

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REGULAR MEETING, OCT. 11, 2022

The Lee County Commission convened in regular session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Tuesday, October 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 Judge English. News media in attendance: Opelika-Auburn News reporter John West.

Copies of the items on the Consent Agenda sent to the Commissioners in their packets included: minutes of the meeting on September 26, 2022. Prior to the meeting, an email containing the listings of claims and procurement card transactions was sent to each Commissioner and a printed copy was placed on each desk prior to the meeting for their review. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve the consent agenda items and the listing of claims and procurement card transactions as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Under old business, Captain Chris Wallace asked the Commission to authorize Sheriff Jones to sign the agreement for medical bill repricing services for detention services with Millennium Risk Managers, LLC. Captain Wallace stated Sheriff Jones and detention staff have met with representatives from the company and have reviewed the agreement and would like to proceed. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to authorize Sheriff Jones to sign the agreement with Millennium Risk Managers, LLC for medical bill repricing services for a three-year term from November 1, 2022 until October 31, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Services Director John McDonald presented garbage fee billing guidelines for Commission consideration and adoption. Mr. McDonald said the fee billing guidelines incorporated the comments and suggestions submitted at the last meeting. The billing guidelines outline payment terms, payment method options, new account set-up, delinquent accounts, and exemptions. Mr. McDonald stated the guidelines are necessary since the Environmental Services Department will be billing the garbage fee rather than the Revenue Commissioner. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve the garbage fee billing guidelines as presented for the Environmental Services Department to follow for the new billing process. The motion carried unanimously.

Under new business, Commissioner Morris presented the following resolution supporting Amendments 2 and 7 concerning broadband expansion. Commissioner Morris made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to approve the Resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lee County Commission stands in favor of Amendment 2 and Amendment 7 to the Alabama Constitution, which will promote broadband expansion and economic development, respectively.

WHEREAS, citizens across the state are urged to vote “Yes” on Amendment 2 and Amendment 7 on Election Day, November 8, 2022.

WHEREAS, Amendment 2 would authorize state and local governments to use certain public funds to incentivize broadband expansion, most notably in the rural and underserved areas of the state.

WHEREAS, Amendment 7 makes several necessary technical changes to local governments’ economic development powers-the most important of which is clarifying that all counties may exercise these powers, regardless of whether they also have a local constitutional amendment pertaining to economic development.

WHEREAS, Amendment 2 and Amendment 7 will each greatly benefit this county and state by prioritizing broadband expansion and economic development as we progress further into an era in which economic and technological stability are critical.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Commission that it expresses its resolute support of Amendments 2 and 7 to the Alabama Constitution and any other legislation or policy modeled similarly.

Chief Administrative Officer Holly Leverette presented a lease agreement renewal with the City of Smiths Station for office space at the Smiths Station Government Center. Mrs. Leverette stated the agreement is for the office space utilized by the Revenue Commissioner’s Office, the Probate Office and the Sheriff’s Office. Mrs. Leverette said the renewal contains a 5% increase which is due to increased utility costs. The three-year agreement runs from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2025. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Long to authorize Judge English to sign the lease agreement renewal as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Leverette presented a funding request for the Benefits Fair on November 8. Mrs. Leverette requested the use of contingency funds up to \$700 for the purchase of prepackaged food items and any other needed supplies for the event. Commissioner LaGrand made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to allocate up to \$700 from the contingency fund for the upcoming benefits fair. The motion carried unanimously.

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Captain Wallace presented a retail beer and retail table wine license application from Spring Villa Grocery in District 4. Captain Wallace said no objections were received on the transfer of the license. Commissioner Ham made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cannon to approve the following Resolution to approve the license application for Spring Villa Grocery.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Commission hereby approves the transfer of the retail beer and table wine license for Spring Villa Grocery located at 45 Lee Road 166, Opelika, Alabama.

At approximately 5:15 p.m., Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ham to adjourn into a work session on outside appropriations. The motion carried unanimously.