

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

Commission 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 Todd Brannon, Sandy Hammer, Weston Spivey, and Bart Wilks. The County Attorney, Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; EMA Director, Eric Johnson; Revenue Commissioner Mary Ann Ellison, County Administrator Marietta Webster and Assistant County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of April 28, 2020. Commissioner Spivey made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2020. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. Proclamations: N/A
3. Bids: N/A
4. Board Appointments: Commissioner Wilks made a motion to reappoint Dr. Martin to the Hospital Board. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the Courthouse reopened to the public on May 4, 2020 only allowing in ten citizens at a time. There are two security guards on duty at the front entrance. We will continue this until further notice.
2. Jail Construction. No new updates.
3. Chairman Seay stated concerning Board Appointments that Mrs. Faye Bauman had resigned from the Personnel Board. She was the appointment of the Probate Judge. He would be asking around to see if he could find a replacement for Mrs. Bauman.

4. Spec Building. Chairman Seay stated the spec building bids are slated to be opened at the May 26, 2020 Commission meeting. Construction on the project is scheduled, at this time, to begin around June 22, 2020.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: Not present

County Administrator: Chairman Seay stated that current County Administrator Marietta Webster had told the Commission a few weeks prior that it was her intention to retire as of June 1, 2020. Mrs. Webster told the Commission that she planned to take the last week of May off since there was a holiday and she had some accumulated leave. Chairman Seay thanked Mrs. Webster for her service and all that she has done for the county. He then stated her retirement left the County Administrator position vacant as of June 1, 2020 and the Commission needed to fill the position and asked the Commission what they wanted to do to fill the position. Attorney Eldridge addressed the Commission to let them know the position was an exempt position and they did not have to go before the Personnel Board to fill the position. Commissioner Hammer asked whether they had to advertise for the position or what they needed to do. Attorney Eldridge explained the Commission could do what they wanted to fill the position. After discussing that Mrs. Williams has served as Assistant Administrator since 2014 and acted as Administrator for approximately five months in the absence of Mrs. Webster, she certainly has the experience and qualifications for the position. Commissioner Brannon asked whether Assistant County Administrator, Cindy Williams was interested in the position. Chairman Seay asked if Mrs. Williams would go on record as being interested in the position and Mrs. Williams confirmed her interest in the position. Commissioner Brannon made a motion that Cindy Williams be promoted/hired as the new County Administrator effective June 2, 2020. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0

Attorney Eldridge stated now the Assistant Administrator/Payroll/Personnel position needed to be filled through the Personnel Board. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to begin advertising for the Payroll/Personnel/Assistant Administrator position.

Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mrs. Webster told the Commission she would be glad to come back and assist Mrs. Williams with the audit and budget since Mrs. Williams has never been through those processes. She could do the same as the previous EMA Director had done and work under contract for the time necessary to complete the audit and budget.

County Engineer: Engineer Justin Barfield started with the progress on the road construction projects County Road 4 and County Road 53. Projects to widen the roads are progressing on County Roads 16, 34 and 105 and Hartford Lake Road. The widening phase is completed. The surface treatment is going down on County Road 16 and has started on County Road 105. This should be completed by the end of the week. The first invoice from Wiregrass Construction has been received for this work.

Commissioner Hammer commended the Road & Bridge department on the quick response and repair to a road that washed out in his district. County Road 49 in District 1 is awaiting final inspection from ALDOT. Met with Solid Waste Director Dawn Smith last week about the parking for her employees at the Solid Waste barn. Mrs. Smith will be getting quotes for the fence. The two new dump trucks should be received this week. His department has worked the past two Friday's to get roads bladed. Wanted to bring to the attention of the Commission the usage of the Landfill by the City of Geneva. Since their landfill closed July 2019 their usage has steadily increased. They are bringing in an average of 100 tons per month to the C & D Landfill. At this rate the current cell will fill up before we can have another cell dug and opened.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge sent a letter to Mike Rutland with JMR+H concerning the subcontractor on April 30, 2020. Mr. Rutland has emailed Bear Brothers and Buddy Eubank regarding this and instructed them to arrange a sit-down meeting with the subcontractor. He will let the Commission know as soon as he hears anything on this issue.

The Commission had authorized him to send a letter to a Solid Waste customer that refused to enroll in the mandatory garbage service. However, about the time it was authorized the Courthouse was shut down due to COVID-19 and he had messaged the Commissioners that he was delaying sending the letter since the Courthouse was closed to the public. He sent the letter out on May 4 and has received a return receipt. He believes that the customer has contacted the Solid Wasted department, but he will get clarification on that.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2020 and he has a previously scheduled court date. Therefore, he has a conflict for the next meeting and will be unable to attend.

Chairman Seay: The Alabama Department of Revenue has sent information stating the Back to School Sales Tax Holiday is scheduled for July 17-19, 2020. Participation is automatically renewed unless the Commission notifies them differently. All Commissioners were in favor of continuing the Back to School Sales Tax Holiday. He has been contacted by Jacksonville State University that the salary study is complete, and the handbook review should be completed by the end of the week. They have scheduled a Zoom meeting for Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00 am if any Commissioners are interested in attending. The meeting will just be an overview of the information and the Chairman should have information to present at the next Commission meeting. Received a message from the Senator and Representative that all of the Local bills we had in the session had passed. One of the bills was to repeal the current Personnel Act and these items with the salary study and handbook were steps to improve the current Personnel system. The second bill was for the Sale of Abandoned and Unclaimed Property. The third was for the Sheriff's department employees to receive to a pistol and badge at retirement. The fourth was a County Work Release program. In that bill they must establish a board, but the board members are already established within the bill. They must establish their own policies.

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Revenue Commissioner: N/A

EMA Director: Eric Johnson stated the next COVID-19 testing is scheduled for May 20, 2020 from 7:30 – 10:30 at the Geneva First Baptist Church but Chairman Seay stated he may want to check with the church first since services will be starting back. Mr. Johnson stated the Geneva County Health Department has been a big assist during this time. Wanted to remind all about keeping the Social Distancing guidelines and washing hands and sanitizing.

E-911: Not present.

Auburn Extension: Not present.

Solid Waste: Not present.

Commissioner Brannon: Nothing to report.

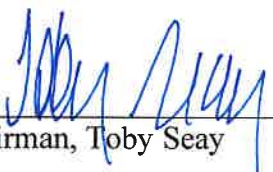
Commissioner Hammer: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Spivey: Nothing to report.

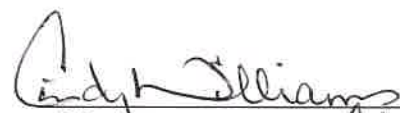
Commissioner Wilks: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.


The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, May 11, 2020.



Chairman, Toby Seay



Marietta Webster
Chief Administrative Clerk


Cindy Williams
Asst. Administrator



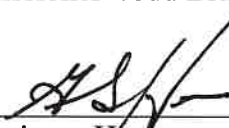
Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Hammer