

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 26th day of February, 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
Roger Garner	Commissioner, District 1
Joe Hackworth	Commissioner, District 2
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2
Legal Counsel:	
Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney
Absent:	
Brad Holmes	Commissioner, District 1

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 Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner 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 Hackworth 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 vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that a resolution be adopted authorizing the Lauderdale County Commission to approve a Cooperative Grant Agreement between the Lauderdale County Emergency Management Agency and the State Management Agency. The grant is for the sole purpose of emergency management preparedness programs. The EMA Director and the Lauderdale County Chairman are authorized to execute all relevant grant agreements. The amount of the grant is one thousand two hundred ninety-four dollars and is a fifty/fifty match. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and grant is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that a resolution be adopted authorizing the Lauderdale County Commission to give a donation of five thousand dollars to the Lauderdale County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. This donation will be used to promote the 2018 Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments Conference which will be held on July 13th and 14th, 2018. The conference will promote and showcase what our area has to offer vendors and overnight guests. The donation will be paid out of the Tourism Fund. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth to approve a resolution that authorizes the Lauderdale County Commission to approve Change Order Number One for the Brush Creek Park Project which is project number 15-LW-1019. The increase to the contract price was recommended by Richard Edmonds of White, Lynn and Collins, who is overseer of the project for the County. The increase is due to the discovery of unsuitable soil and parking areas that have to be replaced. The cost of the change order is seven thousand seven hundred thirty dollars and sixty-three cents and the change order also adds five days to the contracted time. The Change Order is submitted by Ronald Franks Construction Company. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and Change Order are herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve a resolution that allows Skypark Properties to go forward with their vacation process. Skypark Properties must move forward pursuant to Alabama Law. The property listed for vacation is attached to these minutes. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to approve a resolution that allows the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department to replace a 2008 undercover Ford Taurus vehicle that is deemed mechanically unsound with a 2008 Ford Edge purchased from Long Lewis Ford. The cost of the vehicle is twelve thousand six hundred dollars and fifty cents. Any necessary budget amendment is herein authorized and approved. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion approved. Resolution and copy of bill of sale are herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth to approve the following board reappointments for the Civil Service Board. The reappointments are Greg Hamner, Gene Young, Jeff Quillen, and Bill Valentine. All terms will expire on 2/26/2021. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion is unanimously approved. Board Appointments are approved and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve a board appointment of Karen Cantrell to finish out the term for Robert Howard on the Department of Human Resources Board. This appointment is to begin immediately and expire on 09/01/2019. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion is unanimously approved. Board Appointment is approved and made a part of these minutes.

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

CHECKS ISSUED FEBRUARY 12TH, 2018 THROUGH FEBRUARY 25TH, 2018

GENERAL-SPECIAL CHECK # 53085-53125	\$601,969.91
AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK # 3627	80.00
LEPA FUND	5,573.16

CHECK # 7944-7951	
GASOLINE TAX FUND	\$284,865.15
CHECK # 16635-16648	
PUBLIC BLDG., R & B SPECIAL	0.00
CHECK # N/A	
PUBLIC HIGHWAY & TRAFFIC FUND	0.00
CHECK # N/A	
AL. TRUST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	97,583.95
CHECK # 330-332	
RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND	7,529.46
CHECK # 654	
REAPPRAISAL FUND	38,013.98
CHECK # 11266-11274	
REAPPRAISAL MONEY MARKET	100,000.00
CHECK # 565	
TOURISM, REC. & CONVENTION FUND	5,977.50
CHECK # 465-466	
RSVP FUND	2,877.21
CHECK # 17065-17072	
CHILD PROTECTION FUND	1,507.54
CHECK # 1214	
SERIES 2001 DEBT SERVICE FUND	10,953.13
CHECK # 262	
CDBG FUND	0.00
CHECK # N/A	
SOLID WASTE FUND	312,532.77
CHECK # 7136-7150	
ACCOUNT PAYABLE FUND	133,796.64
CHECK # 39912-39945	
FIRE PROTECTION FEE FUND	97,143.20
CHECK # 4394-4407	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND	474,762.51

CHECK # 1138-1139

TOBACCO TAX FUND
CHECK # N/A

0.00

TVA TAX FUND
CHECK # 5589-5601

388,971.92

Total \$2,564,138.03

Scheduled Public Hearings: None

Staff Reports: None

Public Comment Period:

Carl Overton of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, handed out a paper with questions regarding animal control. Mr. Overton stated that he would be calling the Commission Office to find out the answers to his questions. (List of questions is attached to these minutes).

