

## **CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

**January 21, 2021**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Chairman Clemons called the Commission Meeting to order 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 Administrator John Bullard, County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood, and County Attorney Emily Johnston. Brother Sam Hollis gave the invocation. Dusty Baker, Director for Commission on Aging, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2020 MEETING ; APPROVE APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES, REQUISITIONS, AND ALL JOURNAL ENTRIES TO BE POSTED**

Commissioner Marchman made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting; approve appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, requisitions, and all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Watson seconded. The motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

### **PUBLIC /UPDATES**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Ratify Abatement for AGCOR Steel LLC presented by Cullman Alabama Economic Development Agency in the amount of \$2,000,000.00**

Stanley Kennedy, Project Manager and Finance with Cullman Alabama Economic Development Agency reported that this Abatement is for the City of Good Hope. The abatement is for \$284,860.00 total. There will be a \$2,000,000.00 capital investment in our community. \$106,144.00 for our schools and create thirty jobs with an average pay of about \$20.00 per hour, which is higher than our county average. A total payroll of about 1.25 million. Mr. Kenney estimated those wages will affect our community with an additional \$36,714 a year in additional tax money. Just under \$400,000 of revenue for our local businesses. Commissioner Watson made a motion to ratify the abatement for AGCOR Steel LLC presented by Cullman Alabama Economic Development Agency in the amount of \$2,000,000.00. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2021-08: Amend Resolution 2013-01 from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for any single purchase, lease or contract for service(excluding road materials and services that are bid and within budget) must be approved in a commission meeting prior to a purchase order being issued regardless if such purchase, lease or contract was budgeted and any monetary donations to outside agencies that was not budgeted for or exceeds the budget, must be approved in a commission meeting prior to funds being issued.**

John Bullard, County Administrator, advised this does not change anything other than raising the limit from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to safeguard the Commission to control the budget and raise

the limit due to price increases and items going up. Commissioner Marchman made a motion approving Resolution 2021-08:Amend Resolution 2013-01 from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for any single purchase, lease or contract for service(excluding road materials and services that are bid and within budget) must be approved in a commission meeting prior to a purchase order being issued regardless if such purchase, lease or contract was budgeted and any monetary donations to outside agencies that was not budgeted for or exceeds the budget, must be approved in a commission meeting prior to funds being issued. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2021-09:Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign the CDBG Grant-Cares Act Funding**

Bradley Williams, Director of Economic Development, stated this is a resolution that will allow us to seek the \$600,000.00 in the form of a CDBG Grant that has been allocated for the CARES Act funding for COVID-19 19 related activities. Commissioner Watson made a motion approving Resolution 2021-09:Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign the CDBG Grant-Cares Act Funding. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to appoint Ken Brown to the Veteran’s Memorial Park Advisory Board**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion authorizing Chairman Clemons to appoint Ken Brown to the Veteran’s Memorial Park Advisory Board. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Commissioner Watson to appoint Clarence Benefield to the Veteran’s Memorial Park Advisory Board**

Commissioner Watson stated, “ Mr. Benefield is a good man and a good person. He is well known in the community. He will be good on the Board.” Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Commissioner Watson to appoint Clarence Benefield to the Veteran’s Memorial Park Advisory Board. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Commissioner Marchman to appoint Wiley Kitchens to the Veteran’s Memorial Park Advisory Board**

Commissioner Marchman stated, “ Mr. Kitchens piqued our interest or asked us about being a part of this board.” Commissioner Marchman made a motion authorizing Commissioner Marchman to appoint Wiley Kitchens to the Veteran’s Memorial Park Advisory Board. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to appoint Lane Lowery to the Airport Board for a four (4) year term to expire January 2025**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Chairman Clemons to appoint Lane Lowery to the Airport Board for a four(4) year term to expire January 2025. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to appoint Champ Crocker to the Industrial Development Board Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 01/19/27**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to authorize Chairman Clemons to appoint Champ Crocker to the Industrial Development Board Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 01/19/27. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Commissioner Watson to reappoint Dr. James Thomas to the Industrial Development Board Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 01/19/27**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Commissioner Watson to reappoint Dr. James Thomas to the Industrial Development Board Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 01/19/27. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion then passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Commissioner Marchman to reappoint Jerry Wooten to the Industrial Development Board Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 01/19/27**

Commissioner Marchman stated, "Mr. Wooten has done a fantastic job in the last few years and he showed interest in remaining on the board." Commissioner Marchman made a motion to authorize Commissioner Marchman to reappoint Jerry Wooten to the Industrial Development Board Authority for a six (6) year term to expire 01/19/27. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign a one-year scheduled service agreement with Trane in the amount of \$ 21,492.00 for the Cullman County Detention Center**

John Bullard, County Administrator, reported the jail received three (3) quotes. Trane was the least expensive by a significant amount(over \$3,000.00). This is for scheduled maintenance such as changing filters. There is a small discount, about 3%, if paid all at once. Commissioner Watson made a motion to authorize Chairman Clemons to sign a one-year scheduled service agreement with Trane in the amount of \$21,492.00 for the Cullman County Detention Center. Commissioner Marchman seconded. 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 5, 2021-February 7, 2021**

