

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MARCH 28, 2023

The St. Clair County Commission met in regular session on March 28, 2023, in the County Commission Chambers of the St. Clair County Courthouse in Pell City, Alabama.

Members Present: Stanley D. Batemon, Chairman
Jeff Brown, Commissioner District One
Ricky Parker, Commissioner District Two
Tommy Bowers, Commissioner District Three
Bob Mize, Commissioner District Four

Members Absent:

Others Present: Tina Morgan, Administrator
James E. Hill, Attorney
Dan Dahlke, Engineer
Clay Phillips, Assistant Engineer
Gary Hanner, License Inspector
Patrice Kurzejeski, EMA Director
Aislinn Campbell, E911 Director
Sheriff Billy Murray
Matt Coupland, Sheriff's office
Peyton Frederick, Sheriff's office
Ken Crowe, Revenue Commissioner
David Atchison, St. Clair Times
Jason Goodgame, Construction Manager
Lyman Lovejoy, Realtor
Kathy Burke, Circuit Clerk
Pat Shipp, Citizen
Matt Tortorice, Citizen
Jayme Anderson, Citizen
Jodi Shirley, Citizen
Mike Ligouri, Sparklight
Kaitlin Fleming, Citizen
Freddie Turrentine, Operations Director

CALL TO ORDER THE PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION APPLICATIONS FOR THE FY24 5311 GRANT.

9:02 a.m.

Chairman Stan Batemon opened the Public Hearing at 9:02 a.m. and turned the meeting over to Janet Smith, Public Transportation Director. Mrs. Smith explained that St. Clair County Public Transportation, together with the St. Clair County Commission, is applying for the FY24 5311 Administrative, Operations and Capital Grant to ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation). This grant will combine federal funding with local match funds to provide Public Transportation an open-door contract service to all residents of St. Clair County. The Administration budget ratio is 80/20, with 80% being federal dollars and 20% being local match. Operation's ratio is 50/50 and Capital is 80/20. Hours of operation are 6am to 6pm, Monday through Friday. Passengers must schedule rides 24 hours in advance. Fares are based on mileage and are paid in cash only. The current fare is \$2.00 per mile and \$1.00 for each additional stop. All buses & vans are handicap accessible and are equipped with wheelchair stations. Caregivers and

children under age 5 ride free. A copy of the detailed service description and budgets are available upon request. There were several public comments/questions. A citizen asked, "How many buses are currently running in the County?" Janet Smith, answered, "18." A citizen asked, "How long do you keep the buses?" Janet Smith answered, "It depends on mileage, repairs, etc., and we utilize a chart provided by ALDOT. We buy new buses through grants and most of the time we sell used buses through Gov.deals.com." There being no other public comment and no opposition, Chairman Stanley D. Batemon closed the Public Hearing at 9:08 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER of REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Batemon declared a quorum present at 9:09 a.m. and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that amended agenda be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Commission meeting on March 14, 2023, be approved.

MIKE LIGOURI, HARGRAY(SPARKLIGHT)REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Mr. Ligouri informed the Commission that their kick-off originally planned for the first of January had to be moved back due to supply chain issues for equipment. Those issues have been resolved and the kick-off/ribbon cutting will be next Tuesday. We have had crews stringing fiber since last July and we are ready to start individual subscribers and we will be kicking that off soon. The map that I have provided, there are seven phases that we have identified geographically. The order of the build out will not follow numerically because of obtaining permits. The first area that we will be activating will be late April, early May through July is Phase three. This will take a full year to get through all seven phases. The original cost of the project was 17 million, it is now 24 million. No tax payer money will be used, the cost is fully funded internally by the company. The parent company is Cable One, and the local is Hargray. The name is changing from Hargray to Sparklight.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The first item of the Engineer's report was an informational item updating the road crews.

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss approval of the recommendation of Dan Dahlke, Engineer, to hire Johnny Brothers into the vacant Operator I position. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the recommendation of Dan Dahlke, Engineer, to hire Johnny Brothers into the vacant Operator I position is approved.

(Recommendation letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #1)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss approval of the recommendation of Dan Dahlke, Engineer, to hire Daryl Bearden into the vacant Chief Mechanic position. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the recommendation of Dan Dahlke, Engineer, to hire Daryl Bearden into the vacant Chief Mechanic position is approved. (Recommendation letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #2)

Informational item: Update on the landfill on Annie Lee Road in Moody with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). A status call will take place tomorrow with the EPA for the close-out process.

