

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COLBERT COUNTY)

Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the
Colbert County Commission
4/21/2026

The Colbert County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM, in the Commission Meeting room of the Colbert County Courthouse, being the time and location appointed for such meeting to occur. The Chair called the work session to order at 5:03 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 5:30 p.m. All commissioners answered “present” at the call of the roll except for Commissioner Jimmy Gardiner, who was absent. Commissioner Barnes offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair declared that a quorum was present for the purpose the transaction of business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

BOARD APPOINTEE REPORTS

NONE

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Isom announced that the business before the Commission was the approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Tori Bailey 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 Tyrus Mansell. 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 April 7, 2026, meeting minutes and waived reading of same.
2. Approved April 21, 2026, bills as presented by County C.F.O.
3. Approved Tax Abatement Sales and Use Request Tax Abatement Request from Essity Professional Hygiene North America, LLC associated with the construction of a new warehouse. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0026

This Resolution is made this 21st day of April 2026 (the “Effective Date”) by the Colbert County Commission (the “Granting Authority”), Colbert County, Alabama, to grant a tax abatement for Essity Professional Hygiene North America LLC (the “Company”).

WHEREAS, the Company has announced plans for an expansion project; that being, the construction of a new building and the purchase of machinery and equipment to increase warehousing capacity (the “Project”), located in Colbert County, Alabama, within the jurisdiction of the Granting Authority; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Tax Incentive Reform Act of 1992 (Section 40-9B-1 et seq., **Code of Alabama 1975**, as amended) (the “Act”), the Company has requested from the Granting Authority an abatement of all construction-related transaction taxes, except those construction-related transaction taxes levied for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, except those construction-related transaction taxes locally designated for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, and except the 0.5% general sales and use taxes levied by Colbert County, which pursuant to Alabama Act No. 2007-351 cannot be abated; and

WHEREAS, the Granting Authority has considered the request of the Company and the completed application filed with the Granting Authority by the Company, in connection with its request; and

WHEREAS, the Granting Authority has found the information contained in the Company’s application to be sufficient to permit the Granting Authority to make a reasonable cost/benefit analysis of the proposed project, copy attached as Attachment Two and to determine the economic benefits to the community; and

WHEREAS, the construction and equipping of the Project will involve an estimated capital investment of \$33,8000,000; and

WHEREAS, all construction related taxes, except those local construction related transaction taxes levied for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, the 0.5% general sales and use taxes levied by Colbert County, which pursuant to Alabama Act No. 2007-351 cannot be abated, and/or sales and use taxes accrued on or after the granting of abatements on April 21, 2026, are eligible. None of the above-described abatements are eligible prior to April 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Company is duly qualified to do business in the State of Alabama and has powers to enter into and to perform and observe the agreements and covenants on its part contained in the Tax Abatement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Granting Authority represents and warrants to the Company that it has power under that constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, including particularly the provisions of the Act, to carry out provisions of the Tax Abatement Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Colbert County Commission, the Granting Authority, as follows:

Section 1. Approval is hereby given to the application of the Company and abatement is hereby granted of all construction-related transaction taxes, except those construction-related transaction taxes levied for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, except those construction-related transaction taxes locally designated for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, as the same may apply to the fullest extent permitted by the Tax Incentive Reform Act of 1992 (Section 40-9B-1 et seq., **Code of Alabama 1975**, as amended), and except the 0.5% general sales and use taxes levied by Colbert County, which pursuant to Alabama Act No. 2007-351 cannot be abated.

Section 2. The Granting Authority hereby does not assess a fee associated with the granting of these abatements.

Section 3. The governing body of the Granting Authority is authorized to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with the Company to provide for the abatement granted in Section 1.

Section 4. A certified copy of this Resolution, with the application and Tax Abatement Agreement, shall be forwarded to the Company to deliver to the appropriate local taxing authorities and to the Alabama Department of Revenue in accordance with the Act.

Section 5. The governing body of the Granting Authority is authorized to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to accomplish the purpose of the foregoing of this Resolution.

