

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday February 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were President Ricky Harcrow, Shane Wootten, Brent Rhodes, Ron Saferite and Lester Black.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with Mr. Wootten delivering the Invocation, and Mr. Saferite leading the Pledge.

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

Road Department

Update—Mr. Young gave a brief update stating crews were hauling chert in Districts 1 and 2. Bush-cutting is being done in all four districts. He stated that crews have completed a bridge replacement on CR 281 in District 3.

Personnel—Mr. Young requested permission to hire Kevin Spurlock (yard crew) to replace Parker Thompson who resigned in November.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Engineer

County Engineer Ben Luther presented a request to vacate an abandoned portion of CR-665 at the request of property owner Jason Wilga. The floor was opened for anyone opposing. There were no objections. Mr. Luther then asked the Commission to adopt a Resolution vacating a portion of CR-665.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-0211-01
VACATION OF A PORTION OF DEKALB COUNTY
COUNTY ROAD NUMBER 665

WHEREAS, Code Section 23-4-2, State of Alabama, 1975, authorized the governing bodies of the counties of Alabama to, upon petition and by resolution, vacate a street, or a portion thereof; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Commission set down for public hearing on February 11, 2025, and caused notice of such hearing to be published in the *The Mountain Valley News* for four consecutive weeks, beginning January 9 and running through January 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Commission has received no written objection and heard no verbal objection at the hearing hereon to the vacation of a portion of DeKalb County Road Number 665; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Black of District 4, made a motion before the Commission to approve the vacation of a portion of this road;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the DeKalb County Commission that a portion DeKalb County Road 665, more particularly described below, be, and hereby is, vacated:

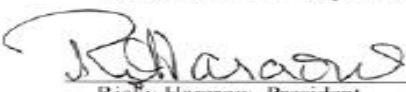
All that portion of the abandoned roadbed of County Road 665, beginning at its intersection with County Road 670 and traversing southeasterly to its intersection with Town Creek. Said property lying in the SE ¼ of Section 15 and the SW ¼ of Section 14, all in Township 5 South, Range 9 East, located east of the City of Henagar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the DeKalb County Commission that the name of the owner of the abutting lots is Jason & Heather Wilga, Bennett & Martha Browder, Brittany Crane Beason and Derek Crane and there are no other lots or parcels of land which will be cut off from access by the vacation sought; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, by the DeKalb County Commission that it is in the interest of the public that the above-described portion of the public street be vacated; and


IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, by the DeKalb County Commission that this resolution shall be filed in the Probate Court of DeKalb County as provided by statute and that notice of this action shall be published once in a newspaper in DeKalb County no later than fourteen (14) days after the date of its adoption.

DONE this the 11th day of February 11, 2025



Ricky Harcrow, President

ATTESTED BY:



Matt G. Sharp, Administrator

Sheriff's Office

Personnel

Sheriff Welden requested approval to hire Zach Priest as PT Deputy to replace Dustin Fleming and to hire Austin Peppers as FT Investigator to replace Paul Bell who will be retiring soon.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Rhodes. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Constable—Sheriff Welden requested the Commission's approval to appoint Thomas Hubbard as District II Constable.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Jail Personnel

Chief Wright requested the Commission accept the resignation of Correction Officers Josue Castaneda & Christy Glass, and Medical Staff Cera Whitmire and Shalanne Whited.