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss approval of an agreement between the County and the City of Moody for paving Ebenezer road. The estimated cost of the project is \$34,084.50, with the County's portion in the estimated amount of \$16,360.56 and the City of Moody's estimated cost \$17,723.94. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an agreement between the County and the City of Moody for paving Ebenezer road. The estimated cost of the project is \$34,084.50, with the County's portion in the estimated amount of \$16,360.56 and the City of Moody's estimated cost \$17,723.94 is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #3)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

NONE

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The first item of the County Attorney's report was to discuss adopting Resolution 2023-33 in Support of a Local Law expanding the Mental Health Board from three members to five members. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-33 in Support of a Local Law expanding the Mental Health Board from three members to five members is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #4)

The next item of the County Attorney's report was to discuss approving a letter of support for the Challenger Center. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a letter of support for the Challenger Center is approved. (Letter of support to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #5)

CHAIRMAN STAN BATEMON'S REPORT

Chairman Batemon thanked staff members throughout the County and other elected officials for everything that they do for the County.

COMMISSIONER JEFF BROWN'S REPORT

Commissioner Brown reported that Engineer, Dan Dahlke, is working in his district on various roads.

COMMISSIONER RICKY PARKER'S REPORT

Commissioner Parker has work going on in the Loves and the Kelley Creek project. The Trails End, Saine Road, Kerr Road, and the Springville Crossroads waiting to be let bid. Work is also being done on the Blackjack Road project. Also, working with the County Attorney to get the exact location of a garbage dump on private property and getting the health department to assist in that issue.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY BOWER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bowers mentioned that the County has a procedure to bring in roads to the County that are not County roads. Engineer, Dan Dahlke, is currently working with me on Deer Springs road off Deer Trace. The procedure is that they bring the road up to a certain level and buy the materials, then the County comes in to fix the road/labor. The Commission has a called work session to discuss subdivision plats at 10:30am on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

COMMISSIONER BOB MIZE'S REPORT

Commissioner Mize reported that he walked through the new jail. It looks nice and it will be opening soon. I want to thank Engineer, Dan Dahlke, for conducting the meeting at Deer Springs, he did a great job, first class, and I appreciate you.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

The next item was to discuss approving travel requests as presented in the work session. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the travel requests as presented in the work session are approved. (Travel requests to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #6)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Janet Smith, Public Transportation Director, for FY24 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Janet Smith, Public Transportation Director, for FY24 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance is approved. (Contract to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #7)

The next item was to discuss an extension/amendment to the DYS (Alabama Department of Youth Services) contract OUR Kids Multi Agency Grant Agreement for the Day Program in the amount of \$30,000.00. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an extension/amendment to the DYS (Alabama Department of Youth Services) contract OUR Kids Multi Agency Grant Agreement for the Day Program in the amount of \$30,000.00 is

approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #8)

The next item was to discuss a called work session on April 6, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in Ashville to discuss Subdivision Plats. The regular 1 p.m. work session will continue as scheduled. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a called work session on April 6, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in Ashville to discuss Subdivision Plats is approved.

The next item was to discuss ratifying the execution of Chairman Batemon's signature on a document to become a member of the HGACBuy Cooperative. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that ratifying the execution of Chairman Batemon's signature on a document to become a member of the HGACBuy Cooperative is approved. (Document to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #9)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Sheriff Murray to declare two 2015 Dodge Chargers Vin #5894 & Vin #5888 as surplus and sell on Gov.deals.com. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Sheriff Murray to declare two 2015 Dodge Chargers Vin #5894 & Vin #5888 as surplus and sell on Gov.deals.com is approved. (Document to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #10)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Sheriff Murray to declare various items as surplus and sell on Gov.deals.com. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Sheriff Murray to declare various items as surplus and sell on Gov.deals.com is approved. (Document to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #11)

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: A flag retirement collection box will be located in the Pell City courthouse and the Boy Scouts of America will conduct the retirement ceremonies for the flags.

Board Appointments

NONE

The next item for discussion was to approve payment of the monthly bills. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the monthly bills be approved for payment with the exception of those that are questioned by the Commission before the close of business today.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MARCH 28, 2023

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, subject to call, at approximately 9:58 a.m. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye.

{SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW}

Stanley D. Batemon, Chairman

Jeff Brown, Commissioner

Ricky Parker, Commissioner

Tommy Bowers, Commissioner

Bob Mize, Commissioner