January 22, 2026

Call to order and welcome guests

Chairman Clemons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Call of Roll to Establish Quorum

Tiffany Merriman, County Clerk, called roll; present were Chairman Clemons, Commissioner Watson, Commissioner Marchman, Commissioner Duke, Commissioner Freeman, County Attorney Brad Wilson, County Administrator John Bullard, and County Engineer Philip Widner. Matt Smith gave the invocation and County Attorney Brad Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve the minutes of December 16, 2025, Meeting, appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, and requisitions, and approve all journal entries to be posted

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025, Meeting, appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, and requisitions, and approve all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments/Updates

Zachary Jones addressed the Commission and stated you all are the pinnacle of professionalism. I want to thank you all for everything you have done for me and the help that you have provided me. I greatly appreciate that. I was born here, right down the street in 1979. My mother was Dr. Williams scrub nurse. My father owned a business in Holly Pond or Hanceville. I graduated from Hanceville in 1997.Joined the Army right here in this county. I served my country as a Radio Operator and a combat lifesaver in the 21st Combat. I served my country honorably. Years later, I decided to better myself and go back to school. Became an EMT. Worked night shift on the Gadsden City 911 truck for three and a half years while I got my bachelor's degree in medical biology and biochemistry. I am a published author, and I have served my community. I have run injured police officers, burned fire fighters, and hurt children. First time in my life I want to stand up and speak for a stranger and hold a sign on the front steps of this courthouse. District Attorney of this county told me no and threatened me and my son with arrest. I did everything right. I talked to the city. I talked to you all. Got your permission to be out there. But for me and my family to be threatened with arrest. For me, being correct after serving my country and serving my community that I will not stand for. I will not. If I could have stood out there and held my sign, you all would have never heard from me again. But you will hear from me now all the time, as loud as I can be until it is fixed. I do not think it was right. I do not like the fact that nobody has spoken up and said it was wrong. I wish this Commission would speak on that. At least if you do not want to tell me I was right and he was wrong, at least make sure I am not arrested if I want to hold a sign in this county and express my opinion. May not be the opinion of everybody, but that is my God-given right. And I will not be threatened with arrest for doing everything I was supposed to do, completely right. All the paperwork, all the forms, ask permission to hold a sign, which I think is ridiculous anyway, but that is beside the point. I follow the law. I should have been allowed to hold my sign without threat of arrest. County Attorney, Brad Wilson, addressed the Commission and stated I have spoken to each of you individually, and I do not think any of you disagree with what Mr. Jones is asking. And I do not think any of you disagree with his statement that he should be able to exercise his freedom of speech in a way that he is not going to be threatened. That being said, in his email when he submitted his form, he mentioned that he was doing this as a courtesy to us, asking us for permission. And he is right in that. I do not necessarily think it is for this body to give him approval to exercise his freedom of speech. He does not have to come to us as long as he does within a peaceful and lawful way, which I do not have any reason to think that he would not. I also do not think it is for this body to give him permission or to vote on that or to say yes, you can exercise it or no, you cannot. And yes, you can only do it on this day in these times at these places. We do limit speech. We just limited his speech to three minutes. We limit his speech when he is going to exercise that at the courthouse for obvious reasons. We have a lot of people coming in and out of here. We need to do that in an orderly way, and we need to know when that is going to happen. When he is exercising his freedom of speech in other forums, I do not think that it is for this body to say yes you can or you cannot. As long as he is doing it in a lawful way. And I would say more to that point that in the future, he does not have to come ask us. If he is going to do it at the courthouse, obviously we want that to happen. But if he is going to do that out in the county, if he is going to do it other places in the city, he does not need to come and ask us for permission, and we do not need to give him permission or deny him permission. That is not for us to say from a

legal standpoint. We do not need to get involved in that kind of fight because it is not for us. That is his right to exercise as he sees fit. In that regard, I think we all would agree. I know it is coming up for a vote later; I would say we do not approve it or deny it. It is his freedom of speech to exercise how he sees fit as long as he is doing it in a lawful way.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation: Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Proclamation: Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Proclamation: America's 250th Anniversary

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Proclamation: America's 250th Anniversary. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Consider request for approval for protest by Alabama Watchdog on:

- **January 25, 2026, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm on County Road 1545 from the intersection of Highway 69N to County Road 1502**
- **January 31, 2026, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm at the intersection of Highway 157 and Highway 278**
- **February 7, 2026, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm in the vicinity of County Road 1500**
- **February 8, 2026, from 8:00 am-5:00 pm in the vicinity of County Road 1500**

County Attorney, Brad Wilson, stated I would like to reiterate that I think we all support Mr. Jones right to exercise his free speech lawfully. I just do not think it is anything for us to approve of or disapprove of. Item fails for lack of motion.

