

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING JUNE 13, 2023

The St. Clair County Commission met in regular session on June 13, 2023, in the St. Clair County Commission Chambers of the St. Clair County Courthouse Annex #1 (Administrative Center) in Ashville, 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  
Corey Phillips, Assistant Deputy Administrator  
James Hill, County Attorney  
Dan Dahlke, Engineer  
Ashley Hay, Asset Manager  
Freddie Turrentine, Operations  
Sheriff Billy Murray  
Peyton Frederick, Sheriff's office  
Matt Coupland, Sheriff's Deputy  
Gary Hanner, Compliance officer  
Aislinn Campbell, E-911 Director  
Roddy Wolfe, Property Manager  
Glenn Morgan, IT  
Larry McCullough  
Jimmy Holladay, Visitor  
Lyman Lovejoy, Realtor  
David Atchison, St. Clair Times  
Mayor Derrick Mostella, Ashville  
Mayor Joe Lee, Moody  
Tracy Patterson, City of Moody  
Nick Rutledge, Moody City Council  
Lynn Taylor, Moody City Council  
Ellis Key, Moody City Council  
Jason Roberts, EDC  
Roland St. John, Farmers Federation  
Matt Tortorice, Margaret City Council  
Daryl McIntyre, Margaret City Council  
Mayor Betty Bradley, Argo  
Mayor Dave Thomas, Springville  
Deabra Banks, Steele Town Council  
Rick Barnes, Steele Town Council  
Mayor Rusty Jessup, Riverside  
Macki Branham, Citizen  
Michelle Coalson, Citizen

**PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS** adopting a resolution to revise the County Commission single member districts. Chairman Stanley Batemon opened the Public Hearing at 9:06 a.m. to discuss revising the County Commission single member districts. In order to run for the County Commission, you must live in a particular geographical district and over the years our districts have gotten out of sorts as far as numbers, they should be similar in size. James Hill, County

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Attorney, mentioned the Law that we are operating under is a 2018 Law and we can only do this once every census, so it is time. The law allows us to construct Commission districts one of two ways, one is voting with precincts and the other is census blocks (every ten years) and what we are doing here is pursuant to voting precincts. The reason is because that keeps everybody voting where they are used to voting. We are not moving people into different precincts. Chairman Batemon asked if there were any public comments related to the Commission districts? Citizen question: The individuals that are in office now, are they going to be drawing the district lines? Chairman Batemon answered: the Commission all worked together as a whole and will vote today, during the meeting and it will take a majority vote to pass. Citizen: Is there any a possibility that you could maneuver these maps to keep anybody from running against you? Chairman Batemon: No because we followed the law. Maneuvering would be Gerrymandering and if you could show that we did Gerrymandering, we would be in violation of the law. Citizen: Where do we get the map? Chairman Batemon: Our County mapping GIS department provided the maps, and the Election manager provided the population of registered voters. The map was published in the local newspaper, St. Clair Times, and notified citizens that copies could be picked up at the Commission office in Ashville. Citizen: How soon are we going to get district voting? Chairman Batemon: that would take Legislation, a local act. Citizen: For the record: Mr. Batemon and Mr. Bowers stated that you both supported going to district voting last year at the Farmer's Federation Forum, are you both still for this? Chairman Batemon: Yes, I still support district voting. There was no opposition and there being no additional public comment, Chairman Stanley Batemon closed the Public Hearing at 9:21 a.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER of REGULAR MEETING**

Chairman Batemon declared a quorum present at 9:21 a.m. and called the Regular meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved as presented.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting on May 23, 2023, be approved.

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Special called meeting on June 8, 2023, be approved.

### **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 approve an agreement with ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) for a new county right of

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way grant program that allows for the collection of regulated solid waste & scrap tires, pending the County Attorney's review. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an agreement with ADEM (Alabama Department of Environmental Management) for a new county right of way grant program that allows for the collection of regulated solid waste & scrap tires, pending the County Attorney's review is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #1)

The next item was to discuss approval of the recommendation of County Engineer, Dan Dahlke, to hire Terry Cofield into the vacant road worker I position, effective this pay period. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the recommendation of County Engineer, Dan Dahlke, to hire Terry Cofield into the vacant road worker I position, effective this pay period is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #2)

The next item was to discuss approval of the recommendation of County Engineer, Dan Dahlke, to hire James McGinnis into one of the vacant seasonal road worker positions, effective this pay period. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the recommendation of County Engineer, Dan Dahlke, to hire James McGinnis into one of the vacant seasonal road worker positions, effective this pay period is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #3)

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

RESOLVED, that the request of County Engineer, Dan Dahlke, to declare various vehicles as surplus and sell on Gov.deals.com is approved. (Document to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #4)

The next item was to discuss approval to let bid for the Lakeview Canyon road relocation project. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that to let bid for the Lakeview Canyon road relocation project is approved.

