

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
March 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS

Chairman Clemons called the Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Tiffany Merriman, County Clerk, called the roll; present were Chairman Jeff Clemons, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman, County Attorney Emily Johnston, County Administrator John Bullard, and County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood. Clarence Benefield gave the invocation. Economic Director Bradley Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2022 MEETING, EXPENDITURES, PERSONNEL ACTIONS, PAYROLL, AND REQUISITIONS, AND APPROVE ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022, Meeting, appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, and requisitions and approve all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/UPDATES

Sheila Haynes addressed the Commission about her concerns involving electronic voting machines. Ms. Haynes gave the Chairman and Commissioners a packet with information from other states that use the same electronic voting machines as we do in Cullman. Ms. Haynes is requesting the time series CVR Report. Ms. Haynes stated Alabama is the only state you cannot get this data from. Ms. Haynes said the reason why is because we are not transparent. Ms. Haynes stated Dr. Douglas Frank is another figure on the nation scene who said the DS200 machine is the most hackable machine in the country. Mr. Haynes can predict with a .994 correlation coefficient the number of people in each age group who voted and can get that at the precinct level. The correlation coefficient means you can predict it with 100 percent accuracy. Ms. Haynes stated I am not asking you to depend on his figures. I am asking you to find some alternative to our voting machines. You cannot open the machines because of the contract associated with the machines. Ms. Haynes stated we would like to vote by paper. Commissioner Marchman asked Ms. Haynes why can you not get the information you are seeking through the Secretary of State? Ms. Haynes replied I cannot get any information from the Secretary of State or our local Probate Judge. Neither one will respond.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness Month

County Attorney Emily Johnston read the Proclamation aloud. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness Month. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2022-32: Adoption 2022 Division F Phase I Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

EMA Director Tim Sartin stated this is a hazardous mitigation plan we had in place for the county, and now it has been adopted into a regional plan. This plan was done last year, and we are doing the plan in phases. This Resolution announces we are accepting the plan. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-32: Adoption 2022 Division F Phase I Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2022-33: Tax Abatement for Brothers Concrete Supply, LLC in the amount of \$2,882,036

Cullman Economic Development Agency Project Manager Stanley Kennedy addressed the Commission and stated this Resolution is for a new company that is forming in an unincorporated part of Cullman County near the Dodge City exit. The tax abatement is only for \$148,128 over a ten-year period. This project will involve a capital investment of \$2,882,036 for new equipment and their new facility. This abatement will create 22 jobs, and they are reporting their pay will average roughly \$60,000 a year. Over a ten-year period, this abatement will create just short of \$100,000 for our community, schools, and education system. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-33: Tax Abatement for Brothers Concrete Supply, LLC in the amount of \$148,128. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Consider the extension for HH Technologies Abatement 2020308002 and 2020308001 through December 31, 2022

Cullman Economic Development Agency Project Manager Stanley Kennedy stated this abatement was passed in 2020. Due to the pandemic, it has been extremely difficult to get materials. This extension will allow the business to get the materials to complete the job. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the extension for HH Technologies Abatement 2020308002 and 2020308001 through December 31, 2022. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2022-34: To secure financing for capital improvements at the Cullman Regional Airport

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated this is a Resolution directing me to work with City Clerk Wesley Moore to secure options for financing for the hanger project(100X100 hanger), the land purchase of two properties, and other potential capital projects at the Cullman Regional Airport. At that point, once we get the financing options, we will come back to the Commission for approval. This mirrors the Resolution passed by the city where they directed the City Clerk to work with me. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-34: To secure financing for capital improvements at the Cullman Regional Airport. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss ACCA's Legislative Report for the 2022 Regular Session

County Administrator John Bullard stated this is an update from the legislative session. The House of Representatives passed House Bill 371 to expand county tax lien options. The way we are doing tax liens in Cullman County streamlines the process, protects the property owner, and makes it a more simplified process. Online auction options have been expanded. Cullman County opted to participate in this. The Senate Committee approved a bill helping to address the national mental health crisis in county jails. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved House Bill 70, and now it has moved to the Senate. The Judiciary Committee has approved it, and it is moving forward, which would be a positive step in addressing the growing number of individuals who suffer from mental health that are incarcerated in our county jails. That becomes a drain on county budgets, but more importantly, it is not the appropriate care for people with mental health. They are moving forward with that bill. The permitless

concealed carry passed. This will change the way things are done at the law enforcement level as well as the county government level. Commissioner Marchman is the legislative delegate from the Commission. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the ACCA's Legislative Report for the 2022 Regular Session. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Authorize Chairman and County Attorney to sign the Federal FY 2022 Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated this has to do with our Public Transportation Agency. This is our annual certification we must sign. The Federal Transportation Agency must sign this documentation to participate in their insurance program for the federal government. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Chairman and County Attorney to sign the Federal FY 2022 Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize Commission to appoint Mr. James Golden to Cullman County 310 Board to expire in 2023 to fill the open position due to the death of Mrs. Peggy Day