Resolution 2026-11: Change speed limit to 25 mph on County Road 57

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-11: Change speed limit to 25 mph on County Road 57. Commissioner Duke seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider the extension for NAFCO Abatement (Project # 2023213002) through December 31, 2026

Stanley Kennedy, Project Manager with Cullman Economic Development Agency, stated this is a project from 2023 where NAFCO, as part of their expansion, they added the office building to the front which gave them some additional production space. They are continuing to open up additional production space. This is not related to that. That will come at a later date. Things get behind especially when bringing in robots, there is actually only six in the Western Hemisphere. This is just to ask to extend the time extension. This project created 50 jobs. Those people have been hired. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the extension for NAFCO Abatement (Project # 2023213002) through December 31, 2026. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Ratify the purchase of the following vehicles from McSweeney Chevrolet off state bid:

- **One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT for the Road Department in the amount of $48,901.37**
- **One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT for Sanitation in the amount of $43,648.92**
- **One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT for Maintenance Department in the amount of $43,648.92**
- **Two (2) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT for Water Department in the amount of $97,802.74**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to ratify the purchase of the following vehicles from McSweeney Chevrolet off state bid:

- One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT for the Road Department in the amount of $48,901.37

- One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT for Sanitation in the amount of $43,648.92
- One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT for Maintenance Department in the amount of $43,648.92
- Two (2) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT for Water Department in the amount of $97,802.74

Commissioner Watson seconded. Commissioner Marchman voted nay. With a majority voice vote, the motion carried.

Amend Item V. from December 18, 2025, Meeting to reflect the purchase of two (2) Enclosed Trailers from A&H Truck & Trailer Sales, LLC for EMA in the amount of $21,200 (fund 001-24106-000)

Commissioner Watson made a motion to amend Item V. from December 18, 2025, Meeting to reflect the purchase of two (2) Enclosed Trailers from A&H Truck & Trailer Sales, LLC for EMA in the amount of $21,200 (fund 001-24106-000). Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Issue a State of Emergency conditions declaration due to the predicted winter weather forecast

Commissioner Watson made a motion to Issue a State of Emergency conditions declaration due to the predicted winter weather forecast. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize Chairman to sign contract with Loomis Bros Circus to perform at the Ag Center February 6th-8th 2026

Commissioner Duke made a motion to authorize Chairman to sign contract with Loomis Bros Circus to perform at the Ag Center February 6th-8th 2026. Commissioner Freeman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Approve the FY 2025 County Rebuild Alabama Report (CRAAR) as required by the Rebuild Alabama Act

County Engineer, Philip Widner stated this is what we have to submit every January based on what we have done in the previous year. This is for fiscal year 2025. This was as of September 30, 2025.

