

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Colbert County Commission 08/26/2025

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Bendall called the work session to order at 5:05 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:31 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. Tommy Barnes offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Bendall declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Reburn began by reiterating that she was not there to speak about a dog. It is about her family, future family, neighbors, friends and community. At 8:30 July 22, her daughter-in-law, Katherine, had her 2 unleashed dogs out for a walk. She saw a red truck pull over on the side of the road and let out 2 growling German Shepards of which one charged her and her dogs. The German Shepard pinned and attacked the smallest dog. Katherine’s Siberian Husky defended her all the while Katherine yelling at the owner of the German Shepard for him to help. The man did not help. His retreated dog jumped into the back of red truck. The man put a rope up and then drove off. Reburn discovered that we are unincorporated and have limited law enforcement and authority. But we do have some authority and some law at large and feel we need to use that.

The Sheriff and DA spoke with her, and the Sheriff has agreed to take this case to court which could result in a \$2 to \$50 fine for this long repeat offender in the community. She believes that the Judge could add some court fees but is not certain but feels that we could look at repeat offenders coming back through. Since the incident he has been warned by a Deputy Sargent and Lieutenant. The offender is fighting the summons and is still doing it. So, his actions don’t show that he cares. Reburn says, we need to stop this. Reburn pointed out that there is Emily’s Law, but it is interpreted by our legal leaders as basically about being reactive and unfortunately someone has to be seriously injured or killed for it to go into phase. This law has not been helpful.

Reburn handed out data sheet taken from the CDC’s website showing dog attack fatalities in the U.S. and showing an accelerating trend. In addition, per-capita dog attack rates, 2018-2023 which shows Alabama as 2nd in the country for dog attack fatalities.

Ms. Reburn is hoping that the Alabama Legislature will take positive action to address this issue and asks for the County Commission to support efforts for positive change.

Commissioner Bailey stated that they have discussed this issue at the Colbert Animal Services and invited Mrs. Reburn to attend and have an open discussion regarding this matter. The meetings are held every Friday at 9:00 A.M. at the Muscle Shoals City Hall.

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bendall 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 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. Approved Aug 5, 2025, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
2. Approved August 26, 2025, bills as presented by County C.F.O.
3. Approved agreement with the North Alabama Council of Local Governments and Colbert County for storage and maintenance services for vehicles.
4. Approved Colbert Justice Center bid to Limestone Building Group in the amount of \$35,097,270.00
5. Approved NACOLG Non-Elected Board Appointments for the following individuals to serve a one-year term ending September 30, 2026 the appointees are: Paul Michael, Eddie Russell, Casheta Rutland and Walter Smallwood.
6. Approved re-appointment of Jeremy Robison to a 3-year term, ending October 1, 2028, to the Shoals Economic Development Authority Board.
7. Approved Requested Unused Annual Leave for Anthony Posey in the amount of \$1193.76.
8. Approved FY 2026 County Transportation Plan as presented by the County Engineer.
9. Approved county engineer to proceed with application for SEDF Grant for Haley Drive, in the Barton Riverfront Park.
10. Approved to set a public hearing for the Dollar General, 2001 Hatton School Road, Leighton, AL., application for sales of off Premises beer and wine for Sept 16th, 2025
11. Approved Budget meeting Dates for Monday, Sept. 15 at 5 PM and Tuesday the 16th at 4:30 PM if needed.
12. Approved Requested Unused Requested Annual Leave for Robert Rodriguez in the amount of \$344.16.
13. Approved Requested BOR, Re-allocation of days from Mary Isom to Dan Riley.
14. Approved Cherokee Property Purchase from Estes Brothers Construction in the amount of \$380,000.00, the be paid from the Road and Bridge fund.
15. Approved Resolution for issuance of additional bonds for justice center financing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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 made the following reports: The NACOLG annual fish fry will be held Thursday, August 28 at 6:00 P.M. at the Sweetwater Depot in Florence.

A 911 Board Appointment will be on the September 16 agenda, requests for applications will be placed on the Commission webpage.

From the County Road Department, Anthony Strickland was hired as an HMT 1, effective Sept. 1, 2025 with a beginning salary of \$29,827.20. Jonathan Martin resigned effective August 11, 2025,

Charles Jackson resigned effective August 15, 2025 and Robert Rodriguez resigned effective August 22.

From the Colbert County Sheriff’s Department; Sabrina Gadd will begin work as a full-time CPR Certified Corrections Deputy, effective August 16, with a beginning salary of \$33,644.48. James Luke Nichols will begin work as a full time Corrections Deputy, effective August 16, with a beginning salary of \$32,985.27 and Luther Posey will begin work as a Part Time Sheriff’s Deputy, effective August 06, at an hourly rate of \$15.45 / hr.

From Colbert Household Garbage, Gregory Keaton was terminated on August 12, 2025

From Colbert EMA, Cooper Johnson resigned his position effective August 26, 2025.

County CFO:
No Report

County Attorney:
No Report

E-911/EMA Director:
No Report

County Engineer:
No Report

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS
None

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6