

Cleburne County Commission Meeting Minutes
Regular Commission Meeting December 16, 2024
Cleburne County Mountain Center

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Emmett Owen
Commissioner Terry Hendrix
Commissioner Laura Cobb
Commissioner Mark Truett
Chairman Ryan Robertson

Absent: None

Comments from Citizens

Comments from Board Members or Officials

The Commission approves to add the following to New Business:

F. CDBG

G. Metro Bank -CD

H. Probate Judge Recognition

Consent Agenda

The Commission passes the December 2024 Consent Agenda Resolution #5505 1-8

Action as related to **Resolution #5505 1-8** 2024 Consent Agenda:

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

In Support: Commissioners Laura Cobb, Emmet Owen, Mark Truett and Terry Hendrix

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Resolution #5505-1

The Cleburne County Commission hereby resolves to approve the minutes of November 13, 2024, as presented.

Resolution #5505-2

December 16, 2024, Board Vacancies: None

Resolution #5505-3

Whereas, Alabama Code, Section 11-4-41 defines the requirements for selecting a qualified public depository each year; and

Whereas, the County Administrator has received proposals in sufficient form to be able to determine that Metro Bank of Heflin, AL offers the most competitive benefits and the highest rate of interest on daily balances of bank deposits.

Therefore, the County Commission authorizes the County Administrator to notify Metro Bank of the County's acceptance of the proposal, and to work with Metro Bank to provide such information as needed to renew and/or continue services at the newly stated rates.

Resolution #5505-4

Whereas, the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (the "Association") and the Cleburne County Commission (the "County") previously entered into a Maintenance and Support Membership Agreement (the "Agreement") for the administration, planning, management, and completion support in the areas of educational, intergovernmental, compliance, and technical assistance related to the use of funds received by the County from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 by and through the Association's Investing in Alabama Counties (IAC) program; and'

Whereas, the Agreement is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2024; and

Whereas, for good and adequate mutual consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties desire to extend the term of the Agreement to ensure that these services continue uninterrupted through the duration of the period of performance of the County's SLFRF award.

The Association and the County hereby enter into the Second Amendment to the Maintenance and Support Membership Agreement as follows:

The Agreement, as previously amended, is further amended to provide that the Agreement shall remain and continue in full force until December 31, 2027, unless and until terminated in writing by either party upon 90 days written notice to the other party.

Resolution #5505-5

Whereas, Commissioner Emmett Owen wishes to use \$3,300.00 and Commissioner Terry Hendrix wishes to use \$1,850.00 of their discretionary funds for coolers at Hearts in Heflin and Ranburne;

Whereas, the Commission finds that this is an appropriate use of discretionary funds for a proper public purpose.

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to allow the use of \$3,300.00 of Commissioner Owen's discretionary fund and \$1,850.00 of Commissioner Hendrix's discretionary funds for this purpose.

Resolution #5505-6

Whereas, the County Engineer wishes to use \$1,600.00 of his funds for reimbursement to Raisanen Grading & Excavation LLC, License #210107 for concrete for CR 450;

Therefore, the Commission approves for the County Engineer to use \$1,600.00 for concrete reimbursement to Raisanen Grading & Excavation LLC.

Resolution #5505-7

Whereas, a Co-Chairman should be appointed with the incoming term of office for newly elected Commissioners for District 1 and District 4.

Therefore, the Commission approves to appoint Commissioner Terry Hendrix as the Co-chairman of the Commission.

Resolution #5505-8

Whereas, the Commission currently has a vehicle maintenance contract with a vendor;

Whereas, there was only one vendor that returned a bid to conduct the service, at the time of the contract award;

Whereas, the Commission would like to update the contract and bid out the work;

Therefore, the Commission tasks the County Administrator to gather information and put together vehicle maintenance bids to be done by July 8, 2025.

New Business:

A. FCC Challenge

A. Action as related to **Resolution #5506** FCC Challenge

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5506

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission is invested in all citizens of Cleburne County having access to broadband;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission understands that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) defines broadband service as 100 mbps download and 20 mbps upload;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission understands that the FCC map reports broadband service available to the Ranburne Community;

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission does not believe the FCC accurately reflects the internet service available in the Ranburne Community;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission authorizes the Department of Economic Development to file an official challenge to the FCC service map claiming broadband service in the Ranburne community.

B. Tree Brand Expansion

Action as related to **Resolution #5507** Tree Brand Expansion

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

Motion to table made by Commissioner Terry Hendrix, Seconded by Commissioner Mark Truett

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Tabled

Resolution #5507

Whereas, Tree Brand has plans to expand their factory;

Whereas, a water tower is needed to provide additional fire suppression;

Whereas, the funding to build the water tower will come from a \$15,000 grant for Tourism will be applied as well as funds from ADECA;

Whereas, the deed will be in the name of the Cleburne County Commission and an agreement will need to be in place between the Commission and the Ranburne water authority for maintenance of the water tower;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to accept the deed for the new water tower and enter into an agreement with the Town of Ranburne Water Authority to assume maintenance of the water tower.

