

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
11/04/2025

The Colbert County Commission met today in regular session at the Colbert County Courthouse. Chairman Bendall called the work session to order at 5:01 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:22 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 with the exception of Commissioner Tyrus Mansell. Commissioner Tommy Barnes offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Bendall declared that a quorum was present for the purpose of the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Melinda Smith and Mrs. Angela Green, the 4H agent assistant in Colbert County, were in attendance with 4H students. Melinda Smith stated that this offers a great opportunity for the students to see how the Commission operates and how Government works at the county level as well as experiencing civic engagement, getting involved, and giving them an opportunity to develop their personal growth through their endeavors with 4H. Smith says that she is here to learn as well. She states that it is also a chance for the 4H’s to network and gain partnerships. She expresses her appreciation for everything that the Commission does for 4H.

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

None

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson 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 Isom. 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 Oct 21, 2025, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
2. Approved Nov 4, 2025, bills as presented by the County C.F.O.
3. Approved C.F.O. Eaton to obtain an increase of \$5,000.00 to the credit limit for the County Administrator’s Visa Card.
4. Approved a resolution to obtain a loan of up to \$300,00.00 for Patrol Car Purchases through First Metro Bank as follows:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0002

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COLBERT COUNTY COMMISSION TO
OBTAIN A LOAN FROM FIRST METRO BANK TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF
FIVE (5) FLEET VEHICLES FOR THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Colbert County Commission (the “Commission”) finds that the purchase of five (5) fleet vehicles for the Colbert County Sheriff’s Department is necessary and in the best interest of the County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, First Metro Bank has offered to provide financing for the purchase of said vehicles under the following terms:

- **Loan Amount:** Up to \$300,000
- **Interest Rate:** 5.00% Tax-Free Rate
- **Term:** Six-month draw period with interest payable at maturity, then converting to four (4) annual principal and interest payments
- **Collateral:** Valid title liens on the five (5) new fleet vehicles
- **Prepayment Penalty:** None
- **Closing Costs:** \$325 processing fee plus any attorney’s fees incurred
- **Documentation Required:** Borrowing resolution, legal opinion regarding tax-free status, proof of ability to pledge fleet vehicles, and documentation of budgeted repayment source

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to authorize the borrowing of funds and to execute all necessary documents to complete the loan transaction.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colbert County Commission as follows:

1. **Authorization of Loan.** The Colbert County Commission hereby authorizes the borrowing of up to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) from First Metro Bank for the purpose of financing the purchase of five (5) fleet vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department, under the terms set forth above and as may be further agreed in the final loan documents.
2. **Security.** The loan shall be secured by valid title liens on the five (5) vehicles purchased with the loan proceeds.
3. **Execution of Documents.** The Chairman of the Colbert County Commission, and such other County officials as may be required, are hereby authorized and directed to execute, deliver, and attest all documents and instruments necessary to effectuate the loan and to pledge the collateral described herein.
4. **Repayment.** Repayment of the loan shall be made from funds appropriated in the County budget for this purpose.
5. **Further Acts.** The officers and employees of the County are authorized to take any additional actions necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

5. Approved payment of unused accrued annual leave to Bill Gist in the amount of \$16,992.00.
6. Approved purchase of AED Batteries from Opioid Fund in the amount of \$1,485.00.

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: Annual Farm City Banquet will be held Thursday, November 13 from 11:30-1:00 at the Tuscumbia Methodist Church. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Daniel Campbell has been hired by the Colbert County Sheriff's Department as a Full-Time Corrections Deputy effective November 1, with a beginning salary of \$33,974.83. Brett Bishop will begin work as an APOST certified SRO at Covenant Christian School, effective October 16, with a beginning salary of \$31,416.00. Kirk Jones will begin work as APOST Certified Courthouse Security Deputy, effective October 16, with a beginning salary of \$35,904.00.

Justin Barber resigned from his job at the HHG agency as litter Crew PT per phone effective October 8. Charles Johnson resigned his FT position at the HHG agency on Oct. 22 per phone. Effective Oct 31,

Marilyn Armstrong has resigned as Senior Center. Manager at LaGrange Senior Center due to health reasons, effective October 31. Creekmore stated that we have PT staff at the Center doing a good job and would like to leave it as is for time being because it seems to be working. Commissioners concurred.

There is a request from the Children's Policy Council to use the Courthouse lawn on Easter for a Bunny Hop for the kids. Commissioners concurred.

Creekmore also reported that our long-awaited incinerator is up and running and is doing a phenomenal job. Jake Flanagan reported that we are burning about 12-13 loads a day, which is roughly 70-80 tons. He stated that it burns as fast as you can load it. This should prove to be a substantial money saver. Creekmore commends Flanagan for doing such a good job.

Creekmore reported that the Architect and General contractor is on schedule to start the first phase work for the Justice Center on November 10. This will take approximately 8-10 weeks then demolition will start afterwards. Administrator will facilitate communication for setting a groundbreaking date for the near future.

County CFO:

CFO April Eaton made the following reports: A financial report was provided to the Commissioners for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Eaton pointed out that at the Commission's previous request, any general fund balances of over \$9,000,000.00 would be set aside for future infrastructure improvements. In FY 25, as a result for actual revenues exceeding budget and tight expenditure controls, \$1.6 million was added to the infrastructure set aside. Funds will be placed in a discretionary bank account already established. Administrator Creekmore added that having this amount of money in our infrastructure account will assure that the Commission has ample funding for the TVA sewer line without dipping into General or other funds. This project is absolutely necessary for the Justice Center. Eaton reminds the Commission that the excess revenue reported does not reflect the amount from grants reimbursed from CDBG, or LWCF and RTF park grants .

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report

County Engineer:

County Engineer Jeremy Robison made the following reports: Winter ROW mowing has started but is going slowly due to tractor being out of service due to mechanical issues. Robison stated that he needs to meet with each Commissioner regarding pavement marker project.

NEW BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnes received a call from Bank Independent desiring to change the name of Garage Road to Independent Way. Commissioner Barnes stated he was unclear as to who owns the ROW for Garage Road. EMA Director Hitt stated that the ROW was split between The Cities of Muscle Shoals and Sheffield.

Chairman Bendall thanked Melinda Smith for bringing the 4H students to the meeting.

Administrator Creekmore announced that there will be refreshments downstairs in honor of Russ Corey’s upcoming retirement.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

CHAIRMAN

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 6