

ST. CLAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

The St. Clair County Commission met in regular session on September 26, 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: Tina Morgan, Administrator
Michelle Layfield, CFO
Corey Phillips, Assistant Deputy Administrator
Dan Dahlke, Engineer
Gary Hanner, License Inspector
Aislinn Campbell, 911 Director
James E. Hill, County Attorney
Sheriff Billy Murray
Matt Coupland, Chief Deputy
Captain Paul Monk, Jail Administrator
Jeannie Canas, Sheriff's office
Peyton Frederick, Sheriff's office
Ken Crowe, Revenue Commissioner
Tony Rich, Revenue Office
Kay McGinnis, Revenue office
Andrew Weathington, Probate Judge
Roddy Wolfe, Property Manager
Investigator Wayne Layton
Bart Lonergan, Sheriff's office
Lionel Callendar, Sheriff's office
Jason Goodgame, Construction Manager
David Atchison, St. Clair Times
Pat Shipp, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER of REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Batemon declared a quorum present at 9:34 a.m. and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA -Amend agenda to add an item to New Business, (Second amendment to the National Cement Tax Abatement).

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

RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Commission meeting on September 12, 2023, are approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

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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 the renewal of an agreement with Bentley for another year (CADD Software) in the amount of \$1,390.00. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that renewing an agreement with Bentley for another year (CADD Software) in the amount of \$1,390.00 is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #1)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to renew the bid contract with Traffic Signs. This will be renewal 1 of 2. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that renewing the bid contract with Traffic Signs (This will be renewal 1 of 2) is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #2)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss the recommendation to award Bid #2024-01 Aggregate to Wiregrass Construction with Vulcan Construction as the back-up and to award PWB #2024-10 Traffic Striping to Highway Management. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the recommendation to award Bid #2024-01 Aggregate to Wiregrass Construction with Vulcan Construction as the back-up and to award PWB #2024-10 Traffic Striping to Highway Management is approved. (Letters to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #3)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss approval of Tract 3 on the Trails End Bypass Project in the amount of \$5,000.00. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Tract 3 on the Trails End Bypass Project in the amount of \$5,000.00 is approved. (Document to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #4)

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss approval of an invoice from Alabama Power for relocation of powerlines, on private property, on the Hazelwood Drive Relocation Project in the amount of \$52,049.66. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an invoice from Alabama Power for relocation of powerlines, on private property, on the Hazelwood Drive Relocation Project in the amount of \$52,049.66 is approved.

The next item of the Engineer's report was to discuss approval of offer letters for ROW (Right of Way) Acquisition on Kerr Road and the US411 Project in the amount of \$83,806.00. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the offer letters for ROW Acquisition on Kerr Road and the US411 Project in the amount of \$83,806.00 is approved.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The first item of the Administrator’s report was to discuss the request of Probate employee, Nichole Kay, for approval of Declaration of Emergency sick leave. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Probate employee, Nichole Kay, for Declaration of Emergency sick leave is approved.

The next item of the Administrator’s report was to discuss ratifying Chairman Batemon’s signature on a Waste Management service agreement for three years to add a dumpster at the marina in the amount of \$1,430.88/yr. There will be an initial one-time fee of \$208.00. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Chairman Batemon’s signature on a Waste Management service agreement for three years to add a dumpster at the marina in the amount of \$1,430.88/yr. (There will be an initial one-time fee of \$208.00) be ratified. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #5)

The next item of the Administrator’s report was to discuss the request from the City of Pell City for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,500.00 to help in the restoration of the Historic Fountain near Avondale Mills. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request from the City of Pell City for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,500.00 to help in the restoration of the Historic Fountain near Avondale Mills is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #6)

Informational item: Several travel requests have been added since the September 21st work session.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

The first item of the County Attorney’s report was to discuss delivery of the following property purchase funds for the Trails End Project: LJI Properties \$4,300.00, Rich \$5,000.00, Price \$1,600.00, Richardson \$3,425.00. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the delivery of the following property purchase funds for the Trails End Project: LJI Properties \$4,300.00, Rich \$5,000.00, Price \$1,600.00, Richardson \$3,425.00 are approved. (Deeds to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #7)