Commissioner Marchman made the motion to authorize Commission to appoint Mr. James Golden to Cullman County 310 Board to expire in 2023 to fill the open position due to the death of Mrs. Peggy Day. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign Lease Agreement for the Town of Dodge City for office space used by the Probate and Revenue Offices

County Administrator John Bullard stated this agreement is a renewal of the lease that we have in place. Last year we increased the amount to \$100 a month for rent. This agreement continues the same price, and it keeps the terms the same. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Chairman Clemons to sign Lease Agreement for the Town of Dodge City for office space used by the Probate and Revenue Offices. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize agreement to accept ELC Detection and Mitigation Grant for Cullman County Correctional Facility through Alabama Department of Public Health in the amount of \$532,049 and authorize Chairman to sign all documents

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated this is a 100 percent grant. This is subject to approval. The jail will be using this for several upgrades. The major purchase for this will be a contactless scanner. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to authorize the agreement to accept ELC Detection and Mitigation Grant for Cullman County Correctional Facility through Alabama Department of Public Health in the amount of \$532,049 and authorize Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider approving Engineering Services Contract pending any changes by ALDOT for ALDOT Pavement Maintenance Project at the Cullman Regional Airport

County Attorney Emily Johnston stated ALDOT is currently reviewing the Engineer's Report from Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC. This is for resurfacing and pavement maintenance by the T-Hangers to extend the life of the pavement. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Engineering Services Contract pending any changes by ALDOT for ALDOT Pavement Maintenance Project at the Cullman Regional Airport. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Consider approval of Lease Agreement with Enterprise for five(5) 2022 Ford F-150 XL 4X4 SuperCrew Cab trucks for the Water Department-amount \$35,664 each

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey stated Water Department Director Randall Waldrop reviewed the specs. The vehicles are supposed to arrive April 1, 2022. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement with Enterprise for five(5) 2022 Ford F-150 XL 4X4 SuperCrew Cab trucks for the Water Department-amount \$35,664 each. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider a one (1) year contract with Ameritek for Managed Print Services for the Revenue Office in the amount of \$423.50 quarterly and authorize Chairman Clemons to sign

Commissioner Watson stated Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham was at the work session and advised that this contract is a dollar difference. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve a one (1) year contract with Ameritek for Managed Print Services for the Revenue Office in the amount of \$423.50 quarterly and authorize Chairman Clemons to sign. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider amending County Employee Handbook to allow new employees to have access to all sick and vacation time as it is earned during any probationary periods

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford addressed the Commission and stated the current handbook has stipulations in the vacation section and the sick leave section that states our probationary employees will earn annual leave and sick leave during their probationary period, but they cannot take their leave until after they have become classified employees at the end of their six months. We suspended this probationary period at the beginning of COVID. Ms. Bradford stated what we would like to do is totally do away with that clause in the sick and annual leave section of the handbook. This will allow our new employees accruing time to use their time during their first six-month probationary period. We would like to make these changes immediately, and then we will update the handbook when we do our update at the end of the year. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve amending County Employee Handbook to allow new employees to have access to all sick and vacation time as it is earned during any probationary periods. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider extending annual leave carryover through June 3, 2022, for employees with more than 480 hours

Human Resource Manager Judy Bradford stated our existing policy states if you have over 480 hours of accrued vacation leave at the end of the year it is forfeited. In 2020 and 2021, we did an extension. We have had several employees having to fill in for other employees, and in doing that, they have not been able to use their vacation time. We would extend this through June 3, 2022. This way employees can take their earned vacation time and not lose it. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve extending annual leave carryover through June 3, 2022, for employees with more than 480 hours. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Amend Item M from February 15, 2022, meeting to reflect the purchase of a 2022 John Deere 325G Compact Track Loader to comply with Buy America Provision for Stony Lonesome OHV Park at a cost of \$65,868.13

Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey addressed the Commission and stated this piece of equipment will pass the provision of Buy America. This is a grant through Sourcewell for Stony Lonesome OHV Park. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to amend Item M from February 15, 2022, meeting to reflect the purchase of a 2022 John Deere 325G Compact Track Loader to comply with

Buy America Provision for Stony Lonesome OHV Park at a cost of \$65,868.1. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Proposed plat Priscilla subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 3 Lots located off County Road 1725 and County Road 1721

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated per review by the engineering staff, this preliminary plat does meet current subdivision regulations. Mr. Cheatwood stated I do recommend the approval of this plat. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposed plat Priscilla subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 3 Lots located off County Road 1725 and County Road 1721. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Bid #1376: Award bid for Project CCP 22-26-22 to Wiregrass in the amount of \$3,770,000 to be paid from Fund 298

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood addressed the Commission and stated we are pleased with the results from this bid. We have been in constant contact with these contractors and trying to provide them with information on what to be expected on these bids, and I do recommend the approval of this bid.

