

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session (with minimal attendance due to COVID-19 Social Distancing Restrictions) on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were Ricky Harcrow, President, Scot Westbrook and Lester Black. Due to social distancing, Mr. Kuykendall and Mr. Wootten were absent from this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with Mr. Harcrow delivering the invocation and Mr. Westbrook leading the Pledge. President Harcrow and Mr. Westbrook each expressed gratitude for all our first responders and asked that everyone keep them in prayer as they continue dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Due to restrictions of Covid-19, County Administrator Matt Sharp presented most department updates, personnel matters, etc.

It was moved by Mr. Westbrook, seconded by Mr. Lester and with all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented in written format.

Courts—Judge Taylor

Judge Taylor addressed the Commission concerning the need for a temporary County Courthouse Annex due to the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions on social distancing. He stated that the City of Fort Payne has graciously offered the auditorium at Fort Payne City Hall to be used for this purpose. Due to large up-coming dockets it was necessary to consider an alternate site for court proceedings through the end of the year. He also stated that Fort Payne Police would provide security, and the county would be responsible for cleaning. Judge Taylor thanked the Commission for their consideration of this matter stating that Alabama law requires court proceedings to be held at the courthouse or a resolution from the Commission designating an alternative sight.

President Harcrow made the recommendation for the Commission to adopt the following resolution deeming the Fort Payne City Auditorium located at 100 Alabama Avenue NW as a temporary County Courthouse Annex. Mr. Black made a motion to adopt, Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

RESOLUTION No. 20-0512-01

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Commission is the governing body of DeKalb County, Alabama (the "County") and wishes to designate additional space as a temporary county courthouse annex; and

WHEREAS, Alabama law provides that county commissions may locate county offices, including courthouses, to property outside the courthouse, provided the building is designated as a courthouse annex by order of the county commission at a regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission wishes to designate the property located at 100 Alabama Avenue NW, Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967 ("Fort Payne City Auditorium"), as a temporary courthouse annex to accommodate judicial duties and court proceedings pursuant to, but not limited to, Alabama Code Sections such as 11-3-11 and 11-14-12; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to permit any duly elected or appointed judge performing judicial duties in DeKalb County to conduct any and all court business as needed at the above-listed courthouse annex as if such business were being conducted in the DeKalb County Courthouse located at 300 Grand Avenue SW, Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967; and

WHEREAS, upon motion having been duly made by Commissioner Black, and seconded by Commissioner Westbrook, with discussion having been had thereon and a vote having been taken, upon which vote said motion carried by the vote of 3 to 0;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the DeKalb County Commission as follows:

1. The Fort Payne City Auditorium, which is located at 100 Alabama Avenue NW, Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967, is hereby designated as a courthouse annex.
2. Duly elected or appointed judges performing their duties in DeKalb County may conduct any and all court business at the Fort Payne City Auditorium as if it were being conducted at the DeKalb County Courthouse located at 300 Grand Avenue SW, Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967.
3. The main entrance for such temporary courthouse annex shall be the entrance(s) on the west side of the Auditorium. Individuals needing to make use of handicap access may do so.
4. Any certified law enforcement officer providing security at the Fort Payne City Auditorium is designated as a temporary bailiff.
5. This resolution shall take effect on the date it is approved and adopted and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020, unless extended by further order of this Commission.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12th day of May, 2020.


RICKY HARCROW, PRESIDENT

ATTEST

MATT SHARP, ADMINISTRATOR

Road Department

Maintenance Update—Mr. Sharp read a report from Road Superintendent Tom Broyles stating the following 11 roads were closed:

- District 1: CR 635 & 641
- District 2: CR 33, 360, 1986, & 363
- District 4: CR 44, 92, 143, and 683

Currently, county forces have hauled over 4,250 tons of various crushed limestone rock used in the process of repairing county roads, as well as approximately 4,000 cu yds of chert onto unpaved roads throughout the county. Routine maintenance is also ongoing.

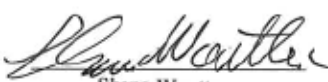





Personnel—Mr. Sharp notified the Commission of three retiring road department personnel; Richard Bridgeman, Danny Hood and Kerry Duncan effective May 20, 2020, and requested approval to accept their resignations and post these positions. Mr. Westbrook mentioned his appreciation for the 3 employees and his crew leader, Kerry Duncan. Mr. Kuykendall had notified Mr. Sharp to recognize his crew leader Danny Hood during the meeting and his appreciation for the retiring employees. Mr. Bridgeman is retiring with over 30 years in the Road Department. All were recognized for their dedication to the County.

