. The daughters of the confederacy no longer occupies a room in the Courthouse She reiterated Chairman Bendall’s statement that the Commission does not have the authority to change the name of the school.

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

Rhonda Hovater, Colbert County representative on the board of directors for Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, gave a report to the Commission which detailed the Association’s efforts on behalf of the Shoals area to promote tourism. This includes print and social media showcasing our music heritage, area amenities, and natural resources.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Keith Reeves presented to the Commission an award presented to the Colbert County Emergency Management Agency from the Alabama Resource Conservation & Development Council for Outstanding Partnership. This plaque will be placed in Administrator Creekmore's office.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bendall announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Gardiner made motion to adopt and approve the matters placed on the consent agenda during the work session. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Mansell. Chairman Bendall 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 July 20, 2021 minutes and approved the same as written.
2. Approved payment of Aug 3, 2021 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
3. Approved a non-exclusive Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Southeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. to construct, operate, and maintain a cable television system within the geographic boundaries of Colbert County.
4. Approved payment of accrued, unused Annual Leave for Etta Mask in the amount of \$3,513.60.
5. Approved use of Courthouse lawn by the Colbert County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, the Muscle Shoals Fire Department, the Tuscumbia Fire Department, and the Sheffield Fire Department on October 4, 2021 from 5:00 PM until 10:00 PM for Fire Prevention Night.
6. Set Budget Hearings on Tuesday, August 10th and Wednesday, August 18th both starting at 5:00 P.M in the Colbert County Courthouse and directed the County Administrator to post public notice of the same.
7. Approved bid of Rogers Group, Inc. for completion of CDBG Project # CY-CM-PF-20-010 amount of \$253,424.00 by adoption of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2021-0052

A RESOLUTION TO AWARD COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION CDBG PROJECT #CY-CM-PF-20-010

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission has duly advertised and received construction bids for CDBG Project #CY-CM-PF-20-010-Drainage; and

WHEREAS, Rogers Group, Inc., Tuscumbia, Alabama has submitted the sole responsive bid for this project; and

WHEREAS, Rogers Group, Inc., has been determined not to be on the list of Ineligible Contractors;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION that the bid of Rogers Group, Inc., in the amount of \$253,424.00 is hereby approved and awarded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Darol Bendall, as Chairperson of the Commission, be and he is hereby authorized to sign contract documents with Rogers Group, Inc., for the completion of CDBG Project #CY-CM-PF-20-010 in the amount of \$253,424.00.

8. Approved Dispatch Agreement with Colbert County Emergency Management Communications District to fulfil general dispatch needs of Colbert County Sheriff's Department for Fiscal Year 2022..
9. Approved Maintenance Agreement for FEMA Grant Application.
10. Reappointed Ty McConnell to a seat on the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport Authority Board of Directors as requested by the Lauderdale County Commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Proposed Noise Ordinance was sent back to Ordinance Committee for changes and re-consideration.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Chairman Bendall 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 introduced Jake Flannagan as the County's new Solid Waste Manager with a beginning yearly salary of \$42, 242.00. Vivian Nikki Faulkner was hired in the Sheriff's Department as a Criminal Clerk with a beginning yearly salary of \$27,661.00.00. Sammy Washington has been hired as SRO in the Sheriff's Department with a beginning pay of \$15.00/hr. with no benefits. Courtney Hunt was hired in the Revenue Commissioners Office at \$11.04/hr. Administrator Creekmore also reported that Donovan Holt was transferred to the position of Colbert County Jail Booking Officer. Dakota has been hired as PT Booking Officer in the Sheriff's Department at \$10.26/hr. Jamie Klaska has been promoted to Chief Deputy Sheriff with a beginning yearly salary of \$46,009.15. He reported that there is an opening on the 911 Board, Bear Creek Authority Board and the DHR Board. There is a joint appointment with Lauderdale County to reappoint Mr. Ty McConnell to the Northwest Alabama Airport Authority Board.

Chief Financial Officer:

CFO April Eaton reported that after discussion with EMA, a new bank account would be opened to for processing and tracking expenditures associated with the CBDG -CV Grant. Ms. Eaton also briefed the Commission on her attendance to the IAC meeting in Montgomery, and provided each Commissioner with copy of a power point presentation which outlines the objectives of the IAC participation offering. She reported that Kelly Gilligan has been hired as director of the IAC program. A computer program is in the final development process which will be accessible to all participating counties that will allow counties to track the progress of projects, expenditures and be able to produce all necessary reports.

County Attorney:

No Report

EMA Director:

Jody Hitt reported on the COVID spike. The report was 6,721 and as of today COVID has risen with 31 more cases making it a total of 6,752 positive tests in the last 7 days.

County Engineer:

Chief Engineer Jeremy Robison reported that they have completed the County Line Road Bridge project and that the bridge has reopened. He also mentioned that lightning hit Road Department building causing a temporary interruption in telephone service to the building.

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gardiner noted the success of the Saddle Up for St. Jude Trail Ride and the W. C. Handy Music Festival and commended Household Garbage and Shoals Solid Waste for great

work during the event. He also thanked Assistant County Engineer Charles King for his commitment to the St. Jude event. Commissioner Gardiner thanked everyone for their support and volunteering. He also would like to encourage more to volunteer. Commissioner Bailey congratulated Commissioner Gardiner for his success with the trail ride and thanked the Commission as well for its support. She reported that during the W.C. Handy Festival Event, 26 people received the Covid-19 vaccination. She also mentioned that Colbert County was featured in the nationally released movie called Respect based on the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

Chairman Bendall announced that there was no further business to come before the Commission, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 P.M.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6