

JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA
CHAIRMAN TIM GUFFEY
JANUARY 4, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND WELCOME BY HONORABLE JASON VENABLE.

ROLL CALL – HONORABLE DANNY RICH, HONORABLE JASON VENABLE,
HONORABLE AJ BUCKNER, AND HONORABLE KEVIN MCBRIDE WERE PRESENT.

HONORABLE TIM GUFFEY, ABSENT.

COUNTY ATTORNEY, JOHN PORTER PRESENT.

INVOCATION – THE INVOCATION WAS BROUGHT BY JOHN F. PORTER, III.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS LED BY
HONORABLE BUCKNER.

STATEMENT FROM HONORABLE JASON VENABLE;
ABOUT OUR DECEMBER 22ND SPECIAL CALLED MEETING. IN THAT MEETING THE
COMMISSION ACCEPT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM MR. GUFFEY. TO CLEAR
THINGS UP, MR. GUFFEY'S LETTER WAS AND IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT.
THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION DIDN'T SEE, WRONGFUL, HE DIDN'T SEE THE
NEED IN GOING TROUGH ALL THE DETAILS OF THAT LETTER. BUT OUR FAILURE
TO THAT AND THE COURTHOUSE BEING CLOSED FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER
THAT AND NO ONE BEING ABLE TO REQUEST PUBLIC DOCUMENT, ALLOWED
TIME FOR SEVERAL THINGS TO HAPPEN. SINCE THAT TIME THE GOVERNOR AND
RIGHTFULLY SO THE GOVERNORS OFFICE RELEASED THE LETTER. AND MR.
GUFFEY HAS MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT AS WELL THIS TIME AND THOSE
EVENTS ALLOWED A LOT OF RUMORS TO GET STARTED AND SPECULATION AND
I JUST WANTED TO CLEAR UP THE COMMISSION WASN'T TRYING TO HIDE
ANYTHING IT WAS OUR INTENT TO HIDE ANYTHING. THAT LETTER IS A PUBLIC
DOCUMENT AND SHOULD BE SHARED BUT SOME OF THOSE RUMORS AND
SPECULATION, MR. GUFFEY ADDRESS SOME OF THOSE IN HIS STATEMENT. IT
WAS MR. GUFFEY CHOSEN OF WHAT TIME HE RESIGNATION AND HE CHOSE THE
DATE OF APRIL 11TH. AND THE COMMISSION, I THINK RIGHTFULLY SO, ACCEPTED
THAT LETTER OF RESIGNATION. THERE IS A INVESTIGATION, IN MR. GUFFEY'S
COMMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HE REFERENCED THAT INVESTIGATION. SOME OF
THE REFERENCE OF IN SPECULATION, I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING, HE SHOULD'VE
BEEN FIRED THE COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE REMOVED HIM. SERVAL
DIFFERENT THINGS. I JUST WANTED TO GO OVER THAT PROCESS AND EXPLAIN
THAT PROCESS. IF SUCH A PROCESS IS WARRANTED AND NEEDED, THE ONLY
WAY A GOVERNMENT OR ELECTED OFFICIAL CAN BE REMOVED IS THROUGH
HIGH CRIMES MISDEMEANORS IMPEACHMENT. THAT HAS TO GO THROUGH A
GRAND JURY. OUR NEXT GRAND JURY IS FEBRUARY –ISH?

JOHN PORTER – THAT IS CORRECT

HONORABLE VENABLE – AS FAR AS I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN NO CRIMINAL
CHARGES OF ANY THING, THERE IS AN INVESTIGATION. IT MAY OR MAY NOT
WARRANT A CRIMINAL CHARGE AND IF YOUR CHARGED YOUR NOT CONVICTED
UNTIL YOU GO TROUGH TRIAL, SO, IT WOULD TAKE, A CHARGE AND

CONVICTION GETTING IT IN TO GRAND JURY. DON'T THINK A CHARGE AND CONVICTION WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NEXT GRAND JURY. SO YOU WOULD BE, WHEN WOULD BE THE NEXT GRAND JURY SOMETIME SPRING?