Mr. Westbrook made a motion to accept the retirements and post the positions. Mr. Black seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Engineering

Mr. Sharp requested on behalf of County Engineer Ben Luther, that the Commission adopt a resolution setting the speed limit on CR 329 (District 2) at 35 mph.

A motion was made by Mr. Westbrook to post a 35-mph speed limit on CR 329 between CR 58 and SR 227, seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to adopt the following Speed Limit Resolution:

State of Alabama DeKalb County		
RESOLUTION NO. <u>20-0512-02</u>		
WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Commission on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation determines that the maximum speed permitted under Article 8, Title 32, Chapter 5A, <u>Code of Alabama, 1975</u> for County Road 329 between County Road 58 and State Road 227 is greater than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist on said paved road;		
NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the proper maximum speed for County Road 329 between County Road 58 and State Road 227 is set at 35 miles per hour at all times and no person shall operate a motor vehicle in excess of 35 miles per hour on said portion of County Road 329;		
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that any violations of this Resolution shall be unlawful and punishable pursuant to Title 32, Chapter 5A, <u>Code of Alabama, 1975</u> .		
ADOPTED this the 12 th day of May, 2020		
 Shane Wootten District 1 Commissioner	 Ricky Harcrow, President	 Scot Westbrook District 2 Commissioner
 Chris Kuykendall District 3 Commissioner		 Lester Black District 4 Commissioner
ATTEST:  Matt Sharp County Administrator		

Sheriff's Office

Personnel—Mr. Sharp made the recommendation on behalf of Chief David Smith to hire Stefanie Munger, Deanna Gomez, and Lyndall Elkins as corrections officers replacing Zach Bell, Tiffany Edwards and Jon Brown. Also, Travis Chapman, RN turned in his resignation at the jail and it was recommended to hire Shalanne Whited, RN to replace Mr. Chapman.

Mr. Black made a motion to accept the personnel changes. Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

EMA

Deputy EMA Director, Michael Posey addressed the Commission, giving an update on Covid-19 and the Easter Disaster. He stated that to date the county has 206 continuous cases of COVID-19, three fatalities with 1,509 tests conducted equating to a positive result of 13% of those tested. Also mentioned was the State of Alabama @10,164 Continuous cases and Nationally 1,236,936 continuous cases).

Mr. Posey presented a list of testing facilities and they are as follows: Fort Payne Health Center—3840 Gault Ave, Fort Payne; Care Plus—3000 Gault Ave Fort Payne; Encore Medical Spa and Family Practice—1202 Gault Ave N, Fort Payne; DeKalb Regional Medical Center—421 Medical Center Drive, Fort Payne; and, Fyffe Health Center 34617 AL HWY 75, Fyffe

Mr. Posey updated on the Easter Flood Disaster stating County-wide damages at approximately \$2,541,210.62 which includes all jurisdictions' reporting. Additional costs are still coming in.

Mr. Posey stated that the State EMA has concluded with damage assessments for the counties impacted and have determined the state disaster threshold of \$7.3 million of uninsured losses has been met and are pushing notice to FEMA Headquarters requesting a joint federal/state/local damage assessment in order to take the next step in obtaining a federal disaster declaration.

President Harcrow and the Commission thanked Mr. Posey for his diligence in updating and reporting.

President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. He asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Harcrow stated that the Commission would continue with meeting once a month until at least the end of the 2020 calendar year. He also mentioned that the Courthouse, Activities Building and Revenue Commissioner's Offices would be open to the public from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm beginning on Monday, May 18. Other County offices will open June 1st with the exception of senior programs which are discontinued until further notice.

Mr. Westbrook made a motion to adjourn. The President declared no objections and ordered the meeting adjourned.

Ricky Harcrow, President

ABSENT (DUE TO COVID 19)
Shane Wootten, Commissioner District I

Scot Westbrook, Commissioner District II

ABSENT (DUE TO COVID 19)
Chris Kuykendall, Commissioner District III

Lester Black, Commissioner District IV