

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

The Lauderdale County Commission convened at the Lauderdale County Courthouse in the City of Florence, Alabama, at 10:00 a.m. on the 18th day of March, 2020, for an emergency meeting. 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
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2
Joe Hackworth	Commissioner, District 2
Legal Counsel:	
Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney
Those who were absent:	
Brad Holmes	Commissioner, District 1

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

Chairman Pettus called on Lauderdale County Attorney, Chris Smith, to confirm the status of today's emergency meeting. Mr. Smith stated that today's meeting is in order as an emergency meeting as defined by Alabama Governor, Kay Ivey, on Monday, March 16th, 2020.

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were delivered by Chairman Pettus.

Public Comments on Agenda items: None

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that all items listed on the emergency meeting 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 Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth to approve a resolution to authorize Chairman Danny Pettus to solely approve daily business and payment of bills through the end of April, 2020, if any regular scheduled meeting is unable to establish a quorum. In the event of Chairman Danny Pettus being unable to perform these duties, Chairman Pro-Tem, Faye Parker, is herein authorized to approve daily business and payment of bills through the end of April, 2020, if any regular scheduled meeting is unable to establish a quorum. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Scheduled Public Hearings: None

Staff Reports: None

Public Comment Period:

Lauderdale County Probate Judge, William Motlow, stated that he had concerns about the upcoming election, scheduled for March 31st, 2020, and the availability of poll workers and accessibility of poll locations. Judge Motlow asked if the Commission would consider passing a resolution that would allow him, during emergency circumstances such as we are currently experiencing, to choose county employees under fifty years of age to operate poll locations and continue to earn their normal wage as a County employee while doing so. Judge Motlow also asked if the resolution could also include allowing poll locations to be temporarily relocated, if necessary, to more accessible locations. Judge Motlow suggested that the courthouse be closed due to the current health crisis in order to minimize exposure to personnel. He used neighboring Colbert County Courthouse as a good model to use in making this decision as they have already closed their doors to the public. Judge Motlow also suggested letting people go home and not use a full staff.

Lauderdale County License Commissioner, Rodney Pettus, stated that a public order by the State of Alabama had been issued to extend all March due dates until April 15th with no penalty and the License Department would continue to operate drive-thru only service for automobile, boat, hunting, fishing and business license transactions. Mr. Pettus also stated that customers may be serviced individually for driver's license and tags inside the building, limiting the public to allow only one person at a time in the building.

Commissioner Garner stated that we need to look at all options available through the April 15th allowance for considering people's welfare as well as continuing to operate departments that must work in order to make payroll and pay bills and perform other necessary services of the County.

Commissioner Hackworth addressed Judge Motlow regarding his voting concerns and suggested asking for county employee volunteers to work elections polls, if necessary, before choosing them at will. Mr. Hackworth asked for clarification regarding substitute polling locations and if they would be more open areas such as gyms available for temporary locations. Mr. Hackworth also asked about how we might notify voters of a change in location to which Judge Motlow responded that personnel could be at all permanent locations directing voters of the temporary location they would need to visit in order to cast their vote.

Commissioner Parker asked why the Governor had not yet rescheduled the election and Judge Motlow said he was definitely in favor of that and hopes to hear shortly if that is happening.

Judge Motlow stated that his employees are currently doing all they can to help our citizens by allowing a drop-box option at the entrance of the courthouse and working on those items once they arrive.

Commissioner Hackworth stated that many County departments, such as Solid Waste, Road Department, Sheriff and the County Commission must continue to do the work of the County no matter what happens.

During the public comment period it was discovered that the election has been officially postponed until July 14th, 2020.

Commissioner Holmes entered the meeting room toward the end of the meeting and all County Commissioners along with the County Attorney began discussing many options to consider as the current health issue progresses and what decisions might need to be made. They asked County Attorney, Chris Smith, to begin working on a resolution for the upcoming regular Commission Meeting, on Monday, March 23rd, 2020. This resolution would need to address how County employees' time and pay may be affected should the Courthouse alter operations.

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

Danny Pettus, Chairman

William Garner

Roger Garner, Commissioner

(ABSENT)

Brad Holmes, Commissioner

Fay Parker

Fay Parker, Commissioner

Joe Hackworth

Joe Hackworth, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Brenda Bryant

Brenda Bryant, County Administrator

**LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION
EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA**

March 18, 2020

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A. OFFICIAL AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
2. CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM
3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Commissioner Pettus
- 4(a) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Per Rules of Procedure there is a three-minute time limit

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Review and Motion to Consider Agenda Items
2. Resolution — Meeting procedures of Lauderdale County Meetings

C SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS--none

D. STAFF REPORTS- Discussion and issues from Department heads if needed

E. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Per Rules of Procedure there is a three minutes' time limit

ADJOURN

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Lauderdale County Commission wants to take every precaution necessary to protect citizens and the community while taking care of the daily duties and satisfying business obligations of the Lauderdale County Courthouse.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lauderdale County Commission that any regular meeting, through the end of April, 2020, that is unable to establish a quorum in order to conduct business and pay bills, herein authorizes Chairman Danny Pettus to solely approve daily business and payment of bills. Chairman Pro-Tem, Faye Parker, is so authorized in the event Chairman Pettus is unable perform these duties.

Done this the 18th day of March, 2020.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION



Danny Pettus, Chairman



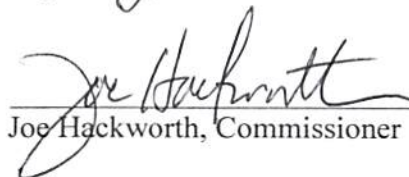
Roger Garner, Commissioner

absent

Brad Holmes, Commissioner



Fay Parker, Commissioner



Joe Hackworth, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Brenda Bryant, County Administrator