The next item of the County Attorney’s report was to discuss amending section 205 Probationary Period of the County and the Sheriff’s Department Handbook by allowing employees to use sick leave immediately upon accrual. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that section 205 Probationary Period of the County and the Sheriff’s Department Handbook by allowing employees to use sick leave

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immediately upon accrual be amended. (Policy to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #8)

The next item of the County Attorney's report was to discuss an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the County's IT program and the St. Clair County District Attorney's office. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an MOU between the County's IT program and the St. Clair County District Attorney's office is approved. (MOU to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #9)

The next item of the County Attorney's report was to discuss adopting Resolution 2023-74 related to BOE (Board of Education) monies. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-74 related to BOE (Board of Education) monies is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #10)

The next item of the County Attorney's report was to discuss an agreement related to a cooperative program between the County, the City of Springville, and St. Clair County IDB (Industrial Development Board) related to property purchase and pay \$100,000.00 earnest money. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that an agreement related to a cooperative program between the County, the City of Springville, and St. Clair County IDB related to property purchase and pay \$100,000.00 earnest money are approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #11)

The next item of the County Attorney's report was to discuss a Letter in Support of a cooperative agreement between the St. Clair County Board of Education and to the City of Odenville related to potential recreational facilities (a track & field facility) for the benefit of St. Clair County schools. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that a Letter in Support of a cooperative agreement between the St. Clair County Board of Education and to the City of Odenville related to potential recreational facilities (a track & field facility) for the benefit of St. Clair County schools is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #12)

CHAIRMAN STAN BATEMON'S REPORT

NONE

COMMISSIONER JEFF BROWN'S REPORT

Commissioner Brown thanked the Road department for their work on the Friendship Mountain project.

COMMISSIONER RICKY PARKER'S REPORT

NONE

COMMISSIONER TOMMY BOWER'S REPORT

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Commissioner Bowers reported that he and Commissioner Brown have been working with Dan Dahlke, County Engineer, on making/widening emergency lanes at the Alabama International Dragway in Steele.

COMMISSIONER BOB MIZE'S REPORT

Commissioner Mize thanked the Sheriff and his deputies for the smooth transition into the new jail in Pell City.

OLD BUSINESS

The first item of Old business was to adopt Resolution 2023-70 to amend the St. Clair County Operational Policy #47, tabled from the meeting on June 13, 2023. Item not approved due to lack of a motion, however, the Commission approved to consider the item again next year. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-70 the St. Clair County Operational Policy #47 be considered to amend next year.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was to amend the agenda to add an item to adopt Resolution 2023-71 for the 2nd amendment to the National Cement abatement. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that amending the agenda to add an item to adopt Resolution 2023-71 for the 2nd amendment to the National Cement abatement is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #13)

The next item was to discuss approval to amend Resolution 2022-81 to increase the Sheriff's amount of the SSUT (Simplified Sellers Use Tax) for SROs (School Resource Officers) to \$1,214,752.23. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that amending Resolution 2022-81 to increase the Sheriff's amount of the SSUT for SROs to \$1,214,752.23 is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #14)

The next item was to discuss adopting Resolution 2023-69 honoring Captain Paul Monk on his retirement. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-69 honoring Captain Paul Monk on his retirement is approved. (Resolution to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #15)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Construction Manager, Jason Goodgame, for an amendment to change order #5 for the Pandemic Response Center for additional sewer costs in the amount of \$2,861.00. The total change order amounted to \$27,184.00. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Construction Manager, Jason Goodgame, for an amendment to change order #5 for the Pandemic Response Center for additional sewer costs in the amount of

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\$2,861.00 with the total change order amounting to \$27,184.00 is approved. (Change order to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #16)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Construction Manager, Jason Goodgame, for change order #7 for the Pandemic Response Center's manual height adjusters for the basketball goals in the amount of \$2,364.00. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Construction Manager, Jason Goodgame, for change order #7 for the Pandemic Response Center's manual height adjusters for the basketball goals in the amount of \$2,364.00 is approved. (Change order to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #17)

The next item was to discuss approval of the recommendation of Construction Manager, Jason Goodgame, to let bid for Fire protection in the Pandemic Response center. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the recommendation of Construction Manager, Jason Goodgame, to let bid for Fire protection in the Pandemic Response center is approved.

