

**CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 21, 2023**

**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 roll; present were Chairman Jeff Clemons, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commissioner Garry Marchman, Commissioner Kelly Duke, Commissioner Corey Freeman, County Administrator John Bullard, County Attorney Emily Johnston, and Assistant Engineer Jon Brunner. Matt Smith gave the invocation. Maverick Rainwater from Parkside Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Engineer Bryan Cheatwood was not present. Assistant Engineer Jon Brunner was present.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 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 February 23, 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**

Chairman Clemons announced that we did not receive a request for public comments by the agenda deadline.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month-Cullman Caring for Kids**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month-Cullman Caring for Kids. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month-Brooks' Place**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month-Brooks' Place. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2023-22: Select Engineering Services for Water Department ARPA projects**

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated this resolution would identify the highest score on the score sheet that we went through using a third party. The recommendation to begin negotiations for a contract would be Goodwyn Mills and Caywood Engineering (GMC) and then the alternate St John's Engineering. The score was 949 out of 1,000 for GMC and 929.16 out of 1,000 for St. John, they are both highly qualified. If we didn't come to an agreement with GMC then the alternate would be St. John.

Commissioner Marchman, what are we making the motion on?

County Administrator John Bullard, to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-22: Select Engineering Services for Water Department ARPA projects. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the extension for HH technologies Abatement 220308002 and 2020308001 through June 30, 2023**

Cullman Economic Development Agency Project Manager Stanley Kennedy stated this is one abatement that has two abatement numbers because it is a three-party abatement with a building owner and a manufacturer that is in the building owned by the building owner. This abatement was approved in 2020. It is hard to get some pieces of equipment. The project is 85% done, they are just asking for an extension to get the equipment in, so it qualifies under the abatement. They are not asking for any more money. Alabama Department of Revenue is requesting a letter from the Commission that they are good with the extension.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the extension for HH technologies Abatement 220308002 and 2020308001 through June 30, 2023. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider allocation to Cullman County DAV in the amount of \$5,000 for a wheelchair-accessible van to transport veterans to medical appointments**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this has been an ongoing project and we have commitments from other organizations to match the amount we give. That would give them \$10,000 for the purchase of the van and any other funds raised can go toward maintenance, upkeep, fuel, etc.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve allocation to Cullman County DAV in the amount of \$5,000 for a wheelchair-accessible van to transport veterans to medical appointments. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Spring Clean-Up for the month of May 2023**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Spring Clean-Up for the month of May 2023. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider payment of Workers' Compensation additional amount of \$69,448.33 to County Risk Services due to the annual audit**

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated they pre-bill and we have an audit each year on our workers' compensation and then they come up with the difference. This is the amount of the difference.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the payment of Workers' Compensation additional amount of \$69,448.33 to County Risk Services due to an annual audit. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Commissioner Freeman's nominee, Grace Potter, to the Wellstone Board of Directors for the remainder of Rita Nicholas' term set to expire 4/1/27**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Commissioner Freeman's nominee, Grace Potter, to the Wellstone Board of Directors for the remainder of Rita Nicholas' term set to expire 4/1/27. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to the reappointment of Josh O'Neal to the Wellstone Board of Directors for a 6-year term to expire 4/1/29**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Chairman Clemons to the reappointment of Josh O'Neal to the Wellstone Board of Directors for a 6-year term to expire 4/1/29. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.



**Consider approval of ADS installation of 5 door access controls at Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$14,941.49**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this is coming out of the money allocated for the jail for building maintenance, but because it is over the ten thousand dollars it requires further approval.

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the ADS installation of 5 door access controls at Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$14,941.49. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider push to talk backup radio systems for the County in the amount of \$11,179.22**

EMA Director Tim Sartin addressed the Commission and stated this is a push-to-talk service that goes over First-Net. This would be an addition to the service we already have with our VHF radio systems. This would also allow for when a deputy or firefighter etc., cannot get service on the regular walkie-talkie. If they had cell phone service, they would be able to get out and get help. The hardware is already paid for through another grant. This is for the installation and putting up of the towers.

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the push to talk backup radio systems for the County in the amount of \$11,179.22. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Sensus FlexNet System Upgrade for the Cullman County Water Department in the amount of \$101,487 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this is an upgrade to the existing software for the meter reading system. It would also be an upgrade to the current server and placing that on a cloud network. It is recommended by General Manager Randall Waldrep that we proceed with this. It would be an undue burden on them, and it would cost a lot to change their entire system, this is just an upgrade to their existing system.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Sensus FlexNet System Upgrade for the Cullman County Water Department in the amount of \$101,487 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider proposed preliminary plat Radford Place II 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. A minor subdivision containing 9 lots located off County Road 1251**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposed preliminary plat Radford Place II 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. A minor subdivision containing 9 lots located off County Road 1251. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider proposed Bond Release for Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1A and Phase 1B. All construction has been completed and has passed final inspection**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Bond Release for Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1A and Phase 1B. All construction has been completed and has passed final inspection. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the purchase of two truck beds off State Bid List (Contract # MA230000003459) through Warren Truck & Trailer, Inc in the amount of \$38,288**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the purchase of two truck beds off State Bid List (Contract # MA230000003459) through Warren Truck & Trailer, Inc in the amount of \$38,288. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1428: One or more Single-Axle Dump Truck(s) to NexTran Truck Centers in the amount of \$119,705**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to Award Bid # 1428: One or more Single-Axle Dump Truck(s) to NexTran Truck Centers in the amount of \$119,705. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1429: Bituminous Plant Mix(furnished and installed) to Whitaker Contracting and WireGrass Construction Company, LLC based on vicinity and availability**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to Award Bid # 1429: Bituminous Plant Mix(furnished and installed) to Whitaker Contracting and WireGrass Construction Company, LLC based on vicinity and availability. Commissioner Marchman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1430: Guardrail to Alabama Guardrail**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to Award Bid # 1430: Guardrail to Alabama Guardrail. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1431: Polypropylene Pipe to Bear Concrete Products**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to Award Bid # 1431: Polypropylene Pipe to Bear Concrete Products. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1432: Herbicides and Adjuvants to Helena and SiteOne Landscape based on vicinity and availability**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to Award Bid # 1432: Herbicides and Adjuvants to Helena and SiteOne Landscape based on vicinity and availability. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1433: Bituminous Plant Mix (Product Only) to Whitaker Contracting and WireGrass Construction Company, LLC based on vicinity and availability**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to Award Bid # 1433: Bituminous Plant Mix (Product Only) to Whitaker Contracting and WireGrass Construction Company, LLC based on vicinity and availability. Commissioner Duke seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**WORK SESSION**

Chairman Clemons announced the next Commission Work Session will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room


**THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**


Chairman Clemons announced that the next Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 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 6:19 p.m.

Attest:

  
Tiffany Merriman,  
County Clerk

  
Jeff Clemons,  
Chairman

  
Kerry Watson,  
Commissioner

  
Garry Marchman,  
Commissioner

  
Kelly Duke,  
Commissioner

  
Corey Freeman,  
Commissioner