Whereas, the deed will be in the name of the Commission and an agreement will need to be in place between the Commission and the Ranburne water authority for maintenance of the water tower;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to accept the deed for the new water tower and enter into an agreement with the City of Ranburne Water Authority to assume maintenance of the water tower.

C. Juneteenth Holiday

Action as related to **Resolution #5508** Juneteenth Holiday

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5508

Whereas, President Joe Biden declared Juneteenth as a National Holiday to be observed on June 19th of every year, or – if June 19th falls on a weekend, it shall be observed on the closest Friday or Monday thereto; and

Whereas, Governor Kay Ivey proclaimed Juneteenth as a State holiday on June 18, 2021, and declared it as a regular State Holiday in future years, to align with the National Holiday; and

Whereas, an Alabama bill proposed in May 2024 would have added Juneteenth as a permanent holiday, it was passed by the state House of Representatives, but it did not get a vote in the Alabama Senate;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to rescind resolution #5141, removing Juneteenth from the Cleburne County holiday calendar, and allow county employees to have a second floating holiday annually.

D. New Business Approval

Action as related to **Resolution #5509** New Business Approval

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

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Tabled

Resolution #5509

Whereas, in previous years it was established that all new landfill businesses must go through the Cleburne County Commission for approval;

Whereas, the former Cleburne County Landfill has been a topic of discussion for conducting business;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to continue to require all new businesses to go through the Commission to gain approval prior to conducting a landfill business.

E. Road Department Controlled Spraying

Action as related to **Resolution #5510** Road Department Controlled Spraying

Motion to table made by Commissioner Mark Truett, Seconded by Commissioner Terry Hendrix

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Tabled

Resolution #5510

Whereas, Commissioner Mark Truett has expressed concerns about the safety of spraying herbicides, specifically glyphosate, for weed control on right-of-ways;

Whereas, the County Engineer has stated that an herbicide, not containing glyphosate, can be used but the alternative chemical may be more expensive;

Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission agrees to change the type of herbicide being used, to exclude glyphosate.

F. CDBG Project

Action as related to **Resolution #5511** CDBG Project

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5511

Whereas, the Cleburne County Commission solicited bids for water line extensions along County Roads 644 and 826 under CDBG Project No. CY-CM-PF-20-009;

Whereas, following bid tabulations by Ladd Environmental Consultants it has been recommended to award the bid to Strain Construction Company in the amount of \$66,951.00, contingent upon ADECA approval;

Now Therefore, the Cleburne County Commission approves the recommendation and awards the bid to Strain Construction Company in the amount of \$66,951.00, contingent upon ADECA approval & authorizes the Commission to sign the Notice of Award.

G. Certificates of Deposit – Metro Bank

Action as related to **Resolution #5512** Certificates of Deposit – Metro Bank

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5512

Whereas, Alabama Code, Section 11-4-41 defines the requirements for selecting a qualified public depository each year; and

Whereas, the County Administrator has received proposals in sufficient form to be able to determine that Metro Bank of Heflin, AL offers the most competitive benefits and the highest rate of interest on daily balances of certificates of deposit.

Therefore, the County Commission authorizes the County Administrator to notify Metro Bank of the County's acceptance of the proposal, and to work with Metro Bank to provide such information as needed to renew and/or continue services for certificates of deposit.

H. Probate Judge Recognition

Action as related to **Resolution #5513** Probate Judge Recognition

Motion made by Commissioner Laura Cobb, Seconded by Commissioner Mark Truett

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Carries

Resolution #5513

Whereas, Mr. Ryan Robertson has tirelessly and professionally served Cleburne County for 24 years in position as Probate Judge;

Whereas, Mr. Robertson's commitment to public service has been an asset to Cleburne County;

Whereas, Mr. Robertson is held to the highest regard for his quality of work, professionalism, and his contribution will be greatly missed;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cleburne County Commission expresses its deepest appreciation for its outstanding contribution made by Mr. Robertson during 24 years of public service and extends its best wishes.

Reports from staff:

A. The County Administrator, Lisa Copeland states she was informed today that the property insurance rates are going to increase. Parnell reports that the only rate currently available will cause an increase from \$67,000.00 to \$155,000.00. Parnell is still trying to get a better rate. Parnell asked if the Commission would be open to increasing the deductible, she told him to check options.

*Commissioner Laura Cobb asks how everything is going for the Audit?
Lisa states by the end of the month they will let the State know we are ready to schedule an appointment for Audit.*

B. The County Engineer, Lee Estes not present.

C. The County Attorney, Jason Odom states he is still working on the Employee Handbook changes.

Old Business: None

Discussion Items from the Chairman and Commission:

Action as related to **Resolution #5514**

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

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

In Opposition: None

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned.

Certified by:

Ryan Robertson – Chairman

Laura Cobb – District 1

Emmett Owen – District 2

Terry Hendrix – District 3

Mark Truett – District 4