

**Emergency Meeting  
Cullman County Commission Agenda  
January 23, 2024 @1:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS**

Chairman Clemons called the Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**CALL OF ROLL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Tiffany Merriman, County Clerk, called roll; present were Chairman Clemons, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman (by phone), Commissioner Kelly Duke, Commissioner Corey Freeman, County Administrator John Bullard, County Attorney Emily Johnston, and County Engineer Philip Widner.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2023, MEETING, APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, PERSONNEL ACTIONS, PAYROLL, AND REQUISITIONS, AND APPROVE ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting, appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, and requisitions, and approve all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/UPDATES**

There were no public comments/updates.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2024-03: Change speed limit to 20 mph on County Road 370**

County Engineer Philip Widner stated that this is a road that we previously repaved. Since this road has been repaved, there are a lot of cars going fast. We recommend the speed limit be reduced to 20 mph.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03: Change speed limit to 20 mph on County Road 370. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2024-04: Tax Abatement for Project Row in the amount of \$172,024**

Cullman Economic Development Agency Project Manager Stanley Kennedy addressed the Commission and stated this Project Row is an abatement in the amount of \$172,024 and with this abatement, we will get a \$3,245,000 capital investment project. This is a confidential project in the field of ag processing, and ag manufacturing, not ready to disclose at this time. It looks to be 30 to 60 jobs at \$20 an hour average pay once they are trained. This will add to the ag diversification of our community as we are second in the state of Alabama. We would like to continue to support that field.

Commissioner Freeman, where will this be located?

Cullman Economic Development Agency Project Manager Stanley Kennedy stated it will be located on the west side of the county towards Dodge City.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04: Tax Abatement for Project Row in the amount of \$172,024. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2024-05: Tax Abatement for Project Flex in the amount of \$2,367**

Cullman Economic Development Agency Project Manager Stanley Kennedy stated this project is kind of an interesting deal. It is only a \$50,000 project but this is a medical R and D company that has ties to the defense industry. It will involve biological R and D non-environmental threats. It will start with 5 to 10 jobs with six-digit salaries. These jobs will be positioned by doctors doing research.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05: Tax Abatement for Project Flex in the amount of \$2,367. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider amending Resolution 2005-37 to Resolution 2024-06 to update the Cullman County's local Flood Plain Development Ordinance to match the required State of Alabama standards**

County Engineer Philip Widner addressed the Commission and stated this is something that was started in 2005 and periodically we are required to update based on the state recommendations. We thought we were going to be able to pass this, but they asked us to hold off and just bring it up for discussion to the Commission and this will have to be passed at a later date. I am going to refer to Fred to answer any questions that you may have but at this time, we would ask the Commission to table this until a later date.

Engineering Assistant Fred Speake added this is something we passed in 2005 to help citizens get flood insurance on their homes. We were not part of the flood plan program in Alabama, so they were having problems getting federally backed funds and from time to time ADECA requires us to update to match the state's regulations and right now they want a draft of what we are going to propose to the Commission.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to table amending Resolution 2005-37 to Resolution 2024-06 to update the Cullman County's local Flood Plain Development Ordinance to match the required State of Alabama standards. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign contract with Loomis Bros Circus to perform at the Ag Center February 2, 2024-February 4, 2024**

Parks Director Doug Davenport stated this is the same circus we have had for the last several years and have not had an issue with them.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve to Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign contract with Loomis Bros Circus to perform at the Ag Center February 2, 2024-February 4, 2024. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Annual Report from County Engineer on Rebuild Alabama Expenditures for the prior year per Rebuild Alabama Act**

County Engineer Philip Widner stated with the Rebuild Alabama Act we are required to file a report every January regarding our expenditures and what we spent. In 2023 using Rebuild Alabama Act Grant money, we spent \$3,486,601.58 and of that total \$403,379.20 was expended using our annual competitive bids. \$3,083,222.38 was expended using our public works bid. Those numbers are required to be read in the minutes and file the report with the state afterward. John, do you have anything to add?

County Administrator John Bullard added that this is accountability in the Rebuild Alabama Bill. We set a budget and plan for this every year. The engineer prepares, Commission approves, and then reports after that time period to state what we spend the money on, so that the state and the auditors can compare what we spent the money on. Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the Annual Report from County Engineer on Rebuild Alabama Expenditures for the prior year per Rebuild Alabama Act. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Chairman Clemon's nominee Commissioner Kerry Watson to serve as Vice-Chair of the County Commission**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve Chairman Clemon's nominee Commissioner Kerry Watson to serve as Vice-Chair of the County Commission. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Commissioner Freeman's nominee, Alan Wood, to replace Roger Humphries for a six-year term to expire 6/30/29**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Commissioner Freeman's nominee, Alan Wood, to replace Roger Humphries on the Cullman County Healthcare Authority Board for a six-year term to expire 6/30/29. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider recommendation of Rachel Pinehart Dawsey as Agritourism appointment to the Tourism Bureau**  
Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the recommendation of Rachel Pinehart Dawsey as Agritourism appointment to the Tourism Bureau. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval for Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey a purchase allowance that complies with the State Bid Law and budget approval for vehicles and/or equipment**