Map Index	Project No.	Road Name/Number	Begin		End		Project Details				Amount of Rebuild Alabama Funding Expended in Current Fiscal Year	Method In Which Rebuild Funds Were Utilized			Percent Complete	Original CTP (Yes or No)	CRAF or FAEF	CRAF Amount (220)	FAEF Amount (221)
			Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.	Road Improvement Project	Bridge Improvement Project	Project Length (miles)	Description of Work		Amount Expended Utilizing Competitive Bid	Amount Expended Utilizing Public Works	Amount Expended exempt from Competitive and/ or Public Works					
										Beginning Balance								$0.00	$0.00
										Annual Revenue Received by County								$1,885,311.41	$400,000.00
										Rebuild Funds Received from Municipalities through MOUs								$0.00	$0.00
1	CCP 22-01-25	CR 1282	34.2762	-86.9292	34.2929	-86.8988	X		2.41	Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from CR 1223 to Hwy 31	$427,652.52	$3,267.60	$424,384.92		100.0%	Y	CRAF/FAEF	$27,652.52	$400,000.00
2	CCP 22-02-25	CR 223	34.0439	-86.9013	34.0691	-86.9157	X		2.20	Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from Dodge City town limits to CR 437	$382,444.59	$382,444.59			100.0%	Y	CRAF	$382,444.59	
3	CCP 22-03-25	CR 719	34.1520	-86.7679	34.1835	-86.7851	X		2.50	Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from End of the Road to Hwy 278	$452,264.39	$452,264.39			100.0%	Y	CRAF	$452,264.39	
4	CCP 22-04-25	CR 1386	34.2643	-86.8465	34.2936	-86.8426	X		2.196	Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from CR 1354 to Bridge over East	$538,288.91	$538,288.91			100.0%	Y	CRAF	$538,288.91	
	CCP 22-25-22	CR 1763	34.2771	-86.5190	34.2773	-86.5185		X	0.04	Construction of New Bridge over Tibb Creek	$0.00	$0.00			40.0%	N	RA	$0.00	
	CCP 22-40-24	CR 783	32.5700	86.4000	33.4000	86.6000	X		3.99	Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from Al Hwy 51 to US 278	$176.47	$176.47			100.0%	Y	FAEF/CRAF	$176.47	
	CCP 22-41-24	CR 1224	34.2533	86.9721	34.2895	86.9469	X		3.92	Widening, Resurfacing and Traffic Striping/Marking from US 157 to CR 1212	$24,536.42	$24,536.42			100.0%	Y	CRAF	$24,536.42	
Note: Only Rebuild Alabama Funds are intended to be reported			Total Miles Addressed this Fiscal Year (Total Mileage Does Not Include Bridge Projects)						17.22	Total Rebuild Funds Expended this Fiscal Year	$1,825,363.30	$1,400,978.38	$424,384.92	$0.00			Total CRAF/FAEF Remaining	$459,948.11	$0.00

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the FY 2025 County Rebuild Alabama Report (CRAAR) as required by the Rebuild Alabama Act. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider authorizing purchase order to P.O.P.S. Tree Service for tree removal in the amount of

$14,850 for installation of drone monument (fund 001-24101-000)
County Administrator John Bullard stated these are funds that were from the legislative delegation fund. Commissioner Duke made a motion to authorize the purchase order to P.O.P.S. Tree Service for tree removal in the amount of $14,850 for installation of drone monument (fund 001-24101-000). Commissioner Freeman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider approval of electrical upgrade at the Cullman County Detention Facility by Goss Electrical in the amount of $28,850 (fund 116-52200-231)
Commissioner Watson asked what is the issue?
County Administrator John Bullard stated there is an electrical issue that had to be completely redone.
Lt. Todd Renolds addressed the Commission and stated back in Work Release, the fuse box was got so hot it had fused and welded together. It started around May when we got a body scanner. We had to do a whole new circuit breaker for it. They said at that time, we are eventually going to have to do this because if we do not do this, it is a fire hazard. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve electrical upgrade at the Cullman County Detention Facility by Goss Electrical in the amount of $28,850 (fund 116-52200-231). Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider agreement at $85 per hour with ProAdvisors to assist the Water Department with accounting and financial services and training for staff
County Administrator addressed the Commission and stated they will be providing training. They will help us with the billing transition and helping us prepare our financial statements for audit. Commissioner Waston made a motion to approve agreement at $85 per hour with ProAdvisors to assist the Water Department with accounting and financial services and training for staff. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Consider appropriation of funds in the amount of $555,095.94 from General Fund to Revenue
Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve appropriation of funds in the amount of $555,095.94 from General Fund to Revenue. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider approval of payment to Surefire for network scanning and protection services in the amount of $15,406.25
Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve payment to Surefire for network scanning and protection services in the amount of $15,406.25. Commissioner Duke seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider payment to Keet Consulting, LLC for GIS and Internet Spatial Viewer for Reappraisal in the amount of $84,900
Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve payment to Keet Consulting, LLC for GIS and Internet Spatial Viewer for Reappraisal in the amount of $84,900. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Consider Amending following budget line items per Examiners:

