

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

The Lauderdale County Commission convened at the Lauderdale County Courthouse in the City of Florence, Alabama at 5:00 p.m. on the 12th day of January, 2015. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Lauderdale Commission, Dewey D. Mitchell. Upon roll call, the following members answered present:

Dewey D. Mitchell	Chairman of Commission
Roger Garner	Commissioner, District 1
Danny Pettus	Commissioner, District 1
Joe Hackworth	Commissioner, District 2
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2

Legal Counsel:

Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney
----------------------	-----------------

Chairman Mitchell, upon declaration of a quorum being present, opened the meeting for the transaction of business.

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Fay Parker.

Awards and Presentations: None

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth that all items listed on the regular business agenda be approved for immediate consideration. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Agenda is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth that the minutes of the last regular meeting of the commission be approved for recording. There being no discussion and upon vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Pettus that a resolution be adopted authorizing the Lauderdale County Bank Depository List for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. This list shows that all banks listed are on the SAFE Program (Security for Alabama Funds Enhancements) to secure all fund for Lauderdale County. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Pettus moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth that a resolution be adopted authorizing the approval of the CNS Grant for the RSVP (Retirement Senior Volunteer Program.) The grant is in the amount of the payment of forty-one thousand eight hundred and seventeen dollars. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and copy of grant agreement is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Garner moved, seconded by Commissioner Pettus to approve a resolution that authorizes the Quit Claim Deed request made by Tyler and Jessica Killen to abandon a certain

utility easement recorded on their subdivision plat at Oakfair River Estate. Commissioner Parker asked Eric Hill, Lauderdale County Engineer, if any other residents in that subdivision had applied for a Quit Claim deed. Mr. Hill stated that no one else had applied. There being no more discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and copy of deed and map is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Garner to approve a resolution that authorizes payment for inpatient care provided to Lauderdale County Inmates at Regional Care Hospital, formerly ECM Hospital. The resolution also includes the new payment agreement regarding treatment to and payment for care provided to Lauderdale County Inmates. There being no discussion and upon vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and copy of hospital payment is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. LA 2015-4 "New Aluminum Garbage Trailers." Bid responses were received, publicly opened, and read aloud on January 5th, 2015. A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for commissioner's review. Chairman Mitchell referred to Robert Bevis, Solid Waste department head, to give the recommendations. Mr. Bevis stated that there were two bids and he recommended that the bid be awarded to East Manufacturing Corporation of Randolph, Ohio in the amount of one hundred seventy-one thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars. This quote includes a twenty thousand dollar trade in for two used trailers at ten thousand dollars each. Mr. Bevis stated that this bid was below the budget. Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth that the bid be awarded to East Manufacturing Corporation. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion approved unanimously. A copy of the bid tabulation sheet is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were advertised for Bid No. LA 2015-1 "Various Print Bids." Bid responses were received, publicly opened, and read aloud on January 9th, 2015. A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for commissioner's review. Chairman Mitchell referred to Brenda Bryant, County Administrator, to give the recommendations. Ms. Bryant recommended Herald Printing of Florence, Alabama, to be awarded one bid for the Sheriff's office. Printers and Stationers, of Florence, Alabama, was recommended to be awarded two bids, one for the Sheriff's office and one for the Commissioner's office. Commissioner Hackworth moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that the bids be awarded as recommended. There being no further discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. A copy of the bid tabulation sheet is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Hackworth that the following Family Medical Leave be approved for an employee of the Road Department. The leave began on December 16, 2014 and will end on January 26, 2015. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion approved. A copy of the FMLA leave is herein recorded and made part of these minutes.

The invoiced bills were audited, allowed and ordered to be paid upon a motion made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Pettus. After a brief discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

CHECKS ISSUED DECEMBER 8, 2014 THROUGH JANUARY 11, 2015

GENERAL-SPECIAL CHECK # 48770-48916	1,563,356.96
AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK # 3363-3365	521.54
LEPA FUND	13,515.34

CHECK # 7318-7339

GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 15442-15476	384,121.65
PUBLIC BLDG., R & B SPECIAL CHECK # N/A	0.00
PUBLIC HIGHWAY & TRAFFIC FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
AL. TRUST CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND CHECK # 289-291	37,004.70
RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 599	4,734.27
REAPPRAISAL FUND CHECK # 10371-10407 (VOID #10381-10386)	73,826.64
REAPPRAISAL MONEY MARKET CHECK # 540	100,000.00
TOURISM, REC. & CONVENTION FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
RSVP FUND CHECK # 16453-16471	6,824.06
CHILD PROTECTION FUND CHECK # 1176 & 1177	2,257.02
SERIES 2001 DEBT SERVICE FUND CHECK # 232 & 233	24,462.08
CDBG FUND CHECK # N/A	0.00
SOLID WASTE FUND CHECK # 5954-5986	290,693.33
ACCOUNT PAYABLE FUND CHECK # 35772-35857	378,583.26
FIRE PROTECTION FEE FUND CHECK # 4030-4057	432,576.06
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND CHECK # 1091 & 1092	620,516.83
TOBACCO TAX FUND CHECK # 2920-2922	10,440.00
TVA TAX FUND CHECK # 5152-5163	453,232.02
TOTAL	4,396,665.76