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated they recently increased the exemption amount for the state bid limit and previously the Commission had approved up to \$20,000 as long as it was budgeted for vehicles and/or equipment. This would raise it to the \$30,000 which is the current bid limit, but it would also tie it in with that bid limit so that if they raise it in the future then he would still be able to buy vehicles and/or equipment only if budgeted up to that amount.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve for Facilities and Equipment Manager Shane Bailey a purchase allowance that complies with the State Bid Law and budget approval for vehicles and/or equipment.

Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider agreement with Ingenuity software with an implementation fee of \$50,000 for Probate Office and authorize Chairman to sign all documents**

County Administrator John Bullard stated we knew the Probate Office wanted to implement new software in their office. We did budget the implementation fee, there will not be any additional cost. It will be about the same amount they pay now. This would include the installation of the new software.

Commissioner Kerry Watson asked if this would work with the other departments?

County Administrator John Bullard, it will not conflict with the system that they use in revenue. It will be more accessible to the public with online viewing and printing of documents.

Probate Judge Tammy Brown, I will have to meet with Vicky from Sales Tax once this is approved, this will be better for them. Our customers are charged fees that they have not appreciated for the last couple of years, and this will help resolve that. This will be implemented throughout the whole office in recording, boats, business licenses, court documents, and elections.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the agreement with Ingenuity software with an implementation fee of \$50,000 for Probate Office and authorize Chairman to sign all documents. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider payment to Amber's Video and Audio for installation of a Video Matrix System for EMA in the amount of \$20,763.14**

EMA Director Tim Sartin addressed the Commission and stated this money would not come out of my general budget; it would come out of the flood fund. As you have seen it puts more monitors out in our Emergency Operations Center.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve payment to Amber's Video and Audio for the installation of a Video Matrix System for EMA in the amount of \$20,763.14. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider project costs and compensation form for Trade Tank Pump Station Project, funded by ARPA funds not to exceed \$101,588.00 and authorize Chairman to sign**

County Administrator John Bullard stated, Randall is not able to be here today, they are trying to get caught up from the ice storm we had last week. This is American Rescue Plan money. We have already done the RFQ to select GMC as the engineering firm. This will authorize them to move forward and bid out the project for the Trade Tank Pump station in the western part of the county where there are a lot of people moving in and the pressure is lower by the day.

Commissioner Freeman stated this is a big item that is needed in this area and has been for a long time.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve project costs and compensation form for Trade Tank Pump Station Project, funded by ARPA funds not to exceed \$101,588.00 and authorize Chairman to sign. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider quote from LED Solutions for the Sheriff's Office replacing light fixtures in the amount of \$48,409.11**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the quote from LED Solutions for the Sheriff's Office replacing light fixtures in the amount of \$48,409.11. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the purchase of two (2) Heil Liberty 22-yard automated side loader, off Sourcewell Bid (Contract # 091219-THC), for the Sanitation Department in the amount of \$305,965.37 each and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Sanitation Director James Rollo stated this is replacing two of the first trucks that we bought when we started automation. We are trying to keep our fleet updated, so that we do not have to come up with the funds all at one time.

Chairman Jeff Clemons asked what is the arrival time on these?

Sanitation Director James Rollo, I found 2 road ready units that we should be able to get within 3 months. They are mostly a year out now. We will surplus the other 2 that we are replacing.

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) Heil Liberty 22-yard automated side loader, off Sourcewell Bid (Contract # 091219-THC), for the Sanitation Department in the amount of \$305,965.37 each and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider correction of the amount of \$545,312 to \$554,312 from the December 12, 2023 Meeting for the renewal of property, automobile, and equipment insurance with EMC through Byars Wright Insurance**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this was just a transposed number the correct number is \$554,312.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve correction of the amount of \$545,312 to \$554,312 from the December 12, 2023 Meeting for the renewal of property, automobile, and equipment insurance with EMC through Byars Wright Insurance. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Ratify proposal from AID for concrete work at Pandemic Response Center in the amount of \$15,753.00**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve to Ratify proposal from AID for concrete work at Pandemic Response Center in the amount of \$15,753.00. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1454: Concrete Pipe to The Shaddix Company, Inc**

County Engineer Philip Widner addressed the Commission and stated this is a new bid. We have had concrete pipe before and have had a hard time getting anyone to bid on it. The only arched pipe we could buy was made of metal. Being an agricultural community, those pipes do not last that long. The Shaddix family opened in Vinemont and they have started manufacturing concrete pipe primarily because we needed it. They have the capability to manufacture up to a 36-inch pipe and eventually up to a 72-inch pipe. I recommend we award this bid.