	Current	Change	Amended Amount
001-51100-111	**191,214.00**	**-30,891.12**	**160,322.88**
001-51100-112	**0.00**	**30,891.12**	**30,891.12**
001-51300-111	**132,373.00**	**-17,254.90**	**115,118.10**
001-51300-112	**0.00**	**17,254.90**	**17,254.90**
001-51500-111	**124,818.00**	**-16315.26**	**108,502.74**
001-51500-112	**0.00**	**16,315.26**	**16,315.26**
001-52100-111	**131,773.00**	**-17,254.90**	**114,518.10**
001-52100-112	**0.00**	**17,254.90**	**17,254.90**
001-52400-111	**33,984.00**	**-1523.6**	**32,460.40**
001-52400-112	**0.00**	**1523.6**	**1523.6**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this does not increase the budget at all. It just reallocates the funds that are already in the budget into the appropriate object codes based on the advice of the examiners. Commissioner Duke made a motion to amend Amending following budget line items per Examiners:

	Current	Change	Amended Amount
001-51100-111	191,214.00	-30,891.12	160,322.88
001-51100-112	0.00	30,891.12	30,891.12
001-51300-111	132,373.00	-17,254.90	115,118.10
001-51300-112	0.00	17,254.90	17,254.90
001-51500-111	124,818.00	-16315.26	108,502.74
001-51500-112	0.00	16,315.26	16,315.26
001-52100-111	131,773.00	-17,254.90	114,518.10
001-52100-112	0.00	17,254.90	17,254.90
001-52400-111	33,984.00	-1523.6	32,460.40
001-52400-112	0.00	1523.6	1523.6

Commissioner Freeman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider agreement with District Attorney's Office for use of Opioid Funds already provided for Drug Court

County Attorney Brad Wilson addressed the Commission and stated this needs to be tabled. When the District Attorney's Office was audited, they requested that going forward we get an agreement. When we have a working agreement, I would like to bring that back at that time if we can table it for now. Commissioner Watson made a motion to table agreement with District Attorney's Office for use of Opioid Funds already provided for Drug Court. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the item is tabled.

Consider the purchase of two (2) WT package 4WD from McSweeny Chevrolet for the Water

Department in the amount of $43,648.92 each

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) WT package 4WD from McSweeny Chevrolet for the Water Department in the amount of $43,648.92 each. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Consider approval of purchase of one (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado PPV from McSweeney for the Animal Control in the amount of $48,080.19 off State Bid

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) 2026 Chevrolet Silverado PPV from McSweeney for the Animal Control in the amount of $48,080.19 off State Bid. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Request for a variance from Subdivision Regulations for Vista Lago Subdivision

The following variances are being requested due to topography and increased safety of traffic flow.

Variance 1. Classify as Private Access Drive to boat dock verses Private roadway
Variance 2. No cul-da-sac on Private access drive to boat dock
Variance 3. 15 mph design speed versus design speed of 35 mph
Variance 4. Roadway intersection angle not at 90 degrees. Install signage restricting turning movements

County Engineer Philip Widner addressed the Commission and stated he would recommend approving these variances for this subdivision. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Request for a variance from Subdivision Regulations for Vista Lago Subdivision

The following variances are being requested due to topography and increased safety of traffic flow.

Variance 1. Classify as Private Access Drive to boat dock verses Private roadway
Variance 2. No cul-da-sac on Private access drive to boat dock
Variance 3. 15 mph design speed versus design speed of 35 mph
Variance 4. Roadway intersection angle not at 90 degrees. Install signage restricting turning movements.
Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Proposed preliminary plat Vista Lago Subdivision. A privately maintained major subdivision containing 107 Lots in Commission District 4. The subdivision is located on County Road 143, one mile north of Ryans Creek Missionary Baptist Church in the Brushy Pond community contingent on $875,000 maintenance bond

County Engineer Philip Widner stated Michael Shamshie is the Engineer hired by Maverick Construction. Mr. Widner stated his concern is that this is a very large development. We have a lot of concerns on County Road 143. We will have a lot of damage to that road. It is a privately maintained subdivision. We want to require a maintenance bond of $875,000 for the improvements of County Road 143 in case they are damaged during construction. This maintenance bond will be required to continue until all construction is complete.
Mr. Shamshie asked if that could be in the form of a surety bond?
Mr. Widner replied yes, sir. This is based on our estimate that would take to repair that road if it were damaged.
Commissioner Freeman asked, "do you think that is something your group would be in agreeance with?
Mr. Shamshie replied well, I guess they are going to have to be. I mean we do not intend to damage the road. Our contractors are out of Birmingham.
Commissioner Freeman stated I can assure you it is going to get damaged because it is a lake road.

