

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

The Lauderdale County Commission convened at the Lauderdale County Courthouse in the City of Florence, Alabama at 5:00 p.m. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2018. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Lauderdale County Commission, Danny Pettus. Upon roll call, the following members answered present:

Danny Pettus	Chairman
Brad Holmes	Commissioner, District 1
Roger Garner	Commissioner, District 1
Joe Hackworth	Commissioner, District 2
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2
Legal Counsel:	
Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney

Chairman Pettus, upon declaration of a quorum being present, opened the meeting for the transaction of business.

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was delivered by Commissioner Roger Garner.

Awards and Presentations: None

Public Comments on Agenda items: None

Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that all items listed on the regular business agenda be approved for immediate consideration. There being no

discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Agenda is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner that the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Commission be approved for recording. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to approve a resolution authorizing the Lauderdale County Commission to enter into a contract with White, Lynn, Collins, and Associates for additional structural engineering services for the renovation of an existing facility to be used as a female dormitory for the Lauderdale County Detention Center. The Scope of Work will consist of analyzing the existing metal frame structure to determine its adequacy to support the proposed loads from the planned renovations. The charge for the additional engineering services is six thousand dollars. Any budget amendment that may be needed is herein authorized and approved. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion is unanimously approved. Resolution and a copy of the contract are herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to approve a resolution authorizing a voting location change for precinct 10-12-3. It has been determined that Mars Hill School is not sufficient due to security, traffic, and safety concerns. Lauderdale County Probate Judge, William Motlow, requested that the voting location for precinct 10-12-3 be moved from Mars Hill School to St. James United Methodist Church which is located at 610 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence, Alabama. Judge Motlow requested this change to improve voter participation by providing a better location with easy accessibility and within ADA compliance. Commissioner Parker thanked Judge Motlow for moving the voting location and for his recommendations. Commissioner Hackworth asked Judge Motlow when the voter precinct change will be effective and Judge Motlow replied that the change will be in place before the June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 primary election. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion is unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to approve a resolution authorizing a voting location change for precinct 10-8. Lauderdale County Probate Judge, William Motlow, requested that the voting location for precinct 10-8 be moved from Harlan School to Fairgrounds Road Senior Center which is located at 415 Fairgrounds Road, Florence, Alabama as it will be a more suitable voting location and is ADA compliant. Judge Motlow requested this change to improve voter participation. This voting location change for precinct 10-8 requires annexing property north of Fairgrounds Road and south of Cox Creek Parkway between Wood Avenue and Chisholm Road into precinct 10-8 from precinct 10-11. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion is unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve a resolution that authorizes the Lauderdale County Commission to allow the Lauderdale County Road Department to begin their summer work schedule which is four ten hour work days, Monday through Thursday of each week. The new schedule will begin on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and shall be in effect until further notice. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion is unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve a resolution that authorizes the Lauderdale County Commission to upgrade the County's instant notification alarm button system. The Lauderdale County Commission has the upmost concern for the safety of employees and Lauderdale County citizens when they are working or visiting County buildings. The new notification system will be purchased from SecureTech Systems, Inc. of Irving, Texas for a one time cost of twenty four thousand six hundred dollars which will be paid out of the General Fund. Commissioner Holmes asked about the security of the system and how it works. Lauderdale County Administrator, Brenda Bryant, stated that the system will transmit alert alarms to local police and sheriff personnel. Ms. Bryant also stated that there will be ninety alarm buttons located in the Courthouse and surrounding buildings also. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Lauderdale County License Commissioner, Rodney Pettus, requested approval to work a part time employee full time for the next twelve weeks while one of his full time employees is out on Family Medical Leave. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Approval is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

The Lauderdale County Commission requested that Fay Parker be appointed to the One Place of the Shoals Board. This appointment will begin immediately and end on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Holmes to approve the Board appointment. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Board appointment is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

The invoiced bills were audited, allowed, and ordered to be paid upon a motion by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Garner. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

CHECKS ISSUED JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 THROUGH JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2018

GENERAL-SPECIAL CHECK # 52963-53015	\$744,365.94
AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK # 3624	\$48.00
LEPA FUND CHECK # 7929-7935	\$4,496.21
GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 16606-16619	\$146,750.10
PUBLIC BLDG., R & B SPECIAL CHECK # 450	\$90.00
PUBLIC HIGHWAY & TRAFFIC FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
AL. TRUST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 653	\$14,014.60
REAPPRAISAL FUND CHECK # 11248-11255	\$22,560.43
REAPPRAISAL MONEY MARKET CHECK # 564	\$100,000.00
TOURISM, REC. & CONVENTION FUND CHECK # 464	\$1,210.00
RSVP FUND CHECK # 17051-17056	\$2,441.32
CHILD PROTECTION FUND CHECK # 1213	\$733.89
SERIES 2001 DEBT SERVICE FUND CHECK # 261	\$12,360.21
CDBG FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00

SOLID WASTE FUND CHECK # 7107-7119	\$110,834.82
ACCOUNT PAYABLE FUND CHECK # 39784-39826 (VOID #39824)	\$196,544.89
FIRE PROTECTION FEE FUND CHECK # 4380-4393	\$307,838.44
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
TOBACCO TAX FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
TVA TAX FUND CHECK # 5576-5588	\$388,971.92
Total	\$2,053,260.77