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Sheriff Murray to renew Randy Hurst's employment contract for one year. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Sheriff Murray to renew Randy Hurst's employment contract for one year is approved. (Contract to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #18)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, to renew the following FY24 annual contracts/annual maintenance agreements: Robert J. Scheitlin for GIS professional services (\$5,000.00), Apex Software maintenance (\$2,250.00), LogMeIn-GoTo Resolve (\$1,782.00), Citrix-Sharefile cloud service. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, to renew the following FY24 annual contracts/annual maintenance agreements: Robert J. Scheitlin for GIS professional services (\$5,000.00), Apex Software maintenance (\$2,250.00), LogMeIn-GoTo Resolve (\$1,782.00), Citrix-Sharefile cloud service are approved. (Documents to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #19)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, to renew the Keet FY24 Contract with the following GIS services: Internet Spatial Viewer-ISV(\$16,100.00/yr.), Photo Transfer-GIS Field Maps (\$7,800.00/1st yr.), GAMA web support & maintenance (\$12,600.00). On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

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RESOLVED, that the request of Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, to renew the Keet FY24 Contract with the following GIS services: Internet Spatial Viewer-ISV(\$16,100.00/yr.), Photo Transfer-GIS Field Maps (\$7,800.00/1st yr.), GAMA web support & maintenance (\$12,600.00) are approved. (Documents to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #20)

The next item was to discuss the approval of the request of Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, for a new agreement with American Financial Credit Services, Inc., for delinquent collections, pending the County Attorney's review. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Revenue Commissioner, Ken Crowe, for a new agreement with American Financial Credit Services, Inc., for delinquent collections, pending the County Attorney's review, is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #21)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Sheriff Billy Murray to renew the following FY24 annual contracts, agreements, and subscriptions: Brooks Jeffrey Marketing, Inc. for the Most Wanted Government Website.com subscription (\$5,805.00) & an agreement with JSU for Forensic services (\$5,000.00). On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Sheriff Billy Murray to renew the following FY24 annual contracts, agreements, and subscriptions: Brooks Jeffrey Marketing, Inc. for the Most Wanted Government Website.com subscription (\$5,805.00) & an agreement with JSU for Forensic services (\$5,000.00) are approved. (Documents to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #22)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Probate Judge, Andrew Weathington, to renew the following FY24 contracts/agreements: Thomas Voting machine (yearly \$3,000.00) and Diversified (Yearly mailouts). On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Probate Judge, Andrew Weathington, to renew the following FY24 contracts/agreements: Thomas Voting machine (yearly \$3,000.00) and Diversified (Yearly mailouts) are approved. (Documents to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #23)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of EMA Director, Patrice Kurzejeski, to renew the FY24 subscription with Brooks Jeffrey Marketing, Inc., for the Most Wanted Government Website.com in the amount of \$1,995.00/yr. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of EMA Director, Patrice Kurzejeski, to renew the FY24 subscription with Brooks Jeffrey Marketing, Inc., for the Most Wanted Government Website.com in the amount of

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\$1,995.00/yr. is approved. (Subscription to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #24)

The next item to discuss was to approve the renewal of the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair (JBS) mental health contract for case manager services paid out of the Juvenile court fund in the amount of \$15,000.00/yr. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that renewing the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair (JBS) mental health contract for case manager services paid out of the Juvenile court fund in the amount of \$15,000.00/yr. is approved. (Contract to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #25)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Property Manager, Roddy Wolfe, to renew the following FY24 maintenance contracts/agreements: Triple Point(3yr./\$7,862.40) and American Fire (Sprinkler & Fire Alarm Inspection) in the amount of \$4,850.00. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Property Manager, Roddy Wolfe, to renew the following FY24 maintenance contracts/agreements: Triple Point(3yr./\$7,862.40) and American Fire (Sprinkler & Fire Alarm Inspection) in the amount of \$4,850.00 are approved. (Documents to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #26)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of Property Manager, Roddy Wolfe, to renew a 3 yr. maintenance agreement with Vulcan Mechanical Services for the boiler at the Pell City courthouse in the estimated amount of \$9,523.00, pending the County Attorney's review. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Property Manager, Roddy Wolfe, to renew a 3 yr. maintenance agreement with Vulcan Mechanical Services for the boiler at the Pell City courthouse in the estimated amount of \$9,523.00, pending the County Attorney's review is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #27)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of the IT Manager, Glenn Morgan, to renew the FY24 contract with ICS Cyber management in the amount of \$16,560.00/yr. On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of the IT Manager, Glenn Morgan, to renew the FY24 contract with ICS Cyber management in the amount of \$16,560.00/yr. is approved. (Contract to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #28)

