

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

Commission Chairman Toby Seay called the meeting to order and welcomed guests present. Commissioner Wilks 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, Wade Fulford, and Bart Wilks. The County Attorney Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; Sheriff Tony Helms; EMA Director Eric Johnson and County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. Commissioner Weston Spivey arrived later during the meeting. The following business was transacted:

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of October 26, 2020. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2020. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.
2. Proclamations: A proclamation for recognition of Farm City Week 2020 was read by Chairman Seay. Farm City Week will be recognized the week of November 19 – 25, 2020. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to approve the proclamation for Farm City Week. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.
3. Bids: None
4. Board Appointments: Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development. A letter has been received from SEARP&D requesting the Commission replace an open seat on the Board of Directors left vacant by JoAnn Lindsey. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to appoint Neil Strickland to the SEARP&D Board. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.  
Commissioner Brannon requested that he be removed from the SEARP&D Board and Kelli Brannon be placed in that seat. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to remove Commissioner Brannon from the SEARP&D Board and Kelli Brannon be appointed to the SEARP&D Board. Commissioner Fulford seconded the motion. Vote was 2-0. Commissioner Brannon abstained from voting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Spec Building – The footers are poured, and the building should begin to be dropped on the site the first week of December. The site work is still in progress.
2. Bids – None
3. Courtroom Renovation – Attorney Phil Eldridge stated he has the contracts for the Courtroom renovation in the amount of \$212,980.000. The work on the project should be completed within 180 days from notice to proceed. He also has the required insurance information and bonds. A few changes were needed which have been made. Liquidated damages are \$31.58 per day. Mr. Eldridge is asking for the Commission to approve the agreement and authorize Chairman Seay to sign. Also, he is asking for the Commission to allow Chairman Seay to sign the notice to proceed and application for Sales Tax Exemption. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the agreement on the Courtroom renovation and allow Chairman Seay to sign the contract, notice to proceed and Sales Tax-Exempt Form. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

**REPORTS OF STAFF:**

**Sheriff:** The Sheriff stated there was work being done on the jail still. The floors are being redone and some plumbing issues are being resolved. There was not enough water pressure in the facility.

Currently the State is asking that Counties house inmates if they have the capacity. The State will pay \$28.00 per day to house the inmates. We just must submit the required documentation to file for reimbursement.

Sheriff Helms states that the company that has the Jail Management System Software will no longer support the software after August 21, 2021. He is in the process of obtaining quotes from other Jail Management Software companies. He currently has one proposal. He has been asked by E-911 Director Jeremy Williams that we obtain the same software that they use in order to have syncing capabilities and eliminate duplicate work. That software program has all they would need but the cost may be prohibitive.

**County Administrator:** Mrs. Williams presented the 2021 Commission Meeting schedule for approval. After review Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mrs. Williams presented the 2021 County Holiday schedule for approval. After review Commissioner Brannon made a motion to approve the 2021 County Holiday schedule. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Administrator Williams also stated it was time for the banking renewal to be sent out and stated the issues her department has experienced with the current bank which is a large out of state bank. No decisions can be made locally all inquiries have to be sent to corporate for final approval. She is asking that banking be allowed to be done locally if possible. After discussion Commissioner Brannon made a motion that banking renewal information only be sent out to locally owned and operated banks. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 3-0.

**County Engineer:** Engineer Justin Barfield stated he had met with Jason Thrash from Wiregrass Electric to put together a drawing for the Industrial Park. He has had a conference call with FEMA regarding the damages from Hurricane Sally. The next meeting will be November 18, 2020.

Repairs have been completed on Lewis Road and it has been reopened after the damage caused during Hurricane Sally. Three bridges remain closed due to damage from Hurricane Sally. It is possible it may take up to one year before work is completed on these bridges.

His department worked last Friday blading roads to try and catch up.

Mr. Barfield stated it saddens him to report that one of his employees passed away. Mr. Lolley, an Engineering Aide that assisted with the sign work and was the custodian passed away the end of last week. Mr. Barfield is uncertain at this time, but he may restructure the staffing of the Engineering department going forward. Mr. Rucker retired the end of October but is coming in as a contract employee when needed and Mr. Tanton will be retiring in March 2021. That leaves only two full time employees in the Engineering Department besides Mr. Barfield and Assistant Engineer Mike Shirah.

**County Attorney:** Nothing to report.

**Chairman Seay:** Nothing to report.

**Revenue Commissioner:** Not present

**EMA Director:** EMA Director Eric Johnson reported the County has had a spike in Covid cases in the City of Hartford and the nursing homes in Hartford and Geneva. He stated he had been in contact with County Administrator Cindy Williams and she had notified him that all the parts for the Lucas devices the County obtained for the County EMS departments have been received. He is anxious to get those presented to the EMS agencies and would like to present them at the next Commission meeting.

**Solid Waste:** Not present.

**E-911:** Not Present

**Auburn Extension:** Not present.

**Commissioner Brannon:** Nothing to report.

**Commissioner Fulford:** Stated he looked forward to working with his fellow Commissioners on County business.

**Commissioner Spivey:** Nothing to report.


**Commissioner Wilks:** Nothing to report.


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


**STATE OF ALABAMA  
COUNTY OF GENEVA**

**REGULAR SESSION  
November 11, 2020**

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

  
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Chairman, Toby Seay

  
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Cindy Williams  
County Administrator

  
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Commissioner Weston Spivey

  
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Commissioner Todd Brannon

  
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Commissioner Bart Wilks

  
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Commissioner Fulford

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