Doug Davenport, Director of Parks, advised this is the same organization we have had over the past six or seven years. Loomis Bros Circus has hired extra ushers to seat citizens. Areas will be marked off to comply with the social distancing guidelines. There will also be hand sanitizing stations. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to authorize Chairman Clemons to sign a contract with Loomis Bros Circus to perform at the Ag Center February 5, 2021-February 7, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider extension of employee vacation time to June 4, 2021**

Judy Bradford, HR Manager, reported this is just a further extension to allow our employees to use there 2020 vacation time. In November we extended the deadline to use the 2020 vacation time to February 28, 2021 because of the pandemic. Ms. Bradford advised our employees are having a hard time taking their vacation because they are covering shifts for other employees

that are out due to having the virus or quarantining because family members are being exposed. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the extension of employee vacation time to June 4, 2021. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Approve Surplus of a non-operational 1986 Ford 6610 Tractor**

Brian Cheatwood, County Engineer, explained this is a tractor that we did a surplus to trade for a more modern tractor to supplement the county's mowing crews. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the surplus of a non-operational 1986 Ford 6610 Tractor. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion then passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Approve the County Rebuild Alabama Annual Report (CRAAR) as required by the Rebuild Alabama Act**

Brian Cheatwood, County Engineer, addressed the Commission and stated this is required by Rebuild Alabama Act. Approximately \$700,000.00 has been spent in the Federal Aide Exchange Funds and the Go Alabama Funds towards repairing Cullman County roads. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the County Rebuild Alabama Annual Report (CRAAR) as required by the Rebuild Alabama Act. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of Catastrophic Inmate Medical Insurance Company through Hunt Insurance Group LLC-total premium \$61,110**

John Bullard, County Administrator, reported this limits the county's liability if the county receives a catastrophic claim for an inmate. The increase is less than 1% this year over last year's cost. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the Catastrophic Inmate Medical Insurance Company through Hunt Insurance Group LLC with a total premium of \$61,110. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider adjustment to water rates to all customers of Cullman County Water Department-7% increase from FY 2020 based on recommendation of St. John & Associates, Inc. due to the increase of the rates from the City of Cullman Utilities Board and adjust water rates annually based on the recommendation of St. John & Associates, Inc water rate study**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve adjustment to water rates to all customers of Cullman County Water Departments-7% increase from FY 2020 based on recommendation of St. John & Associates, Inc. due to the increase of the rates from the City of Cullman Utilities Board adjust water rates annually based on the recommendation of St. John & Associates, Inc water rate study. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the value of land to be exchanged for the land where the Trade Tank Water Tower currently sits**

Emily Johnston, County Attorney, addressed the Commission and stated there is an error on the survey and property description. Where the water tower sits does not match up where the water tower is. The Commission is working with the landowner on exchanging one (1) acre for one (1)

acre. Michelle Joiner, Associate Broker with Era Waldrop Real Estate, drafted a letter of recommendation that both properties (as evaluated with no improvements included) would be the same value.

Commissioner Watson stated, "what is the value of the property?"

Emily Johnston, County Attorney, responded \$12,000.00 per acre.

Ms. Johnston recommended the Commission move forward with correcting the deeds involved. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the value of land to be exchanged for the land where the Trade Tank Water Tower currently sits. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider amending Section IX-1(a) of the Cullman County Subdivision Regulations to make provision for an equivalent surety.**

Brian Cheatwood, County Engineer, explained amending the regulations would provide more options for development, yet still achieve the purpose and goals of the Cullman County Subdivision Regulations.

Commissioner Watson stated, we will still follow the codes?

Brian Cheatwood, County Engineer stated, yes, sir.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to amend Section IX-1(a) of the Cullman County Regulations to make a provision for an equivalent surety. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid #1334-Reject all bids**

Brian Cheatwood, County Engineer, reported this bid was to seek more options for our Motor Graders. This bid did not provide a benefit compared to the bid we are accepting. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to Bid #1334- Reject all bids. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid #1336-Award Bid for lease of Heavy-Duty Motor Graders to Warrior Tractor**

Brian Cheatwood, County Engineer, explained the bid is extended from 36 months to 60 months. Commissioner Marchman stated, are they going to warranty the equipment during that time?

Mr. Cheatwood responded yes. If not, I will come back and ask for a warranty.

Commissioner Watson stated, what is the amount on these?

Mr. Cheatwood responded for 60 months it only increased about \$1,000.00 per month. Overall, \$48,000.00 for four(4) graders.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to award Bid #1336 for lease of Heavy-Duty Motor Graders to Warrior Tractor, Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Bid #1337-Award Bid for the re-roofing project for the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center to Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc**

Doug Davenport, Director of Parks, stated there were five (5) bidders that turned in a bid. Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc was the lowest bidder, and their bid was about \$125,000.00 lower than the next bid.

Commissioner Watson stated what was the bid price?

Mr. Davenport responded \$267,570.00.

Chairman Clemons asked does that include the gutters?

Mr. Davenport responded yes, sir. This includes a new roof and gutters.

Commissioner Marchman replied, we need to thank Senator Gudger.

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to award Bid #1337-Award Bid for the re-roofing project for the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center to Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION**

The Commission will hold a Work Session on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in the commission meeting room.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, February 18, 2021**

Chairman Clemons announced the next commission meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.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 6:21 p.m.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Clemons,  
Chairman

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kerry Watson,  
Associate Commissioner

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Garry Marchman,  
Associate Commissioner