

**Cullman County Commission Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS**

Chairman Clemons called the Meeting at 6:00 pm

**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 County Engineer Philip Widner. Cory Drummond gave the Invocation. Elizabeth Johnston from Cullman Middle School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2023, AND AUGUST 29, 2023, SPECIAL CALLED 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 July 18, 2023, and August 29, 2023, Special Called Meeting, appropriations, expenditures, personnel actions, payroll, and requisitions, and approve all journal entries to be posted. Commissioner Marchman 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**

**Recognition: Marie Livingston retiring after 24 years of service with the Commission Office**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve Recognition: Marie Livingston retiring after 24 years of service with the Commission Office. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Recognition: Christa Maxwell retiring after 34 years of service with the Commission Office**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Recognition: Christa Maxwell retiring after 34 years of service with the Commission Office. Commissioner Marchman seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Recognition: Mary Ellen Hartness for winning Ms. Super Senior Alabama 2020-2021, Ms. Senior Hanceville 2020-2021, Ms. Senior Cullman County 2012, Ms. Rocket City 2009**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve Recognition: Mary Ellen Hartness for winning Ms. Super Senior Alabama 2020-2021, Ms. Senior Hanceville 2020-2021, Ms. Senior Cullman County 2012, Ms. Rocket City 2009. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2023-41: Tax Abatement for Topre in the amount of \$1,042,699**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-41: Tax Abatement for Topre in the amount of \$1,042,699. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2023-39: CARTS Third Party Service Contract for FY 2024 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-39: CARTS Third Party Service Contract for FY 2024 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2023-40: Change speed limit to 30 mph on County Road 768**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-40: Change speed limit to 30 mph on County Road 768. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 2023-42: Authorize the issuance of General Obligation Warrants Series 2023**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-42: Authorize the issuance of General Obligation Warrants Series 2023. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Worker's Comp Renewal with County Risk Services for FY 2024 in the amount of \$528,290.55**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Worker's Comp Renewal with County Risk Services for FY 2024 in the amount of \$528,290.55. Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize payment for Trip Master for dispatch software annual maintenance and support for CARTS in the amount of \$15,600**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this is the existing software that they use, and it has been working well. They made the change last year and since then it has been working well. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve payment for Trip Master for dispatch software annual maintenance and support for CARTS in the amount of \$15,600. Commissioner Duke seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons and Director Stephanie Lawson to sign agreement between CARTS and Cullman County Commission on Aging**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve Chairman Clemons and Director Stephanie Lawson to sign agreement between CARTS and Cullman County Commission on Aging. Commissioner Freeman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign the Alabama Department of Youth Services Agency Grant Agreement for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$199,088 as the fiscal agent for Cullman County**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve Chairman Clemons to sign the Alabama Department of Youth Services Agency Grant Agreement for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$199,088 as the fiscal agent for Cullman County. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign the Alabama Department of Youth Services Agency Grant Agreement for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$166,200 as the fiscal agent for Lauderdale County**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Chairman Clemons to sign the Alabama Department of Youth Services Agency Grant Agreement for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of \$166,200 as the fiscal agent for Lauderdale County. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Authorize Chairman Clemons to sign a settlement agreement resolving a case at the Cullman Regional Airport**

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated the Airport Director Ben Harrison is here if you have questions. This is within his budget so the money does not have to be approved, just the signature for the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Chairman Clemons to sign a settlement agreement resolving a case at the Cullman Regional Airport. Commissioner Duke seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider Approval of the FY 2024 Budget**

County Administrator John Bullard stated this is the annual budget. It represents the largest budget revenue that Cullman County has ever had. Cullman County is growing and we are all doing our best under the supervision and direction of the Commission to be good stewards of the revenue. Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Budget. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider approval of Employment Contract for the County Engineer**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Employment Contract for the County Engineer. Commissioner Duke seconded., and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider agreement to participate in Purchasing Association of Central Alabama and authorize Chairman to sign all related documents**

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated this is a purchasing association newly formed by Jefferson County which is developing it and because of our location, we can participate. There are some good saving on it. It is a cooperative, so we can buy through sealed bid, state bid, and we can buy through a cooperative. This is fairly new and we wanted to go ahead and join. There is no additional cost to join.

Commissioner Watson asked what all kinds of items could be bought.

County Administrator John Bullard stated electronics and technology-type items. I do not think they have any type of equipment on there yet. Copiers, office supplies, etc. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve an agreement to participate in Purchasing Association of Central Alabama and authorize Chairman to sign all related documents. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider renewal of Health Services Agreement for FY 2024 with Southern Health Partners for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$769,698.72 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork**

County Administrator John Bullard explained this is for healthcare in the jail as well as billing outside the jail. This amount represents the all-in cost for care inside the jail. We also have additional costs if they go outside to another provider. We have contracts with the hospital to set that rate. It is full-time 24-hour nursing care in the jail. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the renewal of Health Services Agreement for FY 2024 with Southern Health Partners for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$769,698.72 and authorize Chairman to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider authorization for the Cullman County Commission to assure half the financial obligations for closure and post-closure of the Solid Waste Disposal of the City and County of Cullman, AL Landfill through a local government financial test allowed by ADEM Administrative Code 335-14-4-.28(5)(F)**