He then requested permission to hire Jaycee Bowen to replace Josue Castaneda, Ashley Hulkan as Deputy Chief Medical Officer to replace Josh Wilburn who resigned, then to move her to the Head Nurse position held by Ms. Whited. It was further moved to hire Shalanne Whited as PT Nurse in the Jail to work on an as needed basis.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Animal Adoption Personnel—Mr. Sharp requested authorization to hire Natalee Evans to replace Sarah McCormick who recently resigned.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Rhodes. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Rural Public Transportation— Mr. Sharp requested the Commission adopt the 2026 Grant application for the Section 5311 Rural Public Transportation Program and adopt Local Matching Fund and Authorizing Resolutions:

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All member voting affirmatively, motion carried to adopt the following resolutions for the Rural Public Transportation Program:

SECTION 5311 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-0211-02

"SECTION 5311 RURAL AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION"

WHEREAS the DeKalb County Commission recognizes the need for a public transportation program; and

WHEREAS the DeKalb County Commission is recognized as a member of the DeKalb County Rural Public Transportation Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS the DeKalb County Commission recognizes that the requirements to obtain Section 5311 funds from the Alabama Department of Transportation include a local match of 50% for operating expenses and 20% for administration, planning, and capital expenses; and

WHEREAS the DeKalb County Commission recognizes that the local match will be a shared cost with other participating municipalities being responsible for providing an appropriate allocation of local non-federal funds to secure the operating of the Section 5311 Rural Area Public Transportation Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Commission hereby commits the amount of **\$344,415.00** as local non-federal match for operations, administration, planning, and capital expenditures under the Section 5311 Rural Area Public Transportation Program during Fiscal Year 2026.

Adopted this 11th day of February, 20 25

Elected Official:

Ricky Harcrow

Attest:

Matt Sharp

Name:

Ricky Harcrow

Name:

Matt Sharp

Title:

President, DeKalb County
Commission

Title:

Administrator

SECTION 5311 AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 25-0211-03

Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with Department of Transportation, United States of America, and the Alabama Department of Transportation for a grant under the Federal Transit Act.

WHEREAS the Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation and Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants for a public transportation program;

WHEREAS the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the Applicant, including the provision of its local share of the project costs in the program;

WHEREAS it is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation in accord with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under 49 USC Section 5311 the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other pertinent directives and the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that disadvantaged business enterprises (minority business enterprises and woman business enterprises) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this/these project(s), and that definite procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY DeKalb County Commission

1. That Ricky Harcrow, President of DeKalb County Commission is authorized to execute and file (an) application(s) on behalf of DeKalb County Commission with the Alabama Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of administration, planning, capital and/or operating assistance projects pursuant to 49 USC Section 5311, the Alabama Public Transportation Grant Program, and the Alabama Seniors and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program.
2. That Ricky Harcrow, President of DeKalb County Commission is authorized to execute and file with such applications an assurance, or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That Ricky Harcrow, President of DeKalb County Commission is authorized to furnish such additional information as the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation may require in connection with the application for the Program of Projects submitted to FTA.
4. That Ricky Harcrow, President of DeKalb County Commission is authorized to set forth and execute affirmative disadvantaged business enterprise policies in connection with any procurements made as part of the project.
5. That Ricky Harcrow, President of DeKalb County Commission is authorized to execute grant agreements on behalf of DeKalb County Commission with the Alabama Department of Transportation for aid in the financing of the administration, planning, capital, and/or operating assistance projects.

EMA Personnel—On behalf of EMA Director Michael Posey, Mr. Sharp requested the Commission’s approval to hire Marla Jones to serve as Public Information Officer (PIO) replacing JD Trammel who recently resigned.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to honor the request. Mr. Saferite seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

DeKalb-Jackson Water Authority Board Appointment—Mr. Wootten made the recommendation at the request of the DJWA Board to re-appoint Greg Harris for another term, expiring in 2029.

Mr. Wootten made a motion, Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to reappoint Mr. Harris to the DJWA Board..

E911 Board—President Harcrow presented two E911 Board re-appointments at the request of Mr. Black and Mr. Saferite.