The next item was to discuss approval to send the draft version of the subdivision regulations from the Plat committee to the St. Clair Association of Realtors for comments. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that sending the draft version of the subdivision regulations from the Plat committee to the St. Clair Association of Realtors for comments is approved.

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The next item was to discuss approval of a proposal from Hewitt Concrete to repair a culvert on Wolf Creek Road South in the amount of \$10,900.00. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a proposal from Hewitt Concrete to repair a culvert on Wolf Creek Road South in the amount of \$10,900.00 is approved. (Proposal to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #5)

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

NONE

**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

NONE

**OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

The first item of new business was to discuss approval of travel requests as presented in the work session. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

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

The next item was to discuss the request of Operations Center Administrator, Freddie Turrentine, for a quote from Rich Electric in the amount of \$8,988.00 to upgrade the generator and panel board in the server room to 100 amps. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Operations Center Administrator, Freddie Turrentine, for a quote from Rich Electric in the amount of \$8,988.00 to upgrade the generator and panel board in the server room to 100 amps is approved.

The next item was to discuss the request of Operations Center Administrator, Freddie Turrentine, for a quote from Allen Service in the amount of \$20,908.65 for a PWP (Public Works project) for the purchase and installation of three mini heat pumps for the towers at the Chandler Mountain, Simmons Mountain, and Beaver Mountain locations. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Operations Center Administrator, Freddie Turrentine, for a quote from Allen Service in the amount of \$20,908.65 for a PWP for the purchase and installation of three mini heat pumps for the towers at the Chandler Mountain, Simmons Mountain, and Beaver Mountain locations is approved. (Contract to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #7)

The next item was to discuss the request from the City of Ashville for the County to pay half of an ATRIP II (Alabama Rehabilitation and Improvement Program)

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and a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant project. The county's portion for both grants will not exceed \$200,000.00, per County policy #63. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from the City of Ashville for the County to pay half of an ATRIP II (Alabama Rehabilitation and Improvement Program) and a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant project. The county's portion for both grants will not exceed \$200,000.00, per County policy #63 is approved. (Request to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #8)

The next item was to discuss adopting Resolution 2023-51 to enter into an agreement with the Shoal Creek Valley Improvement Association (polling precinct) for a one-time payment in the amount of \$2,000.00 for repairs. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-51 to enter into an agreement with the Shoal Creek Valley Improvement Association (polling precinct) for a one-time payment in the amount of \$2,000.00 for repairs is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #9)

The next item was to discuss the request from Sheriff Billy Murray to add six additional School Resource Officers to his budget. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from Sheriff Billy Murray to add six additional School Resource Officers to his budget is approved. (Request to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #10)

The next item was to discuss adopting Resolution 2023-52 in support of the Air Race Classic. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-52 in support of the Air Race Classic is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #11)

The next item was to discuss the request of County Extension Coordinator, LeeAnn Clark, for an appropriation in the amount of \$4,000.00 for a Veterans event. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of County Extension Coordinator, LeeAnn Clark, for an appropriation in the amount of \$4,000.00 for a Veterans event is approved. (Request to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #12)

The next item was to discuss the request of Jason Goodgame, Construction Manager, for a change order from Holland-Seals, Inc., for the Pandemic Center to add a 6" fire riser in the estimated amount of \$7,310.00. This will require a General Fund budget amendment. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

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RESOLVED, that the request of Jason Goodgame, Construction Manager, for a change order from Holland-Seals, Inc., for the Pandemic Center to add a 6" fire riser in the estimated amount of \$7,310.00 which will require a budget amendment. (Change order to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #13)

The next item was to discuss the request from Ashley Hay, Public Recreation Asset Manager, for quote from Alabama Ornamental, Inc., to purchase & install operating equipment to the existing gate at the arena in the estimated amount of \$12,000.00. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from Ashley Hay, Public Recreation Asset Manager, for quote from Alabama Ornamental, Inc., to purchase & install operating equipment to the existing gate at the arena in the estimated amount of \$12,000.00 is approved.

The next item was to discuss the request from Ashley Hay, Public Recreation Asset Manager, to apply for a Homeland Security Grant program under two priorities, \$76,863.00 for hearing protection and protective vests (no match) & \$60,140.00 for a portable restroom (no match). On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from Ashley Hay, Public Recreation Asset Manager, to apply for a Homeland Security Grant program under two priorities, \$76,863 for hearing protection and protective vests (no match) & \$60,140 for a portable restroom (no match) are approved.

The next item was to discuss adopting the revised Resolution 2023-46A for commission district lines. **Note:** A public hearing was held on April 25, 2023, and Resolution 2023-46 was tabled. A public hearing was also held on June 13, 2023, and a revised set of district lines was published for the citizens to view at the Commission office and for the Commission to consider at the June 13, 2023, Commission meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the revised Resolution 2023-46A for commission district lines is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #14)

The next item was to discuss amending the Sheriff's Department budget in the estimated amount of \$60,000.00 for the vehicle maintenance, line item 234. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the Sheriff's Department budget in the estimated amount of \$60,000.00 for the vehicle maintenance, line item 234 be amended.

