

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 24th day of April, 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
Brad Holmes	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 were delivered by Commissioner Hackworth.

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 Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth 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 Holmes moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve a resolution that authorizes the Lauderdale County Commission to enter into an authorization to represent agreement with Trousdale Ryan, PC and Conchin, Cloud, & Cole, LLC., Attorneys at Law for legal representation in a civil suit against those legally responsible for the wrongful distribution of prescription opiates and damages caused thereby. The cost is twenty percent of the total recovery however, there is no fee if there is no recovery. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and copy of the agreement are 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 Commission to provide support to the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments as they conduct the Elk River Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Study which will address an anticipated long-term need for a potable water supply in eastern Lauderdale County to serve community development, economic development, and projected growth in the county and the surrounding municipalities. The estimated cost of the study is forty thousand dollars and the Lauderdale County Commission commits fifteen thousand dollars in support of the funding for the study as this will be a joint project. A budget amendment will be needed and is hereby authorized and approved. Commissioner Holmes urged his fellow Commissioners to vote for this project. Commissioner Holmes stated that this project will aide growth development and help meet the needs of eastern Lauderdale County. Commissioner Holmes also stated that this is an extremely important project and he thanked the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments for their support of the project. Commissioner Hackworth stated that he hopes everyone will vote for this project as well. Commissioner Hackworth also stated that everyone knows about the water issues on the east end of the county and that this study would have a huge impact by helping upgrade the system and he is glad that the Commission can partner with other agencies on this project. There being no further 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 Holmes to approve a resolution that will reschedule the following Commission meeting and work session due to State holidays: The regularly scheduled Commission meeting of May 28th, 2018 is herein rescheduled due to the observance of Memorial day and shall be held on Tuesday, May 29th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. and the regularly scheduled work session of June 4th, 2018 is herein rescheduled due to the observance of Jefferson Davis' Birthday and shall be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5th, 2018. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve a resolution authorizing right-of-way vacation for the Hammond family. Daniel J. Hammond, Paula C. Hammond, Leigh A. Hammond, and Sarah H. Blalock being all owners and persons having interest in all lots or parcels of land abutting the following described portion of public street right-of-way in Lauderdale County, Alabama:

The following portions of Ingram Street, Almond Street, Chestnut Street and Donley Drive, all as depicted on the plat of Greenbrier Acres Addition No. 1 Subdivision, recorded in the office of the Judge of Probate of Lauderdale County, Alabama, in Plat Book 4, at Page 57:

Ingram Street:

That portion of Ingram Street between the East line of Chestnut Street and the line formed by the Western boundary of Lots 9 and 10, in Block C of Greenbrier Acres Addition No. 1.

Almond Street:

That portion of Almond Street lying East of a line formed by the Western Boundary of Lots 16, Block C and Lot 11, Block B, and running East to a line formed by the Eastern Boundary of Lot 1 Block E and Lot 18, Block A.

Chestnut Street:

That portion of Chestnut Street lying North of a line formed by the Southern Boundaries of Lot 14, Block B and Lot 7, Block A and running Northward to the North boundary line of Lot 4, Block D.

Donley Drive:

That portion of Donley Drive beginning at the cul de sac joining Lot 14, Block A and Lot 15, Block A and running Northward to a line formed by the Northern boundaries of Lot 4, Block E, and Lot 11, Block D.

The assent of the County Commission of Lauderdale County, Alabama is hereby given to the vacation of the right of way and does hereby vacate and abandon the above described right of way to the abutting property owners. All specific notices and general notices along with a Public Hearing were held in compliance with county procedures. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for the "2018 Lauderdale County Female Dormitory Expansion". Bids were received and publicly read aloud on April 5th, 2018. A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for the Commission's review. Chairman Pettus stated that three bids were received and CMH Architects, Inc. of Birmingham, Alabama recommends that the bid be awarded to the lowest bidder which was Butler Construction of Sheffield, Alabama who provided a bid in the amount of one million four hundred seventy-five thousand five hundred dollars. Commissioner Holmes moved to accept the low bidder and Commissioner Hackworth seconded. Commissioner Hackworth stated that Butler Construction is a local company and they have an excellent reputation. Commissioner Hackworth also stated that the actual cost of the building renovation is two hundred thousand dollars less than the estimated cost so this is a very good bid. Commissioner Holmes stated that this is an important project for the County because of the overcrowding problem at the jail and this is a step in the right direction as it will help with the daily needs of the jail and it will also separate the female inmates from the male inmates. Commissioner Holmes stated that he wants to thank the Sheriff and the County Administrator for their tireless work on moving the County forward and that this is a positive move for the County. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Bid is awarded to Butler Construction of Sheffield, Alabama. Bid tabulation sheet is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