Commissioner Marchman asked Mr. Cheatwood if he would mind explaining what this bid is?

Mr. Cheatwood stated this bid is for the full-depth reclamation of roadway processing for the added base materials. There are approximately 30 miles of roads to be resurfaced.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid #1376: Award bid for Project CCP 22-26-22 to Wiregrass in the amount of \$3,770,000 to be paid from Fund 298. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid # 1377: Award bid for Project CCP 22-27-22 to Whitaker in the amount of \$2,445,588.25 to be paid from Fund 298

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated this bid is for scrub seal and surface hot mix treatment.

County Administrator John Bullard explained the Fund 298 is the American Rescue Plan that we were able to set aside to use for general government services.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Bid # 1377: Award bid for Project CCP 22-27-22 to Whitaker in the amount of \$2,445,588.25 to be paid from Fund 298. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote the motion carried.

Bid #1378: Award bid for Guardrail to Alabama Guardrail

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated we are satisfied with the numbers that we received on this bid, and I do recommend the approval of this bid. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid #1378: Award bid for Guardrail to Alabama Guardrail. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid #1379: Award bid for Poly Pipe to ADCO Pipe & Supply LLC and Bear Concrete Products Inc(purchase will be based on vicinity and availability of materials)

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood addressed the Commission and stated that we are awarding multiple bids because of the supply chain issues that we have had in the past. This will give us more options. I do recommend the approval of this bid. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Bid #1379: Award bid for Poly Pipe to ADCO Pipe & Supply LLC and Bear Concrete Products Inc(purchase will be

based on vicinity and availability of materials). Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid #1380: Award bid for Bituminous Plant Mix-Installed to Whitaker and Wiregrass(purchase will be based on vicinity and availability of materials)

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated I do recommend the approval of this bid. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid #1380: Award bid for Bituminous Plant Mix-Installed to Whitaker and Wiregrass(purchase will be based on vicinity and availability of materials). Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Bid #1381: Award bid for Herbicide and Adjuvants to Site 1 and Helena Chemical(purchase will be based on vicinity and availability of materials)

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood recommended the approval of this bid. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Bid #1381: Award bid for Herbicide and Adjuvants to Site 1 and Helena Chemical(purchase will be based on vicinity and availability of materials). Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Bid #1382: Award bid for Bituminous Plant Mix(Material Only) to Wiregrass

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood recommended the approval of this bid. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid #1382: Award bid for Bituminous Plant Mix(Material Only) to Wiregrass. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid #1384: Award to Pyro Shows of Alabama, Inc for the 4th of July Fireworks Display in the amount of \$32,000

County Administrator John Bullard stated this is the annual bid for the fireworks show. The last meeting the Commission raised the amount to \$32,000 mark and the show will be set by that amount. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Bid #1384: Award to Pyro Shows of Alabama, Inc for the 4th of July Fireworks Display in the amount of \$32,000. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Bid # 1385: Award bid for five(5) mid-size police pursuit SUV(s) for the Sheriff's Office to Stivers in the amount of \$42,505.99 each

County Administrator John Bullard stated these vehicles were no available on state bid because of supply chain issues so we had to bid them out independently. The Sheriff's Office will be using some of the money form the COVID funds that the Commission awarded them. The Sheriff's Office recommends the approval of this bid. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid # 1385: Award bid for five(5) mid-size police pursuit SUV(s) for the Sheriff's Office to Stivers in the amount of \$42,505.99 each. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid # 1386: Award Bid for Reinforcing Steel to Apel Machine & Supply Co.

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated this bid, and the next bid will cover all the steel for the four bridges. We have been seeking some grants that we will announce later. I do recommend the approval of this bid. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Bid # 1386: Award Bid for Reinforcing Steel to Apel Machine & Supply Co. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Bid # 1387: Award bid for Structural Steel to Apel Machine & Supply Co.

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood stated I do recommend the approval of this bid. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Bid # 1387: Award bid for Structural Steel to Apel Machine & Supply Co. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

WORK SESSION

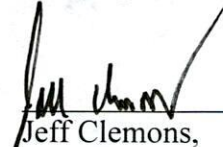
Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Work Session will be Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 4:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022

Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the Commission Meeting Room

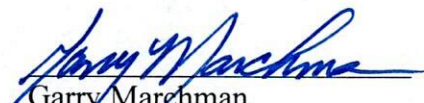
ADJOURN THE MEETING

Commissioner Watson made a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Jeff Clemons,
Chairman


Kerry Watson,
Associate Commissioner


Garry Marchman,
Associate Commissioner