

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

Chairman Toby Seay called the meeting to order and welcomed guests present. Commissioner Spivey opened the meeting with prayer. Chairman Seay led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no elected officials requesting to make public comment.

There were no citizens requesting to make public comment.

Commission Chairman Seay called the roll, and the following members were present: Commissioners Weston Spivey, Todd Brannon, Bart Wilks, and Wade Fulford. County Attorney, Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Revenue Commissioner, Mary Ann Ellison; EMA Director, Brian Smith; Solid Waste Director, Dawn Smith and County Administrator, Cindy Williams was also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of June 13, 2022. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2022. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Mr. Jessie Quillen with Wiregrass Economic Development was present to update the Commission about his office and recent events. Mr. Quillen has worked with Alabama Power to get new footage of the Industrial Park since the completion of the Spec Building. He recently visited the Geneva County Industrial Park with a site selection committee for a company out of Virginia. This could be a potential \$20,000,000.00 investment in the Industrial Park. Our site is one of eleven that the company is visiting. Mr. Quillen does not have a timetable for response from the company but when he hears anything he will notify Chairman Seay. The Commission thanked Mr. Quillen for the information and his promotion of the Industrial Park. Chairman Seay informed the Commission that a letter had been received from the Alabama Department of Transportation that the Access Grant had been approved in the amount of \$1,419,404.00 to extend the road at the Industrial Park pass the Spec Building and back down toward Highway 167. Regarding the current project at the Industrial Park the company is working with the State on the last piece of information required and the valuation of equipment. Once these items are complete the project should be finalized.

3. Coroner Mr. Donnie Adkinson addressed the Commission and stated that per Alabama Code 11-5-34, the coroner is authorized to appoint a deputy coroner with the prior approval of the County Commission, and he is requesting that a Deputy Coroner be appointed. Mr. Adkinson said that since taking office the number of cases per year has more than doubled. He stated that Mr. Chad Bright has been assisting him these past few years and he would like to have him appointed as the official Deputy Coroner. Mr. Adkinson stated that Mr. Bright works with Sorrells Funeral Home and has fourteen (14) years of experience. He also stated that per the Code, no compensation shall be paid to the deputy coroner without approval of a majority of the membership of the County Commission. He is not requesting Mr. Bright be paid should the Commission vote to approve him as the Deputy Coroner, that is up to the Commission. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Chad Bright as the Deputy Coroner. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
Coroner Adkinson then asked the Commission to consider raising the pay for the coroner and he is requesting it be raised to the same as the Commissioner pay. Attorney Eldridge explained to the coroner that elected officials are not allowed a raise during their term, but the Commission could consider it for the coroner's new term which will begin in November, however he believes he is correct in that the coroner pay is set by local legislation and he would investigate that matter. Chairman Seay asked Mr. Adkinson to submit his request in writing for the Commission, to be considered for the next budget year.
4. Board Appointments: Commissioner Wilks made a motion to appoint Mr. James Shiver to serve on the Wiregrass Area Food Bank Board. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
Commissioner Fulford stated that Mrs. Barbara Price requested not to be reappointed to the DHR Board at the end of her term, which is July 25, 2022. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to appoint Mrs. Kelli Brannon to replace Mrs. Price on the DHR Board. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0. Commissioner Brannon abstained from voting.
5. Bids/Quotes: None

Sheriff: Sheriff Helms is attending the National Sheriff's Conference.

County Administrator: Mrs. Williams explained to the Commission that she had misunderstood the date for the first Commission meeting in November and at the last meeting had requested the meeting be changed to November 9, 2022 which the Commission had approved, however the meeting is required to be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 and therefore she is asking the Commissioner for a date change for the meeting. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to move the Wednesday, November 9, 2022 Commission meeting to Wednesday, November 16, 2022. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: The Engineer stated that the ATRIPII project in Hartford should begin July 18, 2022.

There is a requirement that the FEMA projects for the three bridges washed out during Hurricane Sally be posted for thirty (30) days on the bulletin board in the Courthouse and he is asking Administrator Williams to post them.