The next item was to discuss rescinding the Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC., agreement for auditing sales tax for three years and changing to a one-year agreement. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that rescinding the Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC., agreement for auditing sales tax for three years and changing to a one-

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year agreement is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #29)

The next item was to discuss approval of the request of the EMA Director, Patrice Kurzejeski, for a letter of support for the East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission's application for a Division G Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2025. The EMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is due to be updated in 2025. Requires a 25% match & a letter of support from each participating county. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Parker, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of the EMA Director, Patrice Kurzejeski, for a letter of support for the East Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission's application for a Division G Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which is due to be updated for 2025 and a 25% match is approved. (Letter to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #30)

The next item was to discuss approval and acceptance of the FY24 grant agreement with the Alabama Department of Youth Services in the amount of \$343,431.00 (an increase of \$25,439.00 from last year). On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the FY24 grant agreement with the Alabama Department of Youth Services in the amount of \$343,431.00 (an increase of \$25,439.00 from last year) is approved and accepted. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #31)

The next item was to discuss approval to renew the Pell City Animal Control Center Contract for FY24 in the amount of \$171,462.50. (An increase of \$26,462.50 from last year). On a motion by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that renewing the Pell City Animal Control Center Contract for FY24 in the amount of \$171,462.50 (An increase of \$26,462.50 from last year) is approved. (Agreement to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #32)

The next item was to discuss the request of Trade name: The Liquor Store for approval of a 011 Lounge Retail Liquor-Class II (Package) for Applicant: Asquare Two Inc., located at 13899 Greensport Road Ashville, AL 35953. Commissioner Bowers made a motion to table for two weeks per policy, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that the request of Trade name: The Liquor Store for approval of a 011 Lounge Retail Liquor-Class II (Package) for Applicant: Asquare Two Inc., located at 13899 Greensport Road Ashville, AL 35953 be tabled for two weeks per County policy.

The next item was to discuss adopting a new pay scale for a 10% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) raise for all eligible County employees, effective October 1, 2023. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

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RESOLVED, that a new pay scale for a 10% COLA raise for all eligible County employees, effective October 1, 2023, is approved. (Pay scale to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #33)

The next item was to discuss approval of fiscal year 2022-23 Budget amendments. On a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that fiscal year 2022-23 Budget amendments are approved. (Amendments to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #34)

The next item was to discuss approval of the fiscal year 2023-24 Budget and Personnel requests. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that fiscal year 2023-24 Budget and Personnel requests are approved. (Budget & Personnel requests to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment #35&35A)

The next item was to discuss adopting Resolution 2023-72 appointing Tina Morgan as County Treasurer effective October 1, 2023, and Resolution 2023-73 naming the County depositories effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Mize, with all voting aye, it was

RESOLVED, that Resolution 2023-72 appointing Tina Morgan as County Treasurer effective October 1, 2023, and Resolution 2023-73 naming the County depositories effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 are approved. (Resolutions to be made a part of these minutes as Attachment # 36&36A)

The next item was to discuss approval travel requests as presented in the work session. On a motion by Commissioner Mize, seconded by Commissioner Parker, 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 #37)

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 Brown, 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.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, subject to call, at approximately 10:39 a.m. On a motion by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all voting aye.

Stanley D. Batemon, Chairman

Jeff Brown, Commissioner

Ricky Parker, Commissioner

Tommy Bowers, Commissioner

Bob Mize, Commissioner