-
4. Approved Chief Deputy Lee Smith’s Pay Adjustment to cap in the amount of \$52,000 per yr.
 5. Approved Proclamation for Youth Week, May 4, 2026 (Shoals Elks Club)

6. Approved Change to change the date of the meeting scheduled for May 5, 2026, to April 30, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. in the Colbert County Courthouse. The County Administrator is directed to post notice of the change as required by law.
7. Approved Bethel Colbert Church Community Center's request to purchase an advertisement in their ceremonial souvenir booklet for \$100.00.
8. Approved tax abatement request by Hadrian Automation, Inc., and adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-0027

WHEREAS, this Resolution is made this 21st day of April 2026 (the Effective Date) by the Colbert County Commission, Colbert County, Alabama, (the Granting Authority) to grant a tax abatement for Hadrian Automation, Inc. (the Company).

WHEREAS, the Company has announced plans for a new project; that being, the purchase and installation of manufacturing equipment and other personal property (the Project), at 1200 Haley Dr., Cherokee, Colbert County, Alabama, within the jurisdiction of the Granting Authority; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Tax Incentive Reform Act of 1992 (Section 40-9B et seq., **Code of Alabama 1975**, as amended) (the Act), the Company has requested from the Granting Authority an abatement of all state and local noneducational property taxes and all construction-related transaction taxes, except those local construction-related transaction taxes levied for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, except those construction-related transaction taxes locally designated for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, and except the 0.5% general sales and use taxes levied by Colbert County, which pursuant to Alabama Act No. 2007-351 cannot be abated; and

WHEREAS, the Company has requested that the abatement of state and local noneducational property taxes be extended for a period of ten (10) years, in accordance with the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Granting Authority has considered the request of the Company and the completed Application to Granting Authority for Abatement of Taxes from Hadrian Automation, Inc., copy attached as Attachment One, and Application to Granting Authority for Abatement of Taxes from Hadrian Automation, Inc., copy attached as Attachment Two, filed with the Granting Authority by the Company in connection with their request; and

WHEREAS, the Granting Authority has found the information contained in the Company's applications to be sufficient to permit the Granting Authority to make a reasonable cost/benefit analysis of the proposed Project and to determine the economic benefits to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Project will involve an investment of approximately \$321,500,000, which consists of the purchase and installation of manufacturing equipment by Hadrian Automation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Company is duly qualified to do business in the State of Alabama and have powers to enter into and to perform and observe the agreements and covenants on their part contained in the Tax Abatement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Granting Authority represents and warrants to the Company that it has power under that constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, including particularly the provisions of the Act, to carry out provisions of the Tax Abatement Agreement.

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

Section 1. Approval is hereby given to the applications of the Company and abatement is hereby granted of all state and local noneducational property taxes and all construction-related transaction taxes, except those local construction-related transaction taxes levied for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, except those construction-related transaction taxes locally designated for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education, as the same may apply to the fullest extent permitted by the Tax Incentive Reform Act of 1992 (Section 40-9B-1 et seq., **Code of Alabama 1975**, as amended), and except the 0.5% general sales and use taxes levied by Colbert County, which pursuant to Alabama Act No. 2007-351 cannot be abated.

Section 2. The period of abatement for the state and local noneducational property taxes shall extend for a period of ten (10) years measured as provided in the Act, unless the Company ceases operation for which these property tax abatements are granted. Should the Company cease operation the abatements granted herein are considered null and void.

Section 3. Any other property, real or personal, located in Colbert County, Alabama, and owned by Hadrian Automation, Inc., being the sole member of Hadrian Automation, Inc is not included in this tax abatement.

Section 4. The Granting Authority hereby does not assess a fee associated with the granting of these abatements.

Section 5. The governing body of the Granting Authority is authorized to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with the Company to provide for the abatement granted in Section 1 and Section 2.

Section 6. A certified copy of this Resolution, with the applications and Tax Abatement Agreement, shall be forwarded to the Company to deliver to the appropriate local taxing authorities and to the Alabama Department of Revenue in accordance with the Act.

Section 7. The governing body of the Granting Authority is authorized to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to accomplish the purpose of the foregoing of this Resolution.

