

Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes
Regular Commission Meeting May 15, 2023
Cleburne County Mountain Center

Roll Call

Present:

Chairman Ryan Robertson
Commissioner Laura Cobb
Commissioner Emmett Owen
Commissioner Terry Hendrix
Commissioner Roger Hill

Absent:

None

Chairman Ryan Robertson asks the Commission to consider adding Danny White to the agenda of today's meeting to allow him to address the Commission.

Action as related to **Resolution #5324**

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb
In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Terry Hendrix, and Roger Hill
In Opposition: None
Motion Passed

Resolution #5324

The Cleburne County Commission approves adding Danny White to the agenda of today's meeting to allow him to address the Commission.

Comments from Citizens

Danny White

Mr. White is present to address the Commission concerning the replacement of the bridge on CR 863. He states that this bridge only serves 3 houses. He also states that there is a greater need to replace the bridge that serves 21 houses. He states they need to fix the Cleburne Lake Bridge this summer. He also states that we need to fix what we have and not cater to just one person because they have more money.

Comments from Officials

Robby Brown – Mayor of Ranburne

Mr. Brown states he will present the Maintenance MOU and trash agreement at the next city council meeting then present it to the Commission. He states the City of Ranburne has a small population contributing to their limited tax base. He wants to thank the Commission for all the help they have received.

Rodney Brown – Mayor of Heflin

Mr. Brown states he has the MOU between Heflin and Cleburne County. He asks where the equipment rates come from. County Engineer, Lee Estes states they are pulled from the FEMA rates. Mr. Brown states it is cheaper to sub out pothole repairs than it is to do it themselves. He also states the City of Heflin is in Cleburne County and the city and county should work together, not be separated by a contract.

Jon Daniel – Sheriff

Mr. Daniel updates the Commission on how many inmates were in the jail, how many arrests were made, and how much trash has been collected for the month of April. He states the Housing contracts are up for renewal in July. County Attorney, Jason Odom states he has received them and will be working on getting them ready. Mr. Daniel states they will need to increase the cost of housing per day to be able to help cover the increasing food costs. He states the food budget will need to be increased, but they are good for a few more months. Heflin Mayor, Rodney Brown states he would like to renegotiate the Housing MOU, wants it to be like how it stated in June of 2001, they paid housing bill, but not dispatch.

Consent Agenda

The Commission passes the May 2023 Consent Agenda including:

Action as related to **Resolution #5325 1-5 May 2023** Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5325-1

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of:

April 17, 2023

as presented.

Resolution #5325-2

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission and Jacksonville State University (JSU) currently have a contract for sharing the Mountain Center facility;
Whereas, JSU contributes a portion of the costs of utilities and maintenance of the facility, and these expenses have continued to increase each year;
Whereas the contract allows for evaluation and/or increase of the amount of contribution from JSU;
Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission resolves to task its Chairman and County Administrator with meeting with JSU officials, on its behalf, to articulate the need for an increase in the amount required to meet the needs of the facility.

Resolution #5325-3

Whereas, the Cleburne County Engineer has opened bids for replacement of a bridge on County Road 863 over the Tallapoosa River;
Where, a low bid of \$1,233,876.00 was received from Bridge Builders of Alabama;
Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission hereby awards the project to Bridge Builders of Alabama and authorizes the Chairman to sign the contract for same once it is in final form and has been approved by the County Attorney.

Resolution #5325-4

Whereas, the Cleburne County Engineer has explained that the time for rotation of a dump truck is approaching;

Whereas, a Mack dump truck will not be available until 2026, but a Peterbilt will be available in approximately 10 months from order date;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow the County Engineer to pursue the rotation with a purchase of a Peterbilt dump truck.

Resolution #5325-5

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has expressed the need and usefulness of a "one-man pothole machine";

Whereas this machine will allow for patching of potholes by one employee and the product applied will be a hot patch;

Whereas, the machine will cost approximately \$293,700:

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to purchase the pothole machine.

New Business:

A. Sheriff's Dept. Pay Grade Change

Action as related to **Resolution #5326** Sheriff's Dept. Pay Grade Change

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, and Laura Cobb

In Opposition: Commissioner Roger Hill

Motion Carries

Resolution #5326

Whereas, the Cleburne County Sheriff is requesting a pay grade change and update of the job description for his Chief Clerk;

Whereas, the current pay grade for the Sheriff's Department Chief Clerk is 14, but other Chief Clerks in the County are at pay grade 17;

Whereas, the pay grade change will not affect the pay for the employee currently in that position;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to change the pay grade of the Sheriff's Department Chief Clerk from pay grade 14 to pay grade 17.

B. Sheriff's Dept. Job Change

Action as related to **Resolution #5327** Sheriff's Dept. Job Change

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix

Motion dies for lack of a second motion.