Scheduled Public Hearings: None

Staff Reports: None

Public Comments:

Rhea Fulmer of Killen, Alabama read a prepared statement to the commissioners. Commissioner Parker read a prepared statement to the commissioners. A copy of both statements are herein recorded and made part of these minutes as exhibits.

There being no further business to come before the commission and upon a motion made by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Parker the meeting was duly adjourned until the next regular meeting subject to call.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION

Dewey D. Mitchell
Chairman

Danny Pettus, Commissioner
District 1

Roger Garner, Commissioner
District 1

Fay Parker, Commissioner
District 2

ATTEST:

Joe Hackworth, Commissioner
District 2

Brenda Bryant, Administrator

Rhea Fulmer's Statement:

I'm here today to show support for Debbie Wilson, the Executive Director of Florence-Lauderdale Tourism for the outstanding job she has done. Tourism IS part of economic development. We have been dealt a strong hand and have been blessed with our rich musical heritage and the Tennessee River. Both Debbie AND Allison Stanfield have been responsible for the healthy growth and promotion of our area. We have a model tourism department not only for the state of Alabama, but for the entire country.

I am also here to express my utter *disgust* of the bullying that Debbie and the other women were given at the December 11th tourism board meeting. / *am appalled and embarrassed by the recent behavior of the men on the tourism board.* The video of the meeting has had almost SIX THOUSAND VIEWS on YouTube. Do you KNOW what kind of negative publicity that is for us?? Do you CARE???

I created an online petition in support of Debbie and her keeping her position. More than 260 people took the time to sign it. Here are a few of their comments. The first 3 are from her peers who just happen to be MEN:

There are a lot of tourism professionals that I genuinely 'like' and Debbie Wilson is among them. There are just a handful of tourism professionals who have earned my admiration and respect and Debbie Wilson is near the top of that list. -Mark Shore, Director Tourism Marketing for Visit North Carolina

I have known Debbie as long as I have been the V.P. of Jackson County Tourism. She has shown great leadership and creativity in her development and growth of tourism in Florence. The progress of Lauderdale County Tourism is evident when one examines the Annual Economic Impact Report published by the Alabama Tourism Department. Each county is reported and Lauderdale's tourism progress could NOT have happened without Debbie Wilson! -John Parsons

Debbie is an extremely well respected destination marketing professional and as an executive director of a Convention & Visitors Bureau myself, I can attest that subversive tactics from board members simply are unethical and lack decency. It seems like those with the not-so-secret plan should resign. —Joe Ward

The last one is from a woman:

I would be humiliated if my sons "assaulted" any one's character in this vile manner especially if it was a woman.

I, myself, have been the recipient of male intimidation and condescending, raised voices in public meetings. I have photos of my fingers that were visibly *bruised* by a man's handshake that I feel was meant as a "warning shot" across the bow. I CANNOT AND WILL NOT sit idly by and watch ANYONE, male OR female be treated in this manner.

Fay Parker's Statement:

FOR THE RECORD I AM SPEAKING FOR MYSELF AS A LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, NOT FOR THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS OR THE CHAIRPERSON.

THIS IS MY OPINION CONCERNING THE FLORENCE- LAUDERDALE TOURISM BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2014.I HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS AND E-MAILS ABOUT THE MEETING FROM LAUDERDALE COUNTY CITIZENS AND FROM PERSONS OUTSIDE THE COUNTY.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE BOARD DID NOT CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER, AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDING THAT WAS LATER VIEWED BY THOUSANDS ON YOUTUBE. INSTEAD OF EXPRESSING CONCERNS AND WORKING TOWARD SOLUTIONS WITH THE TOURISM STAFF, IT APPEARED THE STAFF WAS BEING ATTACKED. THE WAY THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ATTRACTED WIDE SPREAD NEGATIVE ATTENTION AND WAS DETRIMENTAL TO THE TOURISM BOARD, THE STAFF AND THE COUNTY AS WELL.

DEBBIE WILSON AND HER STAFF BOTH PAST AND PRESENT HAS DONE AND CONTINUES TO DO A TREMENDOUS JOB IN PROMOTING OUR AREA, BRINGING IN REVENUE AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO DO SO.

WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE ONE OF THE TOP TOURISM ORGANIZATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST AND SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS AND ATTEMPT TO PUT THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT BEHIND US.