

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REGULAR MEETING, JULY 11, 2022

The Lee County Commission convened in regular session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, July 11, 2022. The Chairman declared a quorum and officially opened the meeting with the following members recorded as being present: Judge Bill English, Chairman, and Commissioners Doug Cannon, Ross Morris, Gary Long, Robert Ham, and Richard LaGrand. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation by Commissioner Morris. Elected official in attendance: Opelika City Council member Erica Norris. News media in attendance: The Observer reporter Hannah Lester, Opelika-Auburn News reporter John West and WTVM reporter Rico Mitchell.

Judge English recognized newly appointed Special Coroner Daniel Sexton. Judge English wanted to make the Commission aware of the appointment. Mr. Sexton said it was due to the sad and unexpected death of Mr. Bill Harris. Mr. Sexton stated he would like to continue to serve the citizens as Mr. Harris served them. Mr. Sexton stated he and the remaining deputy coroner will continue to fulfill the duties of the Coroner's Office as Mr. Harris did.

Dream Day Foundation representative Marion Sankey gave a presentation about the organization before the Commission. Mrs. Sankey first thanked the Commission for the opportunity to appear and to ask for Commission monetary support of their organization. Mrs. Sankey stated the program empowers the youth of Lee County. Mrs. Sankey stated they serve approximately 80-100 young people each year. Mrs. Sankey said the non-profit organization was established in 2009 and said she would like to see that the programs continue for the young people in the community. Further, she stated the organization has given over \$50,000 in scholarships. Last, Mrs. Sankey invited the Commission to come to their event held at the Opelika Performing Arts center each January on Martin Luther King Day. Mrs. Sankey encouraged the Commission to call her with any questions about the organization.

Terry Young was unable to attend the meeting on the agenda item concerning potential savings on inmate medical expenses, and Commissioner Cannon asked that it be carried over to the next agenda.

Human Resources Director Erica Norris as President of the Alabama Association of Public Personnel Administrators (AAPPA) Chapter announced the Alabama Chapter received the International Public Management – Human Resources (IPMA-HR) Southern Region 2022 Dayna Petete Outstanding Chapter Award. Ms. Norris stated the award recognizes chapters within the Southern Region who have demonstrated excellence in the achievement of IPMA goals, objectives, and program initiatives. Ms. Norris stated she was able to attend the Annual Conference which was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and thanked the Commission for the

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opportunity, but noted that her travel was provided by the organization and not Lee County. Commissioner LaGrand thanked her for a job well done.

Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: listings of claims, a procurement card transactions listing, and minutes of the June 27 meeting. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Justin Hardee again presented the final plat approval for Creecy Subdivision in District 5. As stated at the last meeting, Mr. Hardee said the subdivision meets the minimum requirements of the *Lee County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations*. Judge English recognized Christine McCuin who signed in for this item. Ms. McCuin said she previously talked to the Lee County Highway Department and the Lee County Health Department. Ms. McCuin said the only thing that could stop it is when the Health Department does the perc test. Ms. McCuin said her understanding is that the perc test and the sewage tank will go in and that the lines cannot get on her property and that they must be within a few feet of the house. Ms. McCuin said she talked with Mr. Hardee about the roads, stating they need to be refurbished, especially if additional homes are being built, then good roads are needed. Commissioner LaGrand stated he talked with the surveyor who is in attendance tonight. The surveyor said he is working with the property owner Ms. Creecy, who lives in Louisiana, and is subdividing it for her nieces and a nephew. Commissioner LaGrand questioned if the nephew will be building for a home for low rent income. He said it is his understanding the nephew is going to put a house on the property, but he does not get into their business to ask what they are building. Judge English stated that once the final plat is approved by the Commission, it is outside the scope of the Commission to ask how it will be utilized after approval. Commissioner LaGrand asked the surveyor to inquire on that question. Commissioner Ham questioned the acreage of the lots. The surveyor said one lot is approximately 1¾ acre, one is 7 acres, and the middle lot is 1½ acres. Judge English questioned if there was a motion to be made. No action was taken by the Commission.

Mr. Hardee said the item concerning Lee Road 196 should be removed because the petition had been withdrawn.

Chief Administrative Officer Holly Leverette stated the Commission needs to appoint a representative to the ACCA's Legislative Committee. Commissioner Cannon stated he was the representative for 2020-2021. Commissioner Cannon made a motion to nominate Commissioner Morris as the representative, and Commissioner Morris agreed to serve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ham and carried unanimously.

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Next, Mrs. Leverette asked the Commission to appoint a representative to the IAC's Operations Council. Mrs. Leverette said each member county gets a representative on the council. Mrs. Leverette said they consist mainly of county administrators but a few Commissioners have been appointed. No action was taken by the Commission.

Parks Director Ryan Norris presented a request for revisions to the current rental agreement. Mr. Norris stated he experimented with these changes recently with a travel ball team at the Beulah Park on June 25 and 26. Mr. Norris stated he talked with the AO Tourism Bureau who suggested the revisions, especially on the fees section. Mr. Norris stated they suggested field rental fees and a maintenance charge associated with it and to have the Recreation Association handling concessions. Judge English questioned if the field fees should be paid prior to the competition, then questioned what happens if they are not paid. Mr. Norris said they would probably not allow the team to use the fields for a period of time if they did not pay the required fees. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve revisions to the Lee County Parks Rental Agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

At approximately 5:37 p.m. Commissioner Cannon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris and carried unanimously.