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve Award Bid # 1454: Concrete Pipe to The Shaddix Company, Inc. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed plat Crossroads Estates Subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 14 Lots located 500ft West of Guthrie's Crossroads at the corner of County Road 222 and County Road 847**

County Engineer Philip Widner stated that this is a minor subdivision located in District 4, and there are no additional roadways to be built. I recommend we approve this plat.

Commissioner Freeman, I am getting calls from people in the community. They have concerns about the egress on County Road 222. I have looked at the plat myself. They want to know what road their driveways are going to come out on. County Road 222 or County Road 847. It is a dangerous intersection with very low visibility and traffic comes through there at 45 mph making it a safety hazard. I understand we cannot deny this plat but we need to address the concern for safety moving forward.

County Engineer Philip Widner, this is just the initial plat on what they plan to do. Fred handled their subdivision, but I cannot recall where the actual driveways come out. Fred, are there any driveways coming out that will cause an issue?

Engineering Assistant Fred Speake, there will be six driveways coming out onto County Road 222. The rest will come out on County Road 847. The six driveways will be 100 feet apart. We checked on the stopping distance and there is adequate stopping distance. The lighting I am not sure about.

Commissioner Watson, we may need to look at the speed limit once the construction is finished.

County Engineer Philip Widner, we may need to look at County Road 222 and put up some warning speed signs because of the increased residential population.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the plat Crossroads Estates Subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 14 Lots located 500ft West of Guthrie's Crossroads at the corner of County Road 222 and County Road 847. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed plat West View Acres Subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 4 Lots located ½ mile North of US Hwy 157 on County Road 1242**

County Engineer Philip Widner addressed the Commission and stated this is a minor subdivision. We have received the proposed plat. We have notified everyone to let them know that it is being considered. It is a 4-lot subdivision.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve plat West View Acres Subdivision. A minor subdivision containing 4 Lots located ½ mile North of US Hwy 157 on County Road 1242. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed Resubdivision of Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1B. Removal of Lot 50 from currently recorded plat. Located on County Road 1616 in Berlin**

County Engineer Philip Widner stated this is the large subdivision in Berlin that we are all familiar with. They are going to remove Lot 50 and make it County Road 1701, I believe. They had to put two entrances instead of one because there were going to be so many houses. They could not get past the stated fire code.

Commissioner Duke asked if it was county-maintained?

Engineering Assistant Fred Speake stated it will be county-maintained.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Resubdivision of Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1B.

Removal of Lot 50 from currently recorded plat. Located on County Road 1616 in Berlin. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed Resubdivision of Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1C. Removal of Lots 132 and 133, also the addition of Lot 19A from currently recorded plat. Located on County Road 1616 in Berlin**

County Engineer Philip Widner stated this is two separate phases of the same subdivision. They want to remove a few lots and add Lot 19A.

Engineering Assistant Fred Speake, there was an old pond, that fish and wildlife did not want them to build in it until it went through all of their inspections.

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the Subdivision of Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1C. Removal of Lots 132 and 133, also the addition of Lot 19A from currently recorded plat. Located on County Road 1616 in Berlin. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION WILL BE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

Chairman Clemons announced that the next Commission Work Session will be Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.


**THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

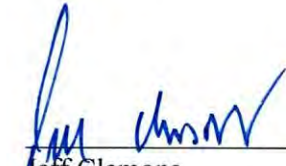
Chairman Clemons announced that the next Commission Meeting will be Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

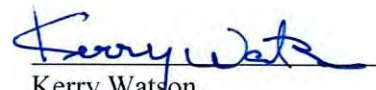
**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

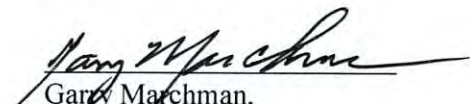
Commissioner Duke made a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Attest:

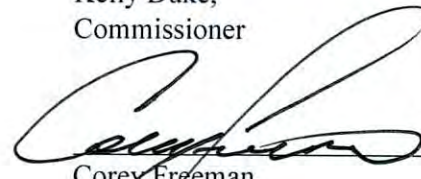
  
Tiffany Merriman,  
County Clerk

  
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Jeff Clemons,  
Chairman

  
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Kerry Watson,  
Commissioner

  
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Gary Marchman,  
Commissioner

  
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Kelly Duke,  
Commissioner

  
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Corey Freeman,  
Commissioner