

**EMERGENCY
CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
June 22, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meleigh Hitt, Administrative Assistant, called the roll; present were Chairman Kenneth Walker, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman, and Emily Johnston, County Attorney. Commissioner Kerry Watson gave the invocation. Commissioner Garry Marchman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC /UPDATES

No public comments were made.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss any further measures that need to be implemented for the health and safety of the public who conduct business at the Cullman County Courthouse and Cullman County Employees

Chairman Walker, "I got with Dr. Thomas, and the reason I got with him is because he is our workman's comp doctor. We discussed taking temperatures 3 or 4 weeks ago and thought we were going to start taking temperatures before entering the Courthouse, but then we decided, maybe things were looking better, and we don't need to. So our safety director, John Tucker, scheduled us a meeting with Dr. Thomas last Thursday. Dr. Thomas, would you come up and go over the temperature checking and mask for us, please."

Dr. Thomas, "I was asked to come Thursday and meet with them and go over what the CDC and OSHA guidelines were to protect employees and also all individuals that are dealing with COVID-19. After the presentation and sending out some emails, it was concluded on Saturday to start doing temperature checks. There are more guidelines that are available whether it's wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart, what to do when some test positive, which recently there were some that tested positive. The people who were around them were tested. Our facility has acquired the ability to test as many as needed. Starting next month, we will be able to test with a 15-minute turn around verses now, which is a 24-hour turnaround, and it is FDA approved. We look forward to serving, helping, and protecting any way we can and advise the individuals who are here today who make those decisions. We will guide them to the best of our ability by using the CDC and OSHA as the platform. I appreciate this opportunity."

Chairman Walker, "With that being said, I guess I have ruined everyone's weekend because I woke up Saturday morning and got on the phone with the County Attorney, Emily Johnston, Commissioners, Safety Director and Human Resources and what we came up with was all temperatures will be checked before you enter the Courthouse. That's employees and citizens that come to the Courthouse. Wearing a mask is recommended, but we want to require that walking in the Courthouse a mask must be worn because there is no way of keeping a 6-foot distance. We really encourage keeping a 6-foot distance. So just bear with us because if we don't implement this now, it will take longer to get over it."

Commissioner Marchman, "I know there are circumstances that have caused us to have to do this, I will not go into detail about those circumstances, but I also know there is some conflict. Some people think it is a little silly to put on a mask, and others do not, and I understand that. We have been obligated by legislation to make policies and guidelines that govern our facilities. It is not a popular thing because there are going to be people that disagree with us on that. I commend both of these guys for stepping up and saying "Hey, we need to implement something to help protect people." And we really do. So with that being said, if there is a special circumstance that we need to address or you need to exit the building because of a special circumstance or if you need help physically, let us know, and we will do all we can to coordinate and make it as simple as possible. I think we are looking at possibly July 3rd revisiting this and looking at it, and maybe things will be better then, and we can get back to a little normality."

Commissioner Watson, "This is something we did not take lightly and I know it is going to be aggravating because we are all creatures of habit, and this is not our habit, but we are doing this to protect our citizens and employees and all other elected officials. I am glad to see all the elected officials here. That means a lot. We all have to pull together. This may not be what we want to do, but it is time that we have to step forward and work together until July 3rd and then we will go from there, and maybe we can pull back and go back to normal. I do not like these masks, but I feel right now, it is best for the community and county employees."

Chairman Walker, "Like I said earlier, we require you enter the Courthouse with a mask on because of the 6-foot distancing with security. Each department will determine if employees or the public will have to wear a mask in their individual department, but you do have to keep a 6-foot distance. Like Commissioner Watson said, all the elected officials out here, we do appreciate you coming. I know most of us have entrances that we can go in, but as of right now, we are only able to check temperatures at one location, so everyone will be entering at the Courthouse entrance. Maybe by July 3rd that will change."

Emily Johnston, County Attorney, "What time will County employees be able to enter the building?"

Chairman Walker, "6:00 a.m."

Judge Brown, "I just want to say thank you for last week when I discovered this. It caught me off guard, and the Commission and everyone has worked with me to know what to do to keep all the other employees safe. This is all new to us, but I really do appreciate it. Is the mask just for employees and not for the general public?"

Chairman Walker, "No, general public has to wear a mask through security and you have to furnish your own. We will not be able to furnish mask for the general public."

Commissioner Marchman, "But whenever they get to their area, it is up to the official if they have to wear it."

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the new implementations for the health and safety of the public who conduct business at the Cullman County Courthouse and the Cullman County employees. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

WORK SESSION

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting would be Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 a.m.

/S/ _____
Kenneth Walker,
Chairman

/S/ _____
Kerry Watson,
Associate Commissioner

/S/ _____
Garry Marchman,
Associate Commissioner