

STATE OF ALABAMA §

LAUDERDALE COUNTY §

The Lauderdale County Commission convened at the Lauderdale County Courthouse in the City of Florence, Alabama at 9:00 a.m. on the 9th day of July, 2012. The meeting was called to order by the Judge of Probate who acted as Chairman. Upon roll call, the following members answered present:

Dewey D. Mitchell	Judge of Probate, Ex-Officio Chairman Lauderdale County Commission
Rhea Tays Fulmer	Commissioner, District 1
D.C. Thornton	Commissioner, District 1
Fay Parker	Commissioner, District 2
Larry Irons	Commissioner, District 2

Legal Counsel:

Christopher A. Smith	County Attorney
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Dewey D. Mitchell, Chairman, declared a quorum of the Commission to be present and the meeting open for the transaction of business.

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Fulmer.

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

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Fulmer that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved for recording. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner Fulmer moved, seconded by Thornton that a resolution be adopted authorizing the agreement with the Town of Lexington and the Lauderdale County Commission to resurface eleven roads. The Lauderdale County Commission has obtained all the proper documentation with a signed resolution from the City of Lexington along with a letter of credit from

Bank Independent. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution and all documentation are herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Fulmer that a resolution be adopted allowing the Lauderdale County Commission to enter into a joint county bid program for regional debris removal. This will be a regional program with which Lauderdale County will be in division 7 with Etowah County serving as the awarding authority. This is a voluntary program and the Lauderdale County Commission has the authority to use or not to use the bids. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Irons moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker that a resolution be adopted authorizing Chairman Dewey D. Mitchell and Administrator, Brenda Bryant to open a bank account at Bank Independent for the purpose of receiving funds. The account is being established for the "Lauderdale County Sheriff Bond Issue Fund". There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Irons that a resolution be adopted to set a Bereavement Policy. The policy states that in the event of a death of an employee of Lauderdale County, the department with which that employee works may place a white bow on the door of that building. This policy is for employees who are currently working for Lauderdale County and does not include family members or retirees. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Thornton moved, seconded by Commissioner Fulmer that a resolution authorizing Chairman Dewey D. Mitchell, being the elected official and member of the Board of Directors of the Community Action Agency of North Alabama to appoint as his representative to this board, Ms. Nell Hogan of Florence. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Fulmer that a resolution be adopted authorizing the transfer of surplus equipment, a self-propelled highway sweeper from the road department to the solid waste department for the amount of \$2,500.00 There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Resolution is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

In compliance with competitive bid laws of the State of Alabama, sealed bids were received, publicly opened and read aloud on June 8 for Bid No. LA-2012-1, "Various Printing Jobs". A bid tabulation sheet was prepared for Commissioners review. Commissioner Irons moved, seconded by Commissioner Thornton that the bid be awarded to the lowest bidder, Printer and Stationers. There being no discussion and upon a vote taken, motion unanimously approved. Bid tabulation is herein recorded and made a part of these minutes.

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

Checks Issued June 25, 2012 through July 8, 2012

GENERAL -SPECIAL CHECK # 44368-44514	369,225.68
GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 14511-14525	630,391.55
SOLID WASTE FUND CHECK # 5042-5056	129,374.97
REAPPRAISAL FUND CHECK # 9619-9630	25,971.69
RSVP FUND CHECK # 15964-15972	2,309.98
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK # 32169-32244 VOID # 32179-32183, 32197, 32239	218,051.72
LEPA FUND CHECK # 6826-6833	4,676.61
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAX FUND CHECK #1060	404,865.81
PUBLIC BLDG., ROAD & BRIDGE SPECIAL CHECK # 407-418	1,061,590.00

AGRI-BUSINESS FUND CHECK # 3130-3133	137.46
RRR GASOLINE TAX FUND CHECK # 552	397,483.21
TOBACCO TAX FUND CHECK # 2843-2845	11,790.00
TVA TAX FUND CHECK # 4779-4792	536,200.29
SERIES 2001 DEBT SERVICE FUND CHECK # 202	12,240.00
TOTAL	3,804,308.97