Chairman Isom called for the yeas and nays and announced the results as 4 yeas and 0 nays, with Commissioner Barnes abstaining. Chairman Isom announced that the consent agenda had passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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 Roger Creekmore made the following reports: From the Water Department, Christian Haney was hired as Water Clerk effective April 20 with a beginning salary of \$35,755.20. From the Road Department, Justin Franks, Jessie Hunt and Nathan Garrison were promoted to Step 1 foreman effective April 16. Also from the Road Department, Brandon Harrison was hired as a mechanic effective May 1. Harrison's starting salary will be \$36,046.40. Mrs. Ninon Parker sent a reminder to the Commissioners of the Celtic Festival held on May 9 at Belmont Mansion promising a very good show. Creekmore stated that he had a conversation with Mayor Billings regarding the farmer's market. They have a tentative agreement based upon them being able to get set up and something in writing, Billings stated that the city of Tuscumbia wants to house the farmers market in Spring Creek. Creekmore suggests to the commission that they do not open it in the current location in Sheffield and work with the City of Tuscumbia to bring it to Spring Park. Creekmore asks the commission's indulgence to help the city out by contributing signage on Woodmont Dr. He believes that this is a move in the right direction because the market was dying for lack of business at its last location and couldn't attract vendors.

County CFO:

No Report

County Attorney:

No Report

E-911/EMA Director:

No Report

County Engineer:

Chief Engineer Jeremy Robison made the following reports: Summer mowing will start next week. The contracted herbicide spraying company hired out last summer did a really good job. The contractor stated that if they sprayed 3 times a year, the county wouldn't have to do summer mowing. Robison gave them a 20-mile test section to test and see if that was the case. He will report back at the end of next summer with the results. Robison also reported that the pavement marker and maps will be coming in the next week or the following week.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Barnes stated that in preparation for next year's budget, he would like to focus on the growth along the river especially in his district. We have the NPO project that they have done the study for and is going to try to get to the engineering up to the 3 lane to RTJ. Barnes said that with that comes some utility advancement and comprehensive plans. Also, Commissioner Barnes has been trying to get with TVA regarding Reservation Road. Barnes thinks it's up to us to take the lead over the summer and get TVA onboard. He and NACOLG will be meeting with TVA and others about this matter this week. Barnes reported that the overpass is close to 30% completed on the grant that is being handled by Volkert. He feels that we need more comprehensive plans involving all the commissioners to get more involved in our potential growth. Isom stated that it will have some impact on some potential builders to come in and subdivide property because there is some potential there and we need to welcome the request. It may be something we can't afford but we need to talk to them about it. We just want to welcome everyone into Colbert County. Isom feels that we have made a lot of progress in the last several years and we still have a lot to do.

Commissioner Bendal read an excerpt from stating that, in the last year the Colbert County Community Development committee chose a first of its kind project for the construction of a safer place and shelter with the \$20,000 grant recipient being the Cowboy Church of Colbert County. This project is now completed. It offers a lower cost innovative solution to offer protection to our citizens in severe weather events. Bendall thanked the Cowboy Church of Colbert County, members of the CCCDC, legislative delegation, CFO Bearden, Administrator Creekmore, EMA/E911's Hitt and Reaves and all of those that helped to make it become a reality.

Commissioner Mansell stated that if you have driven by the courthouse at night, you would have noticed that the East side of the courthouse is lit up in the color blue, accompanied by blue pin-wheels for Children's Awareness Month. Kim Bevis and Chelsay Lawson along with their crew are doing an outstanding job for our little ones that are abused. They have a wonderful set-up where there are councilors, nurses and investigators to make it homely with a nice atmosphere. This is to make it easier for the children to open up and discuss their issues. Mansell also thanked Sheriff Balentine for working with them. They will be meeting on the courthouse lawn this Thursday, April 23rd at 7:30 P.M. for pictures.

Commissioner Bailey gave a special thank you to Commissioner Bendall and his work with Jody Hitt to make Leighton Training School a safer place as well. Bailey mentioned that we held off on one section of road on Sockwell Rd. and are not going to place reflectors until it has been paved next year. Bailey asked Engineer Robison if there will be enough reflector to go back and place them on said road? Robison responded by saying that every road that gets paved and stripped will have markers. Commissioner Bailey stated that she is so proud to have Bank Independent as neighbors next to the new Justice Center. It has been most beneficial to our Justice Center.

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4

COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

CHAIRMAN