The next item was to discuss amending the Sheriff's Department budget in the amount of \$10,000.00 for tires, line item 215. On a motion by

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Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the Sheriff's Department budget in the amount of \$10,000.00 for tires, line item 215 be amended.

The next item was to discuss approval of a quote from St. Clair Lock & Key to install an intercom with a camera, two desk receivers, mag locks, and an indoor keypad for the Pell City District Attorney's Office entrance in the estimated amount of \$4,250.00. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a quote from St. Clair Lock & Key to install an intercom with a camera, two desk receivers, mag locks, and an indoor keypad for the Pell City District Attorney's Office entrance in the estimated amount of \$4,250.00 is approved.

The next item was to discuss hiring Christopher Warren into the vacant Public Safety IT Coordinator position. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that hiring Christopher Warren into the vacant Public Safety IT Coordinator position is approved.

The next item was to discuss approval to renew a Letter of Authorization (LOA) with Divcodata Diversified Companies, LLC., for the Revenue Office. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that renewing a Letter of Authorization (LOA) with Divcodata Diversified Companies, LLC. for the Revenue Office is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #15)

The next item was to discuss the request from the Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, to let bid for a vehicle for the Reappraisal Department. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from the Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, to let bid for a vehicle for the Reappraisal Department is approved.

The next item was to discuss the 2022 List of Insolvents for Business Personal Property Accounts provided by the Revenue office to the Judge of Probate per code of Alabama 40-5-24. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the 2022 List of Insolvents for Business Personal Property Accounts provided by the Revenue office to the Judge of Probate per code of Alabama 40-5-24 is approved. (Document to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #16)

The next item was to discuss approval for payment to Automatic Fire Systems, Inc., for a PWP to install a fire alarm system at the Ashville

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Sheriff's office in the amount of \$43,512.00. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that payment to Automatic Fire Systems, Inc., for a PWP to install a fire alarm system at the Ashville Sheriff's office in the amount of \$43,512.00 is approved.

Informational item to be recorded in the minutes: Probate Judge, Andrew Weathington, promoted Stephanie Vann into the vacant Advanced Clerk II position.

Informational item to be recorded to be recorded in the minutes: The County will observe the Juneteenth holiday on Monday, June 19, 2023.

**Board Appointments**

The next item for discussion was board appointments. Commissioner Bowers made a recommendation to reappoint Jeff Morgan to the Public Building Authority. His term will expire August 13, 2029. Commissioner Mize made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown and with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request to reappoint Jeff Morgan to the Public Building Authority with his term expiring August 13, 2029, be approved.

The next item for discussion was board appointments. Commissioner Bowers made a recommendation to reappoint Adam Bradshaw and Aislinn Campbell to the Wattsville Water Authority. Their terms will expire March 1, 2029. Commissioner Mize made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown and with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request to reappoint Adam Bradshaw and Aislinn Campbell to the Wattsville Water Authority with their terms expiring March 1, 2029, are approved

The next item for discussion was to approve payment of the monthly bills. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, 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.

The next item was to discuss the recommendation of the St. Clair County Mayors Association for a plan sharing the 4-cent fuel tax to become effective 2023-2024 Fiscal year only and to be reviewed and considered by the County Commission each year for further consideration. The review each year will include specifically what paving projects were funded from the local fuel tax 110 Fund in both the Municipalities and in the unincorporated areas of the county. Chairman Stan Batemon stepped down as Chairman and turned the meeting over to Jeff Brown, Chairman Pro-tem. Chairman Batemon made a motion to approve, the motion died for a lack of a second.

The next item was to discuss approving a \$15 million dollar "Rural Road" paving plan to pave approximately \$5 million per year for the next three fiscal years starting with the 2023-2024 Fiscal year. This plan would be



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funded with \$3 million dollars from General Fund balances plus \$2 million dollars from the 110 fund balances. This plan is to be reviewed FY24-25 and FY25-26 to determine available funding. Chairman Stan Batemon stepped down as Chairman and turned the meeting over to Jeff Brown, Chairman Pro-tem. Chairman Batemon made a motion to approve, the motion died for a lack of a second.

The next item was to discuss adopting a resolution to amend the county's financial policy from maintaining 20% to 25% in reserves in the General Fund and monitored by the County's CFO and reviewed by the County Attorney. Chairman Stan Batemon stepped down as Chairman and turned the meeting over to Jeff Brown, Chairman Pro-tem. Chairman Batemon made a motion to consider the resolution, and after further discussion, Commissioner Bowers made a motion to table until the September 26, 2023, Commission meeting. The motion to table was seconded by Commissioner Mize, and with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the resolution be tabled until the September 26, 2023, Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, subject to call, at approximately 10:15 a.m. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye.

{SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW}

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Stanley D. Batemon, Chairman

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Jeff Brown, Commissioner

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Ricky Parker, Commissioner

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Tommy Bowers, Commissioner

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Bob Mize, Commissioner