Scheduled Public Hearings: None

Staff Reports: None

Public Comment Period: Jean Ann Lawrence of 4489 County Road 16, Florence, Alabama distributed a written statement regarding her concerns about the closed bridge on County Road 16. A copy of Ms. Lawrence’s statement will be attached and recorded as part of the minutes. After the reading of Ms. Lawrence’s statement, Chairman Pettus asked the Lauderdale County Engineer, Eric Hill, to address some of Ms. Lawrence’s questions. Mr. Hill stated that there has been no approval from anyone to build a bridge on County Road 16 and that an archeologist was at the bridge site last week. Mr. Hill stated that if the County had been given approval to build a bridge, then the County would be building a bridge however, there is a process that has to be followed. In addressing the Luverne, Alabama city engineer’s comments, Mr. Hill stated that there is no “cookie cutter” approach to building a bridge at this location. Mr. Hill also stated that the elevation of a new bridge would need to be at least eight feet higher so that the bridge would not flood like the closed bridge does. Mr. Hill stated that the current bridge is not repairable and it can’t be reinforced, the bridge must be replaced. Chairman Pettus stated that Mr. Hill is working toward a new bridge and that we are not backing away from building a bridge but we do have to follow requirements. Jennifer Patrick of 4587 County Road

16, Florence, Alabama thanked Mr. Hill for always being available and being very patient with them and all of their questions. Ms. Patrick asked if all bridge projects require an archeology study because this bridge is not unique to artifacts, all bridges have artifacts. Martha Ringelstein of 4545 County Road 16, Florence, Alabama stated that she felt like the height of the bridge was the reason that a new bridge was not being built. Mr. Hill stated that the design of the bridge is part of the path toward building the new bridge, along with the placement of the bridge, meaning where it can go and where it cannot go. Mr. Hill also stated that the County has already spent two hundred and fifty thousand dollars on this project. Mr. Hill said that school buses have not been allowed to drive over the closed bridge for over sixteen years due to the poor condition of the bridge. Ms. Ringelstein stated that her son is an attorney and that the County could have turned down the money from the government and built the new bridge on their own. Ms. Ringelstein said that all the County had to do was get a bond to pay for the building of the new bridge. Commissioner Holmes stated that this bridge should have been replaced over twenty years ago and it is unfortunate that we have the issues with the archeologists but we have to find a way to move forward with the bridge. Tom McDonald of 485 County Road 437, Florence, Alabama stated that he needs that bridge. Mr. Hill stated that the bridge can't be put just anywhere and that we have to understand that the bridge can't go in some places due to safety concerns. Mr. Hill further stated that the archaeologist's goal is to find the best location before the project can move forward. Mr. Hill also stated that there are meetings held weekly about this bridge project and that any new bridge would have to be safe for the citizens of Lauderdale County. Mr. McDonald asked if there are gas lines or pipe lines that run through that area. Mr. Hill stated that there are underground pipes and utilities around bridges. Gail Wells of 401 County Road 228, Florence, Alabama stated that she has elderly parents that live in the area and she has to go around in order to reach their house. Ms. Wells stated that she doesn't understand why a bridge cannot be built or why the old bridge can't be fixed. Jackie Lovelace of 5340 County Road 51, Florence, Alabama said that this bridge links the County together and it needs to be replaced because it really inconveniences everyone, including businesses. Commissioner Parker stated that we are not giving up on the bridge project and the Commission is dedicated to doing whatever necessary to get the project done. Commissioner Hackworth stated that he wants to echo everyone's concerns regarding the bridge and that we do want to build the area a nice bridge. Commissioner Hackworth also stated that he commends Lauderdale County Engineer, Eric Hill, for his service and dedication to the bridge project. Martha Ringelstein stated that she is amazed that the citizens of Lauderdale County cannot use the creek and that the creek belongs to everyone. Paul Parrish of 4545 County Road 15, Florence, Alabama asked if the artifacts are the only reason the bridge is being held up and he doesn't understand why it's taking so long. Mr. Parrish asked who owns the property on the other side of the bridge. Commissioner Hackworth stated that his family owns some of the property. Mr. McDonald asked if Tim Melson owns some of the property. Commissioner Hackworth stated no. Commissioner Parker stated that he understands that everyone is frustrated. There was more discussion regarding the bridge project but citizens were talking over each other at times which made it difficult to record each comment, therefore, some comments are not included in the minutes.

Commissioner Hackworth stated that he wants to thank the Lauderdale County Solid Waste Department manager, Robert Bevis, Florence-Lauderdale EMA director, George Grabryan, Lauderdale County Engineer, Eric Hill and his department, the Lauderdale County Sheriff's department, and all volunteers who worked during the recent bad weather.

There being no further business to come before the Commission and upon a motion made by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Hackworth, the meeting was duly adjourned until the next regular meeting subject to call.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION

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Danny Pettus, Chairman

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Brad Holmes, Commissioner

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Roger Garner, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Brenda Bryant, County Administrator

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Fay Parker, Commissioner

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Joe Hackworth, Commissioner