

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
1/21/2025

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairperson Bailey called the work session to order at 5:03 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:25 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. Chairperson Baily welcomed Commissioner Isom back. This is Commissioner Isom's first meeting since his illness. Isom stated that it is good to be back. He stated that he felt all the prayers while in the operating room and during recovery and said the power of prayer goes a long way. Isom said that prayers were the reason he's back and thanked God for his recovery. Commissioner Gardiner 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

Charles Speegle, director of Colbert Animal Services, presented Commissioner Bendall and Chairperson Bailey with a plaque in appreciation for all the support each has shown to the Animal Shelter. Speegle stated that Commissioner Bendall has really made a difference in the spay and neuter program. Close to 150 animals have already been spayed and neutered with the ARPA funds allocated by Commissioner Bendall and there is currently a 3-month backlog of animals waiting to be spayed or neutered. The director thanked Chairperson Bailey for her confidence in him and for appropriating funds for the medical side of the shelter which has also made a big difference. The plaques were read aloud by both Commissioner Bendall and Chairperson Bailey and each expressed their appreciation for the recognition.

Frank Renaldo, a spokesperson of the Spay and Neuter Coalition of the Shoals, was recognized and allowed to address the Commission. The Coalition is a new non-profit, formed a few months ago to establish a low cost spay and neuter clinic for the Shoals. He ran the same kind of non-profit for Huntsville from 2008-2010. Renaldo stated that he has the knowledge and understanding of what it takes to put together a spay/neuter facility from the ground up. He provided a hand out to the Commission and would be happy to talk to anyone about the program, which will continue to work with animal control facilities in efforts to control the population of cats and dogs.

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 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 payment of January 21, 2025 bills as presented by the Chief Financial Officer.
2. Approved purchase of a full page advertisement in the Times Daily Progress Edition at the rate of \$1,458.50, the same cost as last year.
3. Approved proposal to adjust legal service rates for County Attorney Edgar Black. Per the proposal, Mr. Black's hourly rate will increase from \$150.00 to \$185.00 and the monthly retainer will increase from \$500.00 to \$750.00. The hourly increase is effective immediately and the increase to the monthly retainer will take effect on February 1, 2025.
4. Approved request for donation of fifty (50) hours of annual leave from Briggs Wright of the Sheriff Dept. to Keisha Adams in the Jail Corrections unit.

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: Gregory Beck who worked front door security, resigned January 17th. Isabel Aniles has been hired as Administrative Assistant I, Collections Clerk, in the Revenue Commissioner's office, effective February 3. Her starting payrate will be \$13.17/hr.; \$27,389.23 annually. Kayle Frederick has accepted the position of Real Property Trainee in the Revenue Commissioner's Appraisal Department, effective January 15. Her payrate is set at Grade 7 Step 1. The Lauderdale County Commission informs the Colbert County Commission of the re-appointment of Barry Auchly to the Northwest Alabama Regional Airport Board. Gregory Keeton of the Household Garbage Department has been promoted to Full Time HGCA Helper, effective Jan. 16 at the rate of \$14.31/hr. Ryann Murphy and Seren Young have both completed the Alabama Certified licensing Administrator course and now qualify for the 5% raise which comes with the certification.

County CFO:

CFO April Eaton made the following report: Eaton gave the Commission a financial report thru December 31 (Q1, FY 2024-25). Eaton stated that the 1st quarter of the fiscal year is when many larger yearly amounts are paid. As a result, many categories show as overbudget for the quarter. An update on Mt. Lake Tourism Association meeting will be given at the next meeting.

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report

County Engineer:

County Engineer Jeremy Robison made the following report: Robison thanked the Commission for their support during the snow a couple weeks ago. He stated that the department used a lot of the calcium chloride that had been purchased in advance, along with using the new spreaders. The department's snow response went well. Robison is hopeful that this will be the last snow of the season.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnes provided an update on recent and ongoing renovations at the Sheffield Senior Center.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

CHAIRPERSON

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6