

**MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, JULY 6, 2020
WORK SESSION**

The Limestone County Commission reconvened the meeting from June 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. today at the Clinton Street Courthouse Annex, 100 South Clinton Street, Athens, Alabama.

Present: Daryl Sammet, Steve Turner, Jason Black, and Ben Harrison. Absent: None. Collin Daly, Chairman presided.

Tere Richardson, Executive Director of Athens Main Street, requested an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000 for FY 21. She said through their vast volunteer base, committees and dedicated board of directors, Athens Main Street continues to strive to make the Athens Courthouse Square a vital, exciting and beautiful place to live and work.

Adam Foutz, Pryor Field Airport Manager, requested an appropriation in the amount of \$40,000 for FY 21 to be used for items such as general upkeep and operations of the airport, ongoing rehabilitation project of the runway and taxiway, and hangar construction to accommodate waitlist aircraft.

Dylan Evans, JJ Kaine Auctioneers, spoke regarding their government exchange platform for auctioning surplus. He said they are strictly a fleet equipment auction; they hold the surplus on their yard, take all the pictures, fields the calls about questions and allows customers to come to their lot to view the items being auctioned. Their sellers fee is 3% but could charge a 0% sellers fee just to try out their auction.

Greg Skipworth, 17530 Springview Drive, addressed the commission concerning the Confederate statue. He said, "I got to see the meeting online last month when you had a lot of concerned citizens come forward and talk against the Confederate statue at the Courthouse. I want to lead off my comments with a quote, "Have we reached the ultimate stage of absurdity where some people are held responsible for things that happen before they were born, while other people are not held responsible for what they themselves are doing today?" That is by Thomas Sowell who just recently turned 90 and an American philosopher. If we really wanted to fix what's left of racism in our state, I would not argue to remove any statue. I would argue that maybe we should have a constitutional convention and redo the 1901 state constitution which was designed to keep blacks and women out of power. It's probably the longest Constitution, I believe, in the world and has been amended over 745 times. I think that would help us go a long way to fixing whatever is left of the ills that affected us when I was born in 1962. The world that existed at my birth does not exist anymore. Is there racism, yes, but it is based on individual people, not on a state-run enterprise like it used to be. I would articulate that you would not want to remove any statue because what no one said who advocated that that was how many statues would satisfy them? Would they stop with statues or would it be plaques, books, movies, theatres, and churches? If a church was built with former Confederate money, does that make it tainted? These are things to consider. If you really want to educate children, you might build a contextualized plaque system around the monument and let it serve a reminder

**MINUTES, LIMESTONE COUNTY COMMISSION, JULY 6, 2020
WORK SESSION**

of who we were and where we are today because those are two opposite points in times. The last thing I will leave you with is a quote. "Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street, building has been renamed, every date has been altered and the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right. That was from George Orwell's 1984."

Marbaline Malone, 27386 Kim Drive, Harvest, but owns the property at 15036 Maple Tree Way and received a letter last week regarding York Acres Subdivision. "I reached out to the developer and he returned my call, but said he was too busy to meet with me. So, I'll be patient and wait. I don't live there, but I still want and love my property because my daddy bought me the property when I was a little girl." County Engineer Marc Massey said Ms. Malone has some concerns about her property lines. He explained that a surveyor cannot go in and take property because if they move a property pin, they must have justification for where those property pins are based on legal descriptions. A surveyor is supposed to do that research and they are held liable for that research. The developer is essentially dividing the square that he owns in the back into and it meets the subdivision regulations. Marc told Ms. Malone that he would make sure she has a conversation with the developer before signing the plat.

Items were discussed for today's agenda. The Resolution to Provide Tier 1 Benefits to Tier II Plan Members was removed from today's agenda and will be placed on the July 20th agenda. The recommendation to hire Jason Williamson as a Deputy was removed from today's agenda after Mr. Williamson withdrew his acceptance.

Commissioner Turner reported that Reed Construction did a great job on Copeland, Capshaw and Sanderson Roads. He said his district has been bush hogging, cleaning a few ditches and normal maintenance.

Recessed at 9:47 a.m.