Mr. Barfield is continuing to work with Ms. Emily VanScyoc with Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development on the street paving project in Bellwood.

Herbicide spraying is complete.

Mr. Barfield addressed budget concerns regarding fuel costs. He stated that at the beginning of this fiscal year in October a tanker of diesel was \$18,000 and the tanker last week was \$32,000.00 which is a 90% increase.

On more budget topics, Mr. Barfield stated that the lease on the motor graders is coming up next year and at the end of the lease it can be renewed, or the payoff will be \$900,000.00. Currently the monthly payment for all six motor graders is \$1,800.00 per grader for a total of \$10,800.00, however for new graders the cost will be \$5,500.00 per grader. He stated he is currently running six graders when in the past there were ten graders. Eight graders would be preferable so that roads could be bladed more frequently. There is an eight (8) to ten (10) year life span on graders. He believes the graders would bring a great price at auction, however the wait time for new graders could be up to one year. He provided information to the Commission on the new graders for their review.

Mr. Barfield had a pit agreement with the City of Geneva for obtaining dirt from Revels Dairy Pit and he requested approval and that the Chairman be allowed to sign the agreement. Commissioner Fulford made a motion to approve the Pit agreement to allow the City of Geneva to obtain dirt from the Revels Dairy Pit and allow Chairman Seay to sign the agreement. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0

The Road & Bridge department has hired one new Equipment Operator II.

Driveway pipe installation is current.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated that after the last meeting he had received specs for the Jail Commissary bid. Administrator Williams has sent out the invitation for bids to all the vendors provided by Sheriff Helms and has posted it on the bulletin board at the Courthouse. The bids are to be opened at the July 11, 2022 Commission meeting.

Commission Chairman: Chairman Seay stated that as is required by the CDBG grant, there was a townhall meeting in Bellwood last Wednesday regarding a grant for the street paving project and Commissioner Wilks and twelve citizens were in attendance. It will not be known until October or November 2022, whether the grant is approved.

Update on the radios for the fire departments, the Subrecipient pre-award questionnaire for ARPA funded projects prepared by IAC has been received and Mr. Jeff Lowery will be coming by to pick those up, and all departments will complete them at their meeting tonight, and he will return them tomorrow. After these forms are returned another form will be sent to be completed before the subrecipient award can be completed.

Another company will be visiting the Industrial Park to see if it suits their needs.

The schematic design for the Farm Center should be here this week from JMR+H and the design for the Courthouse should be here by the end of July.

EMA Director: Mr. Smith told the Commission that he and the Sheriff had obtained more equipment through the 1033 program. They were approved for and have picked up two (2) large cooling fans.

The \$12,000.00 the State provides for the EMA Director salary cannot be accepted due to his special circumstance, but he is inquiring whether that funding can be used for his budget.

Revenue Commissioner: Nothing to report.

Solid Waste Director: Mrs. Smith stated that as of July 1 the Southeast Solid Waste Authority is adding a fuel surcharge to the billing and as of October 1 the tonnage rates will be increasing.

E-911: Not present.

Auburn Extension: Not present.

Commissioner's: Commissioner Spivey stated he had several complaints from poll workers regarding a decrease in their pay for the election. Administrator Williams and Chairman Seay explained they did not receive a decrease in pay that they are referring to the last election cycle when the State had given a bonus of \$25.00 for Covid pay. This election cycle, the pay reverted to the normal pay. Chairman Seay added that the fee is dictated by State Legislature. Commissioner Spivey also asked if the ARPA funds could be used to give the coroner a raise. Commissioner Wilks explained that ARPA funds cannot be used to provide premium pay for elected officials.

Commissioner Wilks asked the Solid Waste Director if she could have garbage rates of cities in the County and surrounding counties by the next meeting so the Commission could compare to our current rates. Mrs. Smith stated said she could have that information.

Commissioner Spivey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, June 27, 2022.


Chairman, Toby Seay



Commissioner Weston Spivey




Commissioner Bart Wilks



Cindy Williams
County Administrator



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Wade Fulford