

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
March 24, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Walker called the Commission Meeting to order at 10:00 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, Bryan Cheatwood County Engineer, Jon Brunner Assistant County Engineer and County Attorney Emily Johnston. Commission on Aging Director, Dusty Baker, gave the invocation. Chairman Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2020 MEETING; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED

Commissioner Watson made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020, Commission Meeting; approve appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, requisitions, and all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Approve the minutes of the Emergency Commission Meeting on March 17, 2020

Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving the minutes from the Emergency Commission Meeting on March 17, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC /UPDATES

Phyllis Little, EMA Director, stated she had multiple updates. She explained she had been on conference calls all week with Public Health and State EMA for several days trying to work out delivery for health supplies for our local healthcare facilities and our long-term facilities, and those supplies were beginning to come in. Ms. Little explained she had just finished a conference call, and we are expecting a few more supplies but not aware of when we would receive those or exactly how much supplies we would be receiving but our Cullman County EMA would do their best to help get those supplies to who needed them.

Ms. Little stated the last time she looked on the Public Health website; they had reported Cullman was still holding at only two people being diagnosed with Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Ms. Little stated Cullman County EMA was working with local responders and assisting any way they could.

Ms. Little stated with today's weather, all community shelters have been opened, and EMA was allowing people to make their own decision whether to seek shelter. There is severe weather, but it may not be tornadic type, but we as a community needed to be weather aware and adjust as needed. Ms. Little stated the National Weather Service statewide formatted a statement initially was only to be released to EMA, but she had not received the statement but had seen it published by the news media recommending the same recommendation as Cullman County EMA for today's weather. Judy Bradford, Human Resources Manager, stated she had seen on the news in Morgan County, if you were sick, they were offering masks and trying to keep people separated in separate areas as much as possible and asked if that was something Cullman could do. Ms. Little responded and stated we do not have the supplies to give out masks, and most of our shelters are small, and it would be hard for them to keep a 6-foot distance. Chairman Walker thanked Ms. Little for her update and stated Cullman County Commission is here to help if the Cullman County EMA needed anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month 2020

County Attorney, Emily Johnston, read aloud the proclamation. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize Chairman Kenneth Walker and the County Attorney to sign the Federal FY 2020 Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs

Emily Johnston, County Attorney, addressed the Commission and stated the Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs is to be in compliance so Cullman County can receive federal funds for CARTS. Commissioner Marchman made a motion authorizing Chairman Walker and the County Attorney to sign the Federal FY 2020 Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

Consider request from Ken Brown with the VFW for an appropriation in the amount of \$12,000 for PTSD Shots for Veterans

Commissioner Watson made a motion approving the request from Ken Brown with the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) for an appropriation in the amount of \$12,00 for PTSD Shots for Veterans. Commissioner Marchman stated, "I am going to abstain from voting. I think it is a good idea what we are doing here, but I am a member of VFW, and I do not think it would be appropriate for me to vote on that". Chairman Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed upon affirmative votes from Commissioner Watson and Chairman Walker.

Resolution 2020-15: Speed Limit change on County Road 1500 from 45 mph to 15 mph

Bryan Cheatwood, County Engineer, addressed the Commission and explained the resolution would allow for County Road 1500 to be posted as 15mph. Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving Resolution 2020-15: Speed Limit change on County Road 1500 from 45mph to 15mph. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2020-16: SR-157, Additional Lanes from SR-69 To East of SR-3(US-31) North of Cullman, Project No. TIGER-NH-0157 (506)

Chairman Walker stated the Resolution 2020-16 is in regard to the TIGER Grant from the Federal Government that the City of Cullman and Cullman County received back when 157 was being four-lane, and this is an agreement like we have now but will change the City and County's right-of-way. Chairman explained the resolution would be the County agreeing to maintain intersections the way we have since Alabama State Highway 157 was built. Chairman Walker asked County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood if that was correct. Mr. Cheatwood responded, yes. Commissioner Watson made a motion approving Resolution 2020-16: SR-157, Additional Lanes from SR-69 To East of SR-3(US-31) North of Cullman, Project No. TIGER-NH-0157 (506). Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2020-17: Adopting the Cullman County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic for County Employees

Judy Bradford, Human Resources Manager, explained to the Commission a plan was put together for the Coronavirus Pandemic. The requirements that were set forth by the new Legislation, there was a major piece that was passed last week that we had to incorporate, and we have put together a comprehensive plan for the Coronavirus as it relates to our County Employees. Mrs. Bradford explained the plan allows HR and the Commission to be flexible with personnel policy and procedures as we have to make changes based on any kind of future local, State, or Government Legislature that may come later on. Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving Resolution 2020-17: Adopting the Cullman County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic for County Employees. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Approve the Contract for the County Attorney

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Contract for the County Attorney. Commissioner Marchman stated he would like to say something before. Commissioner Marchman stated, "In most cases when we hire, and Emily has done a fanatic job since she has been on board for just a few days, but in most cases, we allow at a minimum six months as a probation period before we approve a contract. With the ever-changing things we are in, I think it would be appropriate if we waited just a little while. I did not find out until this morning that this was going to be on the agenda, and it was not even on the original agenda that I received, so I have only had about 10 minutes to review the contract. The contract that is currently here, on the first page at the bottom it says that the County paid at an excess of \$153,000, including settlements provided by outside attorneys not employed by the County. In the last fiscal year, we had a full-time attorney then, but if you look at the number of \$153,000 and with the salary of \$115,00 the County is still going to be responsible for worker's comp, license and fees, association fees, basic insurance, and attorney insurance. Just roughly running the numbers, it is going to cost us \$200,000 a year minimum to have a full-time attorney. With just looking at the first page, I saw faults and problems with this contract. I just think it would be appropriate if we gave it a little time and looked at it at a later date and make sure everything is going to be for the benefit of the taxpayers. Because under this contract, if we get rid of an attorney, we will have to pay them a lot of money to get rid of them. I am not saying that we would ever want to do that. I think Emily will do a wonderful job, but I do not want to assume that, and I do not want to assume if something changes, that changes may or may not be made, and that's all I got". Chairman Walker stated he was going to second the motion to approve her contract. Chairman also stated it was the same contracted Chad Floyd had when he was the attorney. The motion passed upon affirmative votes from Commissioner Watson and Chairman Walker. Commissioner Marchman stated there are differences in this contract and the contract Chad Floyd had.

Authorize the Cullman County Commission – CARTS to enter a Supplemental Agreement with the State of Alabama in regards to extending the Time of Performance, for Project No. RPT-022 CDFA No. 20.509

County Attorney, Emily Johnston, addressed the Commission and explained this would be an extension of the current agreement. The Supplemental Agreement is with the State of Alabama for a pass-through of federal funds between the State of Alabama and CARTS. Commissioner Watson made a motion authorizing Cullman County Commission CARTS to enter a Supplemental Agreement with the State of Alabama in regards to extending the Time of Performance, for Project No. RPT-022 CDFA No. 20.509. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

Authorize County Administrator to negotiate the finances for Sanitation for Trucks and Equipment on behalf of the County Commission

Commissioner Watson made a motion authorizing the County Administrator to negotiate the finances for Sanitation for Trucks and Equipment on behalf of the County Commission. Commissioner Marchman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

WORK SESSION

The Commission will hold a Work Session on May 27, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the commission conference room.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

Chairman Walker announced the next commission meeting would be Tuesday, May 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the commission meeting room.

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marchman seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

/s/ _____
Kenneth Walker,
Chairman

/s/ _____
Kerry Watson,
Associate Commissioner

/s/ _____
Garry Marchman,
Associate Commissioner