Resolution #5327

Whereas, the Cleburne County Sheriff's Department is requesting a change in its Organizational Chart, involving a pay grade, a job title, and job description changes for its File Clerk position;

Whereas, the change requested is to reflect a change of duties required by this position;

Whereas, the current pay grade for the Sheriff's Department File Clerk is 10 and the Sheriff is requesting that the new pay grade be 14 and the job title will be changed to "Warrant Clerk" with job description changes to match the job title;

Whereas, the current position of File Clerk will be eliminated from the Sheriff's Department Organizational Chart;

Whereas, the changes will result in a pay increase of \$1.08/hr. or approximately \$850 increase in the salary budget lines for the remaining portion of FY 2023;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves these changes.

C. City Maintenance Assistance MOUs

Action as related to **Resolution #5328** City Maintenance Assistance MOUs

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, Laura Cobb, and Roger Hill

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5328

Whereas, Cleburne County has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)(s) with most of the Cities within Cleburne County, concerning maintenance assistance on roads within each City;

Whereas, the previous MOUs are in need of an update;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission resolves to accept the new version of the MOU for each City and authorizes the County Engineer to sign on behalf of the County.

D. Storm-water Grant Application

Action as related to **Resolution #5329** Storm-water Grant Application

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, Laura Cobb, and Roger Hill

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5329

Whereas, ARPA Funding is available for Storm-Water projects, through a grant process;

Whereas, the grant is a 35% County matching grant for Storm-Water projects, with the 35% eligible for an in-kind match:

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes the County Engineer to apply for the grant through Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

E. Hearts Utility Reimbursement

Action as related to **Resolution #5330** Hearts Utility Reimbursement

Motion made by Commissioner Laura Cobb, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, Laura Cobb, and Roger Hill

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5330

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has an Agreement to reimburse HEARTS for utility expenses up to \$400 per month, not to exceed \$4,800 per year;

Whereas, the Agreement was made due to HEARTS providing office space for Community Action;

Whereas, Community Action no longer has an office in the HEARTS building;

Whereas, HEARTS is requesting that the Cleburne County Commission continue to reimburse them for utility expenses after the end of the current agreement which terminates at the end of September 2023;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission wishes to continue its support of the HEARTS non-profit organization;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission resolves to task County Attorney, Jason Odom with preparing a new Agreement to provide \$500 per month, not to exceed \$6,000 per year for 3 years for utility expense reimbursement.

F. Animal Shelter MOU

Action as related to **Resolution #5331** Animal Shelter MOU

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, Laura Cobb, and Roger Hill

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5331

Whereas, a volunteer group in Cleburne County has formed a 501(c)(3), in order to operate an animal shelter;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission has agreed to contribute \$200,000 toward the building of the animal shelter;

Whereas, the Mayor of Heflin has expressed interest in the animal shelter being built in the City;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow the City of Heflin to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the City and County. Once prepared, the County Attorney and the Commission will be consulted to review the MOU and Chairman Ryan Robertson will sign the MOU on behalf of the County.

G. Hospital Board

Action as related to **Resolution #5332** Hospital Board

Motion made by Commissioner Emmett Owen, Seconded by Commissioner Laura Cobb

In Support: Commissioners Terry Hendrix, Emmett Owen, Laura Cobb, and Roger Hill

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5332

Board Vacancies (Upcoming):

Hospital Board

District 3

Board Reappointments:

Reports from staff:

- A.** County Administrator, Lisa Copeland, updates the Commissioners on the number of payrolls and invoices that were done for the month of April. She also states she attended the ACCA Administrative Conference and has now completed all of the classes required to be designated a Certified County Administrator but will continue to take elective classes. She also states she is waiting to hear from Avenu about the requested Fireworks tax information.
- B.** County Engineer, Lee Estes, states he will have project estimates at the next work session. He states that he has advertised for the garbage bids to be opened in June. He also states Bridge 84 bid is getting will be bid soon.
- C.** County Attorney, Jason Odom, states the changes to the bid law will take place August 1st, 2023. He also states he has sent in the Sewer Ordinance to be reviewed and will be sent back to him.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks if a public hearing will need to be held for the Sewer Ordinance?

County Attorney, Jason Odom states yes.

Commissioner Terry Hendrix asks if he has heard anything about the Watersheds?

County Attorney, Jason Odom, states he has not heard anything. However, he has contacted someone in Katie Britt's office who is working on gathering information.

Old Business:

There is no Old Business to attend this meeting.

Discussion Items:

Chairman, Ryan Robertson states there will be a meeting with JSU next week about their contract renewal. County Attorney, Jason Odom, states our next Commission meeting falls on Juneteenth holiday. The Commission agrees to move the next meeting to Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Commissioner Laura Cobb asks County Administrator, Lisa Copeland to reserve the JSU side for the Fire

Association Annual Meeting on July 13, 2023. The Commissioners also discuss cyber-attack agreements, county building and vehicle insurance policies.

Action as related to **Resolution #5333**

Motion made by Commissioner Roger Hill, Seconded by Commissioner Emmett Owen

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmett Owen, Roger Hill, and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5333

Meeting Adjourned.

Certified by:

Ryan Robertson – Chairman

Laura Cobb – District 1

Emmett Owen – District 2

Terry Hendrix – District 3

Roger Hill – District 4