Chapel King of Bainbridge Road, Florence, Alabama, asked what the plan is for animal control. Ms. King stated that Dewayne has worked in animal control for over five years and why could he not pick up animals. Ms. King stated that she does not understand why he was not trained and that we should let the Sheriff handle animal control.

Dianne Michael of 984 County Road 390, Lexington, Alabama, asked why has no one discussed animal control and that we have stray animals everywhere. Ms. Michael asked why we have not resolved those issues.

Dianne Letson of 2921 Alexander, Florence, Alabama, stated that we should be using the State code for animal abuse and control. She also stated that she knows abuse when she sees it and that it takes days for warrants to be written and we should pick up animals without those things.

Terry Whalen of Florence, Alabama, stated that she has been trying to address and get a timely response from Chairman Pettus on animal control policy and procedure issues and that we need help on response times. Ms. Whalen stated that we need a policy that spells out those issues.

Lisa Rene of Florence, Alabama, stated that she does not understand the road blocks and what is holding the Commission back.

Tom McDonald of 4850 County Road 137, Florence, Alabama, stated that at the last meeting there was no news about the bridge project on County Road 16. Chairman Pettus stated that we should hear from the study sometime this week.

Jennifer Patrick of 4587 County Road 16, Florence, Alabama, asked what the study is for. Chairman Pettus stated that the study is being done to determine the path of the bridge.

Molly Bond of Florence, Alabama, asked what the issues with the study are. Chairman Pettus stated that they are working on the issues and we do have to follow the laws of Alabama and what is best for Lauderdale County. Several people were out of order during this time and their comments were not recorded due to the talking over each other.

Angela Tomlinson of 2037 Skypark Road, Florence, Alabama, stated that nothing seems to be happening and she did not agree to the three-minute speaking limit.

Carolyn Carrey of Florence, Alabama, asked the Commission how they decide what was/is discussed in a work session and stated what a waste of time it was. Chairman Pettus stated that work session is for County business.

Hilda Keeton of 3415 Chisholm Road, Florence, Alabama, stated that the county animals depend on the county and that the answers that have been given tonight have been very vague. Ms. Keeton also stated that the Commissioners are uncaring people who don't care about animals and she doesn't appreciate them for that. Commissioner Parker stated that the county has spent hours trying to work out guidelines but the County must abide by the law. Commissioner Parker also stated that if anyone has any suggestions, please write them down and hand them to the Commission.

Shannon Wells of Lakeside, Florence, Alabama, asked if they are discussing all of the laws. Chairman Pettus stated that they have been discussing State of Alabama, Title Three.

Phil Shoemaker of 301 Duntree Street, Florence, Alabama, stated that there were sixty-seven counties in the State of Alabama. Mr. Shoemaker asked if the County could use some of the other County's policies for assistance and wanted to know if we are able to get advice from some other county on this issue. Chairman Pettus stated that the Commission has been in touch with Cullman County and talked to Chris Westmoreland.

Shalanda Hernandez of 2456 County Road 14, Florence, Alabama asked what the result is of the study for the bridge project.

Martha Ringelstein of County Road 16, Florence, Alabama, stated that she knew someone who works in Montgomery and they told her that we could build the bridge right back where it was and there would be no problems. Ms. Ringlestein was asked who the person was but she refused to answer.

Commissioner Hackworth stated that the Commission cares about animals and he wants to improve our program, but the Commission can only meet during regular meetings but that we are working on the problem. Commissioner Hackworth also stated that the Commissioners want the very best solution and in the meantime, they are working with the Sheriff and the District Attorney. Commissioner Hackworth further stated that when they have something to report, they will report it. Commissioner Hackworth went on to state that the Sheriff has dedicated a deputy to work with the animal control officer to help speed up the process in an effort to help the system.

Lauderdale County Commission Attorney, Chris Smith, stated that you can't go inside someone's home without first securing a warrant and discussing with them the issue of abuse and the animal's safety and wellbeing. Mr. Smith also stated that we cannot violate people's rights and we must have probable cause to go onto someone's private property. Mr. Smith further stated that the Lauderdale County District Attorney, Chris Connelly, stated that the Lauderdale County Animal Control officer, Dewayne Oliver, is working on a case today regarding seizing cattle and that the Court will decide the guilt or innocence of that person.

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

Danny Pettus, Chairman

_____ ABSENT _____
Brad Holmes, Commissioner

Roger Garner, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Brenda Bryant, County Administrator

Fay Parker, Commissioner

Joe Hackworth, Commissioner