Mr. Black made the recommendation and motion to re-appoint Russell Justice for another term, expiring March 2029. Mr. Saferite seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Mr. Saferite made the recommendation and motion to re-appoint Jimmy Carter another term, expiring March 2029. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Resolution for Coosa River Fishing Restriction Opposition and Commitment to Improving Local Fisheries—A motion was made by Mr. Wootten. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively to adopt the following Resolution opposing restrictions placed on fishing tournaments on the Coosa River which effect neighboring Cherokee and Etowah Counties:

A RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSION
IN OPPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON FISHING TOURNAMENTS ON THE COOSA RIVER AND
AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING LOCAL FISHERIES

WHEREAS, the Coosa River is a vital natural resource and a cornerstone of the local economy and quality of life for residents of DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, fishing tournaments on the Coosa River are an important economic driver for the community, drawing anglers and tourists from outside the region, and contributing to the local hospitality, retail, and service industries; and

WHEREAS, the Coosa River has long been recognized for its excellent fishing opportunities, attracting world-class anglers and offering a premier destination for fishing tournaments, which in turn generates significant economic benefits through tourism, hotel stays, dining, and other local spending; and

WHEREAS, restrictions placed on fishing tournaments would negatively impact local businesses, tourism revenue, and the livelihoods of citizens who depend on the river's recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of DeKalb County benefit greatly from the enjoyment of the Coosa River, and restrictions on fishing tournaments would diminish the quality of life in the community, reducing opportunities for recreation and economic prosperity for local families; and


WHEREAS, the current condition of the Coosa River's fisheries is good, and with proper management and support, there is tremendous potential to enhance the quality of these fisheries to a world-class level, providing both environmental and economic benefits; and

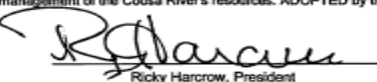
WHEREAS, the citizens of DeKalb County are committed to working collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies to improve the health and sustainability of the Coosa River's fisheries while preserving the opportunities for recreational fishing tournaments that support tourism and the local economy.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the DeKalb County Commission, as follows:

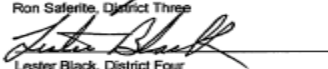
- Opposition to Restrictions:** The DeKalb County Commission expresses its strong opposition to the imposition of restrictions on fishing tournaments on the Coosa River, as such restrictions would have adverse effects on local tourism, the economy, and the quality of life of its citizens.
- Support for Fisheries Enhancement:** The DeKalb County Commission affirms its support for efforts aimed at enhancing the existing fisheries of the Coosa River, recognizing the potential for improvement to achieve world-class quality fisheries. The Commission encourages cooperative efforts between local stakeholders, environmental groups, and governmental agencies to create and implement effective strategies for improving river health and fisheries management.
- Commitment to Economic Growth:** The DeKalb County Commission reaffirms its commitment to supporting economic development through responsible management of the Coosa River's natural resources, including the continuation of fishing tournaments that bring value to the local economy and promote the river's global reputation as a premier fishing destination.
- Collaboration for Solutions:** The DeKalb County Commission encourages ongoing collaboration among residents, businesses, tourism organizations, and regulatory bodies to ensure that any management plans for the Coosa River's fisheries prioritize both environmental sustainability and the economic welfare of the community.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate state and federal agencies, local partners, and stakeholders involved in the management of the Coosa River's resources. ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Commission, this 11th day of February, 2025.


Shane Wootten, District One


Ricky Harcrow, President


Ron Saferite, District Three


Lester Black, District Four


Brent Rhodes, District Two

Municipal Agreement for Residential Garbage Collection—President Harcrow presented an Agreement between DeKalb County; and the Municipalities of Henagar, Rainsville, Powell and Collinsville for Residential Garbage Collection and requested the Commission to authorize him to sign the Agreement.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Saferite. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried to authorize the execution of the following agreement:

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSION
AND VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES OF DEKALB
FOR RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION**

This agreement is principally between the DeKalb County Commission ("The County") and the municipalities of Henagar, Rainsville, Powell and Collinsville for the collection of residential garbage in the non-incorporated areas of DeKalb County.