JOHN PORTER – SOMETIME AFTER THAT, THE GRAND JURYS UNFORTUNATELY HAVE BEEN PRETTY WELL STALLED BECAUSE OF COVID. THEY'VE BEEN CANCELLED SEVERAL TIMES THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT KNOWS THIS IT'S JUST HARD TO GET ANYTHING WITH THE GRAND JURY RIGHT BECAUSE THAT. BECAUSE JURY TRIALS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR A WHILE. IT WOULD BE A NUMBER OF MONTHS. I DON'T KNOW WHEN EXACTLY.

HONORABLE VENABLE – THAT AND ONCE IT WENT TO A GRAND JURY AND THE GRAND JURY IF THEY FOUND GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT THEY MOVE TO TRIAL. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT ON A DOCKET FOR A JUDGE TO HEAR IT IN A TRIAL

JOHN PORTER – THE JURY WOULD HEAR IT.

HONORABLE VENABLE – THE JURY TO HEAR IT IN A TRIAL. REGARDLESS OF WHAT. IF ALL THAT HAD TO TAKE PLACE TO GET MR. GUFFEY YOU KNOW OUT OF OFFICE, IF SUCH THINGS WERE WARRANTED. THEN IT WOULD HAVE TOOK WAY LONGER THAN THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT HE REQUESTED TO BE HIS FINAL DAYS. I THINK THIS COMMISSION WAS TRYING TO ACT IN THE BEST FINANCIAL INTEREST OF THE COUNTY AND TO GIVE US THE ABILITY TO FUNCTION WITHOUT SUCH THINGS GOING ON AND I THINK MR. GUFFEY YOU KNOW NOT BEING HERE DURING THAT WILL MAKE IT A LOT EASIER AND BETTER FOR US TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION. I JUST WANTED TO CLEAR THAT STUFF UP I APOLOGIZE ON MY BEHALF I WAS THE ONE THAT READ THE STATEMENT I GOT IN TROUBLE FOR HAVING A STATEMENT READY TO READ I SHOULD HAVE JUST SPOKE LIKE I AM NOW. THAT'S ALL I HAD TO SAY ABOUT THAT WE'LL MOVE ON WITH THE MEETING. SARA FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS SOMETHING HE WANTS TO GO OVER WITH US.

SARA STAHL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – TOURISM UPDATES AND IDEAS TO ADVANCE IT.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA OF THE MEETING AND WORK SESSION JANUARY 4, 2021: MOTION WAS MADE BY HONORABLE RICH TO APPROVE AGENDA OF MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY HONORABLE BUCKER. HONORABLE RICH, HONORABLE BUCKNER AND HONORABLE MCBRIDE VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM CITIZENS –

MEETING

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS-

MOTION TO APPROVE FY2020 COUNTY REBUILD ALABAMA ANNUAL REPORT:
MOTION WAS MADE BY HONORABLE BUCKER. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY HONORABLE RICH. HONORABLE RICH, HONORABLE BUCKNER AND HONORABLE MCBRIDE VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO APPROVE AND PAY THE COUNTY'S PORTION OF THE TVA INVESTPREP GRANT: MOTION WAS MADE BY HONORABLE RICH PAY IN IT'S ENTIRETY. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY HONORABLE MCBRIDE. HONORABLE RICH, HONORABLE BUCKNER AND HONORABLE MCBRIDE VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

WORK SESSION

DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR COMMISSION –

1. METAL DETECTORS FOR COURTHOUSE SECURITY ←NEXT MEETING
2. ROOF FOR LIBERTY LANE PROPERTY←NEXT MEETING
3. SPORTSMAN LANDING ←NEXT WORK SESSION
4. PARK INSURANCE PROJECT ←NEXT WORK SESSION
5. VEHICLE USAGE POLICY ←FUTURE WORK SESSION
6. I.T. WORK ORDER PROCESS ←NEXT WORK SESSION
7. COURTHOUSE SWEEP ←NEXT MEETING
8. TREE AT COA ←NEXT MEETING
ADDED
9. STOVE AT THE JAIL ←NEXT MEETING

REPORTS FROM STAFF –

COUNTY ENGINEER – APPRECIATION TO PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES AND THEIR WORK DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

EMA DIRECTOR – TECHNOLOGY GRANT

CHIEF DEPUTY – ASKS THE DEPARTMENT HEADS TO REMIND THEIR PEOPLE TO MAKE SURE THEY WEAR THEIR MASKS WHEN VISITING OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION –

HONORABLE RICH – TRUST IN THE COMMISSION WE ARE GOING TO MAKE THE BEST DECISION FOR THE PEOPLE OF JACKSON COUNTY I JUST WANT EVERYBODY TO KNOW THAT. EVERYBODY'S GOT THEIR OWN OPINION EVERYBODY'S GOT THEIR OWN SUGGESTION TO DO BUT IF YOU EVER SIT UP HERE IN THIS CHAIR UP IN OUR SHOES. EVERYTHING IS NOT CLEAR CUT AND EASY AS IT LOOKS TO BE LIKE JUST A BOX OF PEANUTS AND CANDY. IT'S, YOU GOT TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT EFFECTS 3 OR 4 THINGS AT ONCE AND YOU GOT TO DECIDE ON WHO TO TAKE OF AND I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF AND I ALWAYS WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE PEOPLE OF JACKSON COUNTY AND OUR EMPLOYEES. THAT'S WHAT I WANNA, THAT'S MY FIRST TO ALWAYS DO. I'M STILL GETTING CALLS ON "RECKON YOU KNOW THE THERE'S MORE CAMERAS HERE?" I GOT 2 TODAY. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO GET THE COURTHOUSE SWEPT. I

CAN'T TELL YOU AND THIS WILL PROBABLY GET SPECULATION UP, WHAT I KNOW RIGHT NOW, I KNOW MYSELF 100% THERE'S NO OTHER CAMERAS THAT AIN'T SUPPOSE TO BE WHERE, IN OTHER PLACES AND ALSO TOO THE RUMORS GOING AROUND THERE WAS A CAMERA IN A BATHROOM, THERE WAS NOT A CAMERA IN THE BATHROOM ALL RIGHT. JUST WANNA GET THAT OUT TO SORTA CLEAR THAT PART UP AND I APPRECIATE.

HONORABLE MCBRIDE – THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COUNTY EMPLOYEES. EVERYONE HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB. SPEAKING FROM A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THIS COVID IS REAL. I GOT A TASTE OF THAT THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS AND I'M STILL NOT 100% AS FAR AS RECOVERING THOUGH I'M CLEARED TO BE BACK. JUST FOLLOW PRECAUTIONS AND WEAR YOUR MASKS. DO THE RIGHT THING AND CONSIDER EVERYONE AROUND YOU THANK YOU.

HONORABLE BUCKNER – THANK YOU FOR EVERYONE COMING OUT.

HONORABLE VENABLE – I'M WILLING TO UNDERSTAND AND ADMIT WHEN I MAKE A MISTAKE. I THINK WE MADE A MISTAKE CLOSING THE COURTHOUSE THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT WE DID. WE HAD GOOD INTENTIONS AFTER THANKSGIVING I THINK WE HAD AT ONE TIME CLOSE TO 30 EMPLOYEES OUT NOT ALL POSITIVE BUT SOME HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO OTHER EMPLOYEES THAT HAD GOT IT AT FAMILY GATHERINGS. WE WERE TRYING TO GIVE ENOUGH TIME FROM CHRISTMAS TO WE WENT BACK TO WORK AT NEW YEARS THAT IF ANY EMPLOYEES CONTRACTED THIS VIRUS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE SYMPTOMS AND KNOW IT BEFORE IT WAS TIME TO COME BACK TO WORK. IN HINDSIGHT WE MADE A MISTAKE BECAUSE THE CROWD HAS BEEN IN THE HALLWAY ALL DAY LONG WE'VE ADDED EXPOSURE TO THE CITIZENS BECAUSE THEY'VE NOT HAD TIME TO COME IN AND GET THEIR TAXES DONE AND THEIR PROPERTY TAXES PAID AND TAGS BOUGHT STUFF LIKE THAT. SO I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT THIS IS UNCHARTED TERRITORY YOU KNOW WE TRY TO DO WHAT WE THINK IS BEST AND I FEEL LIKE WE MADE A MISTAKE FOR THAT. I VOTED IN FAVOR OF IT BUT I MADE A MISTAKE AND OTHER THAN THAT PRAY FOR 2021 BECAUSE 2020 HAS NOT BEEN A GOOD YEAR IN MANY MANY WAYS.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: MOTION WAS MADE BY HONORABLE RICH TO ADJOURN MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY HONORABLE MCBRIDE. HONORABLE RICH, HONORABLE BUCKNER AND HONORABLE MCBRIDE VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.