County Administrator John Bullard addressed the Commission and stated items R and S are related to the landfill purchase. There are several ways that you can do closure and post-closure. One of those is you can basically guarantee that amount without setting the money aside. The newly formed Solid Waste Disposal Authority does not have a credit rating yet because they have not been established for a year, so the city is passing a resolution to ensure half of that. This would ensure half of the other half of the closure and post closure. This means if we close the landfill today, it would be there is a certain amount of money required to do that. We are saying we are good for it. It will be on our financial statements, but it would not require any money set aside and then once they have a credit rating, they will be able to take over that after the first year. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve authorization for the Cullman County Commission to assure half the financial obligations for closure and post-closure of the Solid Waste Disposal of the City and County of Cullman, AL Landfill through a local government financial test allowed by ADEM Administrative Code 335-14-4-.28(5)(F). Commissioner Duke seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider Authorizing Administrator to sign letter providing documentation and certifications required by the recordkeeping and reporting requirements in ADEM administrative code 335-13-4-.28(5)(F)**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Administrator to sign letter providing documentation and certifications required by the recordkeeping and reporting requirements in ADEM administrative code 335-13-4-.28(5)(F). Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider the purchase of two Butler Tilit Trailers in the amount of \$37,500 to be purchased by the Water Department**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve the purchase of two Butler Tilit Trailers in the amount of \$37,500 to be purchased by the Water Department. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider Commissioner Watson's nominee, Amanda Stanton, to the E-911 Board for remainder of Keith Creel's term set to expire 9/1/2025**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Commissioner Watson's nominee, Amanda Stanton, to the E-911 Board for remainder of Keith Creel's term set to expire 9/1/2025. Commissioner Freeman seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Consider appointment of Vicky Fisher as a License Inspector per §40-12-10(a)**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve appointment of Vicky Fisher as a License Inspector per §40-12-10(a). Commissioner Duke seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider appointment of Zeb Reid as Deputy License Inspector per §40-12-10(i)**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to approve appointment of Zeb Reid as Deputy License Inspector per §40-12-10(i). Commissioner Watson seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Consider contract extension for Baron Radar and authorize EMA Director to sign all related paperwork**

County Administrator John Bullard stated Director Tim Sartin is out of town at training and he asked me to speak on this if you have any questions. This is just the annual Baron renewal. This is the radar they use in the EMA operations center. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the contract extension for Baron Radar and authorize EMA Director to sign all related paperwork. Commissioner Duke seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Proposed release of Carcel & G Construction from the Surety bond for Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1C in the amount of \$355,945.20. It is located at the corner of HWY 278 and County Road 1616**

Commissioner Watson stated does this meet all of our requirements Philip?

County Engineer Philip Widner stated yes, sir. Items Y and Z go hand in hand. Carcel & G is the contractor today, but they have got all the work done on the \$355,000.00 bond. With the exception of about \$127,000 which is in item Z. When we are releasing them from their bond of \$355,000, the developer is going to post it on for the remaining work to be completed. Commissioner Marchman made a motion to approve the release of Carcel & G Construction from the Surety bond for Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1C in the amount of \$355,945.20. It is located at the corner of HWY 278 and County Road 1616. Commissioner Watson seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed acceptance of Retail Specialists Bond for Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1C in the amount of \$127,195.20. It is located at the corner of HWY 278 and County Road 1616**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the acceptance of Retail Specialists Bond for Kingfisher Subdivision Phase 1C in the amount of \$127,195.20. It is located at the corner of HWY 278 and County Road 1616. Commissioner Freeman seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Proposed release of R&D Properties LLC from the Surety bond for Pointe Sixteen subdivision. All Construction has been completed and passed final inspection. It is located in Crane Hill off County Road 204. This proposal was tabled at the previous meeting**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the release of R&D Properties LLC from the Surety bond for Pointe Sixteen subdivision. All Construction has been completed and passed final inspection. It is located in Crane Hill off County Road 204. This proposal was tabled at the previous meeting. Commissioner Duke seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**Award Bid # 1446: Surface Treatments to Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to Award Bid # 1446: Surface Treatments to Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1447: Cold Laid Plant Mix to Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc**

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to Award Bid # 1447: Cold Laid Plant Mix to Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc. Commissioner Duke seconded, and the motion passed upon a unanimous voice vote.

**Award Bid # 1448: Fog & Scrub Seal to Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions**

Commissioner Duke made a motion to Award Bid # 1448: Fog & Scrub Seal to Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions. Commissioner Watson seconded. Upon a unanimous voice vote, the motion carried.

**WORK SESSION WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

Chairman Clemons announced that the next Commission Work Session will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

**THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**

Chairman Clemons announced that the next Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

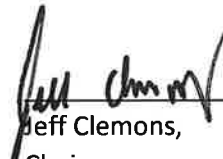
**ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Commissioner Marchman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded. The Meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.


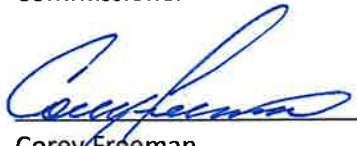
Attest:



Tiffany Merriman,  
County Clerk

  
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Jeff Clemons,  
Chairman

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Kerry Watson,  
Commissioner

  
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Garry Marchman,  
Commissioner  
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Kelly Duke,  
Commissioner  
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Corey Freeman,  
Commissioner