This agreement shall commence approximately on July 1, 2025, and shall have a term of five (5) years. This agreement shall be automatically renewed for an additional five (5) years unless notice is given within at least 180 days by either the County or one of the municipalities.

The municipalities agree to collect residential garbage at a cost of \$20/month for the first cart and an additional \$15 for each additional cart for the first 12 months of this agreement. A penalty of \$10 shall be assessed for any late payment, and service will not resume until said penalty is paid. A \$50 penalty shall be applied if payment has not been made for three weeks or more, in addition to removal of the customer's cart or carts until all payments and late fees are paid.

Before the end of each year ending on June 30, 2026, and beyond, a representative of each member of this agreement (principally the chief executive officer: i.e., Commission President and Mayors) shall meet and determine rates for the new year.

Any residential garbage rate increase, or rate change may be implemented only by majority vote of the President of the Dekalb County Commission and the Mayors of the municipalities that are parties to this agreement. The President of The Dekalb County Commission or any Mayor of a municipality that is a party to this agreement may designate an agent or proxy for the purpose of participating in a vote regarding garbage rate increases or rate changes.

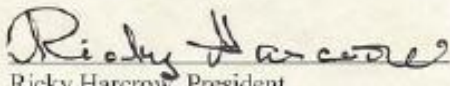
The County Engineer shall submit a quarterly fuel index to each member of this agreement and this index shall be used in the determination of rate increases in the future, along with other mutually agreed upon criteria. Any landfill dumping rate increase shall be brought to the County Commission's attention as soon as practicable.

Municipalities shall have weekly residential garbage collection for the districts included in the Appendix to this agreement.

Municipalities shall be responsible for billing all customers and including exemptions for each qualified resident in the non-incorporated areas.

Should one municipality included in this agreement terminate the contract, the County shall give one of the other municipalities the opportunity to take over said district prior to soliciting private contractors.

It is the intent of the parties of this agreement to keep business within DeKalb County. All parties wholeheartedly agree that this agreement is in the best interest of the County as a whole and is profitable to the specific municipalities participating herein.



Ricky Harcrow, President
DeKalb County Commission

2-11-2025

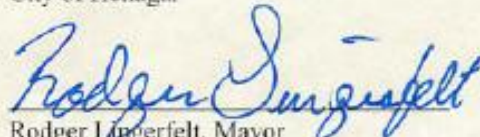
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Lee Davis, Mayor
City of Henagar

2-18-2025

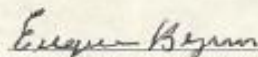
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Rodger Lingerfelt, Mayor
City of Rainsville

2-19-2025

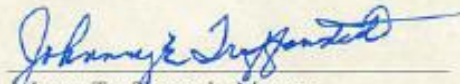
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Eugene Byrum, Mayor
Town of Powell

2-18-25

DATE



Johnny Traffanstedt, Mayor
City of Collinsville

2/19/25

DATE

ATTESTED BY:



Matt G. Sharp, County Administrator

Note: The areas outlined for each municipality are specifically outlined as an appendix to the agreement, but are generally as follows:

Henagar – All areas north of Henagar, CR 85 and the city limits of Fort Payne down to the DeSoto State Park

Rainsville – Most All areas south of Henagar, CR 85, west of Fort Payne and north of Powell. Also, Geraldine and most areas south of CR 54 and west of CR 843 and south of Hwy 68 and west of CR 221, excluding the municipality of Crossville.

Powell – Areas south of Powell to Marshall County line, north of Geraldine and Crossville and Hwy 68.

Collinsville – Most all areas south of Fort Payne in Valley and Lookout Mountain to the Cherokee County line and up to the DeSoto State Park.

Only Fort Payne and Crossville municipal boundaries are excluded from this agreement.

President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 and asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Ricky Harcrow, President

Shane Wootten, Commissioner District I

Brent Rhodes, Commissioner District II

Ron Saferite, Commissioner District III

Lester Black, Commissioner District IV