Hank Thomas, Paradise Drive, Waterloo stated that he had written a letter to the County Commissioners listing five defects on Paradise Drive and he had yet to hear from any of the Commissioners. Mr. Thomas also stated that Paradise Drive was not passable at this time, and that the road needed to be graded. Mr. Thomas also asked, what was the reason that Lauderdale County rebid the ambulance contract? Chairman Mitchell explained that the contract was a joint bid with the City of Florence and that once the City of Florence decided to rebid, the County only had two options. The County could rebid with the City of Florence or rebid for County only. It was in the best interest of the citizens of Lauderdale County to bid with the City of Florence to obtain better rates. Mr. Thomas also asked how the City of Florence notified the County Commission on the rebid issue. Chairman Mitchell stated that the City of Florence notified the county orally. Mr. Thomas also stated he had read the ambulance contract and he thought it was poorly written. Mr. Thomas also told the commissioners that the county website was out of date and we needed to post more current issues. Mr. Thomas also asked about the EMA Plans. He stated that he had looked at the EMA Plan and could not, did not, understand the plan that was on the web site. He stated that it was hard to understand and no one would know what to do in case of an emergency. Mr. Thomas also asked about closing the door during the meetings to keep down noise because it was so hard to hear. Chairman Mitchell explained to Mr. Thomas that the county had looked into the door issue and if it were to become a problem, it would be ok to shut the door.

Gilbert Parrish, Waterloo, stated that he wanted to thank the Commission about the door issue and stated it was the only thing that he had accomplished since he had been attending the commission meetings. Mr. Parrish also stated that Paradise Drive had not been graded in over a month and it had a lot of loose gravel. Ken Allamel, County Engineer, answered that he would look into it. Mr. Allamel also stated that we grate Paradise Drive equal to and better than any road in the county. Mr. Parrish also stated that he had on many occasions had to help people up the road at Paradise Drive due to loose gravel.

Ms. Shelly Pettus, Killen stated she wanted to agree with Mr. Thomas on his remarks made about the EMA Plan that no one would know what to do in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Fulmer wanted to state for the record that she wanted to thank the citizens of Lauderdale County that come to the commission meetings and that she also had a hard time hearing at the meetings and would like for the door to be closed. Commissioner Fulmer stated that she wanted to clear some misinformation on the correlation between county road 86 and Paradise Road. She stated that there were no correlations between the two roads, and you did not have to cross a creek to get to houses on that road. Also on the information on the local ambulance service from June 2011 to June 2012, Lauderdale EMS had transported 398 patients to Helen Keller Hospital and Keller EMS Service had carried 959 to ECM hospital. She said she thought this would clear up some misconceptions.

Commissioner Parker stated that he agreed that Paradise Drive was a mess and that he was on a four-wheeler down there over the weekend. He stated with all the rain recently it had caused a problem. He also stated that he would like to revisit the 1981 Paradise Drive resolution.

Commissioners Parker and Irons both asked Ken Allamel to check on Paradise Drive.

Chairman Mitchell made comments from a written statement for the record.

Chairman Mitchell commented on recent letters published in the *East Lauderdale News* and the *Courier Journal* regarding various issues including the maintenance of Paradise Drive, the recent tragic accident on Paradise Drive, the Emergency Management Plan, and the meeting times for the Commission. Chairman Mitchell stated that the aforementioned letters contained opinions that were incomplete factually.

In referencing the tragic accident on May 30th on Paradise Drive, Chairman Mitchell stated that the Alabama State Troopers were in the process of completing their investigation which would be released very soon. The report will be referred to the District Attorney and will outline the

various causes of the accident. Chairman Mitchell stated that the condition of the road was not the cause of this accident.

Chairman Mitchell stated that only one accident prior to May 30th, had been reported to the Department of Public Safety and the Alabama State Troopers in the last eleven years. No accidents have been reported to said agencies in the last three years.

Chairman Mitchell stated that Paradise Drive is maintained and that the County has spent on average in excess of \$6,000.00 more dollars per mile on Paradise Drive than on other typical County gravel roads.

Chairman Mitchell stated that the Emergency Management Plan had been completed and that officials from the State EMA recently came to the County Commission and answered questions about the Plan and the EMA itself. Our EMA is working well with sister counties and with the State EMA, according to those officials.

Chairman Mitchell stated that the County Commission meeting times have been established by **UNANIMOUS** votes by the Commission in 2008 and 2010, contrary to comments made in the aforementioned letters. Copies of these Resolutions are on record for viewing by the public.

There being no further discussion to come before the Commission, it was upon a motion made by Commissioner Thornton and seconded by Commissioner Fulmer adjourned until the next regular meeting or subject to call.

Dewey D. Mitchell, Chairman
Lauderdale County Commission

D.C. Thornton, Commissioner
District 1

Rhea Tays Fulmer, Commissioner
District 1

Fay Parker, Commissioner

District 2

ATTEST:

Larry Irons, Commissioner
District 2

Administrator