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

CHECKS ISSUED APRIL 10th, 2018 THROUGH APRIL 23rd, 2018

GENERAL-SPECIAL CHECK # 53336-53395	\$1,047,492.20
AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK # 3633-3635	\$59.84

LEPA FUND CHECK # 7974-7988	\$10,069.37
GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 16690-16713	\$367,924.30
PUBLIC BLDG., R & B SPECIAL CHECK # N/A	0.00
PUBLIC HIGHWAY & TRAFFIC FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
AL. TRUST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND CHECK # 336-337	\$36,110.34
RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 656	\$15,200.06
REAPPRAISAL FUND CHECK # 11304-11319	\$51,234.82
REAPPRAISAL MONEY MARKET CHECK # N/A	0.00
TOURISM, REC. & CONVENTION FUND CHECK # 469-470	\$5,977.50
RSVP FUND CHECK # 17096-17108	\$5,553.54
CHILD PROTECTION FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
SERIES 2001 DEBT SERVICE FUND CHECK # 264	\$10,953.13
CDBG FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
SOLID WASTE FUND CHECK # 7194-7217	\$196,087.04
ACCOUNT PAYABLE FUND CHECK # 40120-40150	\$170,533.33

FIRE PROTECTION FEE FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND CHECK # 1142-1143	\$513,859.56
TOBACCO TAX FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
TVA TAX FUND CHECK # 5615-5627	\$388,971.92
Total	\$2,820,026.95

Scheduled Public Hearings: None

Staff Reports: None

Public Comment Period:

Ron Day of 2085 County Road 37, Florence, Alabama, stated that he has lived by Happy Hollow bridge for over twenty-seven years and he has seen the weight restrictions on that bridge change several times. Mr. Day stated that he is seeing more and more large, heavy vehicles go across the bridge and he knows that they are over the weight limit. Mr. Day suggested that the County look into changing the sign for the bridge to limit traffic to six axles for the bridge. Commissioner Parker stated that he has known Ron for many years. Commissioner Parker also stated that we have put State Troopers on the bridge and that he is happy to look at any suggestion to help the situation. Commissioner Holmes stated that he would like for the Lauderdale County Engineer, Eric Hill, to evaluate the situation and provide a possible fix back to the Commission by May 1st, 2018 if possible.

Ms. D. Nelson of 2921 Alexander, Florence, Alabama, stated that she wants to thank the Commissioners for going forward with the new Animal Control Shelter and that she hopes that the Commissioners will go and visit the shelter and see the animals there. Ms. Nelson stated that she is a volunteer and a lot of the animals that come to the shelter have broken legs and all kinds of injuries. Chairman Pettus stated that he has visited the shelter several times.

Ms. Chapel King of 209 Bainbridge Drive, Florence, Alabama, stated that she would like to have an update on the animal control situation and what is going on with Deputy Lowery and Dewayne. Chairman Pettus stated that Deputy Lowery is in class this week in Cullman. Ms. King stated that Cullman is a bigger area than Lauderdale County and they have two trained deputies and that Lowery will need help and Dewayne should be allowed to help him. Ms. King stated that most of the animals in the shelter come from the county and that right now, there are fifteen dogs in the shelter waiting to hear from the County.

Carl Overton, 102 W. Grandview Drive, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, stated that he wants to commend the Commissioners for taking control and trying to help the animal control issues in the county.

Judge Will Motlow, 2590 County Road 10, Florence, Alabama, stated that he wants to thank the Commission for opening up the new bridge on County Road 10. Commissioner Holmes stated that Judge Motlow had just stressed the importance of our Road Department and how important it is to keep our roads maintained. Commissioner Holmes stated that what the State of Alabama invests in our roads is deplorable and that the Lauderdale County Engineer, Eric Hill, and his staff work to the best of their ability to perform nothing short of miracles on our roads to keep them in good condition. Commissioner Holmes stated that the Lauderdale County Road Department should be commended for their work.

Commissioner Holmes stated that as far as Animal Control and the multiple cases, it will take a long time to fix these problems and that this is not a quick fix. This is a large problem with several issues involved and there are laws that will have to be changed.

Chairman Pettus asked the Lauderdale County Attorney, Chris Smith, to speak regarding the Executive Session. Mr. Smith stated that the Executive Session scheduled for this meeting is within the proper state guidelines and that after the short Executive Session meeting, the Lauderdale County Commission will not reconvene but there will be a Commission work session in the meeting room.

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

LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION

Danny Pettus, Chairman

Brad Holmes, Commissioner

Roger Garner, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Brenda Bryant, County Administrator

Fay Parker, Commissioner

Joe Hackworth, Commissioner