The base is not designed.
Mr. Shamshie stated I hope it does not, but if it does, then they will have to repair it. Yeah, I agree. I would not want to be a resident there and have my road damaged by another development. They have got to be responsible.
Mr. Widner asked, "do you have any idea how long construction will take?
Mr. Shamshie replied it will take a year to get the construction done at the least.
Mr. Widner asked that does not include houses at all?
Mr. Shamshie stated that does not include the houses. I am talking about the horizontal, just the roadway construction, water, sewer, etc.
Mr. Widner asked, is Maverick going to go ahead and build the houses or you all going to sell lots and let the owners build or what is the plan there>
Mr. Shamshie replied I am not sure on that, but in the center area, we have a lot of amenities going in that area, which we have not submitted that plan to you, but it is just the clubhouse and different basketball courts, tennis, stuff like that. And that construction will take some time. I would say the major portion of the horizontal would be done in a year. I imagine the amenity area will be another year. The homes will be going on during that period after the horizontal is done. I have no idea if Maverick is going to build all the homes or not.
Mr. Widner stated as far as the completion of construction right now, we are considering that when all the houses are complete. You can always come back to the Commission and revisit later if we need to. I would assume that they were going to build all the settlement.
Mr. Shamshie stated I am not positive on that, but I think that is the way it is going to be. But there is other builders involved, then they can work an agreement out with them. If they damage the road, that could be an agreement between the developer and the builder.
Mr. Widner stated and this bond, I will refer to our attorney on that. We normally do annual bonds or we do five-year bonds. Whatever the bonding company agrees to. But if we get an annual, we will have to come back and reapprove each year. We would prefer, I guess, a 5-year bond.
Commissioner Freeman asked Mr. Widner if all the proper notifications were sent out and no correspondence back.
Mr. Wider stated there was an issue with one of the adjoining property owners, but we got it resolved.
Mr. Shamshie stated I think we had a sidewalk that was over on their property.
Mr. Widner stated we dealt with that.
Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Proposed preliminary plat Vista Lago Subdivision. A privately maintained major subdivision containing 107 Lots in Commission District 4. The subdivision is located on County Road 143, one mile north of Ryans Creek Missionary Baptist Church in the Brushy Pond community contingent on $875,000 maintenance bond. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Resubmittal of Schoolhouse Acres Subdivision. Owner is requesting a reduction of total lots from 7 to 4. This preliminary plat was previously approved on December 16, 2025. A minor subdivision in Commission District 1, located one mile South of Baileyton Fire Department on County Road 1719
Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resubmittal of Schoolhouse Acres Subdivision. Owner is requesting a reduction of total lots from 7 to 4. This preliminary plat was previously approved on December 16, 2025. A minor subdivision in Commission District 1, located one mile South of Baileyton Fire Department on County Road 1719. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Resubmittal of The Village at Lake Catoma Subdivision. Owner is requesting a increase of total lots from 16 to 18. This preliminary plat was previously approved on December 16, 2025. A major subdivision in Commission District 1, located at the intersection of County Road 1402 and Hwy 157
Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resubmittal of The Village at Lake Catoma Subdivision. Owner is requesting a increase of total lots from 16 to 18. This preliminary plat was previously approved on December 16, 2025. A major subdivision in Commission District 1, located at

the intersection of County Road 1402 and Hwy 157. Commissioner Duke seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Extend Bid # 1454: for concrete pipe to The Shaddix Company Inc.
Commissioner Freeman made a motion to Extend Bid # 1454: for concrete pipe to The Shaddix Company Inc. Commissioner Duke seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The next Commission Work Session will be on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room
Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Work Session will be on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

The next Commission Meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room
Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

Adjourn

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Jeff Clemons,
Chairman

Attest: County Clerk

Kerry Watson,
Commissioner

Kelly Duke,
Commissioner

Garry Marchman,
Commissioner

Corey Freeman,
Commissioner