

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION, REGULAR SESSION, JULY 10, 2023

The Lee County Commission convened in regular session at the Courthouse in Opelika, Alabama, Monday, July 10, 2023. 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, Tony Langley and Richard LaGrand. News media in attendance: The Observer reporter Hannah L. Goldfinger and WRBL News reporter Rico Mitchell.

County Engineer Justin Hardee recognized Shop Foreman Jimmy Wood on his upcoming retirement on August 1, 2023 after serving Lee County for over 25 years. Mr. Hardee said Mr. Wood began his career with Lee County as a part-time recycling technician. Mr. Wood moved to various jobs before landing his current position as Shop Foreman in 2018. Mr. Hardee congratulated Mr. Wood on his upcoming retirement. Commissioner Long said he has known Mr. Wood for many years and thanked him for his dedicated service to Lee County and good wishes on his retirement.

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 a copy of the June 26, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Under new business, Commissioner LaGrand recognized Elizabeth Burton to talk about a letter she gave to Commissioner LaGrand about her concerns of abuse and inconvenience by the Commission. Ms. Burton said she was humiliated publicly on July 10 when she signed into Citizen Communication's and said she was severely mistreated, and her constitutional rights were violated. Further, Ms. Burton said she is a victim of discrimination done with malicious intent. Ms. Burton said Judge English and Deputy Sheriff's are bonded and must sign an oath of office. Ms. Burton had four comments, they included: 1) a copy of procedures that govern the 3-minute public comments from citizens; 2) what disciplinary actions are being taken 3) she recently learned that public comments are censored, and 4) questioned when another Chair can be appointed. No action was taken by the Commission.

Captain Chris Wallace appeared before the Commission to present a liquor license application from Big Dads Package Store 2. Captain Wallace said no objections were presented for this location. Commissioner Langley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Long to approving the liquor license application as presented.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Lee County Commission hereby approves the liquor license application for Big Dads Package Store 2 located at 10 Lee Road 189 Suite A, Opelika, AL.

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Next, Captain Wallace presented two educational reimbursement requests from Deputies Shawn McDevitt and Ben Causland. Captain Wallace said the courses apply to their current jobs and qualify for reimbursement. Commissioner Long made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Morris to approve the two educational reimbursements. The motion carried unanimously.

Governmental Relations/Safety Coordinator Wendy Swann presented an ADECA State Energy Program Grant application for Commission consideration. Mrs. Swann indicated the Parks Department has been looking at opportunities to begin changing the lighting at its fields from the current lights to more energy-efficient LED lighting. The grant has a minimum \$50,000 and a maximum award of \$250,000 with no match required. However, additional consideration and rating points would be given to applications providing a match of up to 5% (matching funds would come from available recreation funds). Commissioner Cannon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaGrand to authorize Judge English to sign the necessary documents. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Long made a motion, at approximately 5:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Cannon to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.