



Baldwin County Commission
Emergency Special Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 27, 2020
10:00 AM

Baldwin County Emergency Operations Center
Training Room, 2nd Floor
23100 McAuliffe Drive, Robertsedale, Alabama

Upon an emergency special meeting being called by the Chairman of the Baldwin County Commission at 10:03 a.m., members present in the Operations Room of the Baldwin County Emergency Operations Center, located at 23100 McAuliffe Drive, Robertsedale, Alabama were, Commissioner James E. Ball; Commissioner Joe Davis, III (via teleconference); Commissioner Charles F. Gruber and Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Chairman.

Commissioners present:

District 1 – Commissioner James E. Ball
District 2 – Commissioner Joe Davis, III (Via Teleconference)
District 3 – Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood
District 4 – Commissioner Charles F. Gruber

Commissioners absent:

None.

Staff present:

Wayne Dyess, County Administrator
Deidra Hanak, Personnel Director
Zach Hood, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director
Brian Peacock, Communications/Information Systems (CIS) Director
Joey Nunnally, County Engineer
Ron Ballard, Juvenile Detention Center Director
Anu Gary, Administrative Services Manager
Sherry-Lea Bloodworth Botoy, CEM/PIO
Monica English, Assistant Administrative Services Manager

Staff present via teleconference:

N/A

Also present:

Brad Hicks, County Attorney
Dr. Brian Pierce, Coroner
Various Members of the Media

Said emergency special meeting topics were as follows:

- [1] Make the Special Meeting Call Letter part of the record; and
- [2] Adopt revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy; and
- [3] Authorize the Chairman to approve future revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy as needs and conditions evolve during the State of Local Emergency currently in effect in Baldwin County, Alabama; and
- [4] Consider and/or authorize any other actions necessary to be taken by the Baldwin County Commission related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which poses a public health hazard to the safety and welfare of the general public.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. After the Invocation by Chairman Billie Jo Underwood, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner James E. Ball, the Commission transacted the following business to-wit:

Insert Special Meeting Call Letter into the Record

Motion by Commissioner Charles F. Gruber, seconded by Commissioner James E. Ball, to insert the **March 27, 2020, Baldwin County Commission Emergency Special Meeting Call Letter** into the record.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - James E. Ball, Joe Davis III, Billie Jo Underwood, and Charles F. Gruber
Nay: 0
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0

Adopt revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy

Motion by Commissioner James E. Ball, seconded by Commissioner Joe Davis, III (via teleconference), to authorize the Chairman to approve future revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic Policy as needs and as conditions evolve, provided that the following conditions exist:

- 1) The state of local emergency declared by the Baldwin County Commission on March 14, 2020, has not expired;
- 2) The Chairman immediately provides written copies of the revisions or amendments to the Baldwin County Commission and presents them at the next regularly scheduled meeting; and
- 3) The Chairman makes a written determination that the revisions or amendments are necessary to comply with federal or state law and should be made without delay.

Brad Hicks, County Attorney, asked if Commissioner Gruber will second the motion since there is a quorum of Commissioners present in person? Extra steps would have to be taken if Commissioner Davis votes telephonically.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles F. Gruber.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - James E. Ball, Billie Jo Underwood, and Charles F. Gruber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Authorize the Chairman to approve future revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy as needs and conditions evolve during the State of Local Emergency currently in effect in Baldwin County, Alabama

Motion by Commissioner James E. Ball, seconded by Commissioner Charles F. Gruber, to authorize the Chairman to approve future revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy as needs and conditions evolve during the State of Local Emergency currently in effect in Baldwin County, Alabama.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - James E. Ball, Billie Jo Underwood, and Charles F. Gruber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Consider and/or authorize any other actions necessary to be taken by the Baldwin County Commission related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which poses a public health hazard to the safety and welfare of the general public

Chairman Underwood said this action is a “catch all” since the meeting has been called. The Commissioners are trying to do their part to take the steps to help slow or stop the spread of this disease. When the special meetings are called, most staff members feel the need to be here. Chairman Underwood said as much as the Commissioners appreciate the staff, they do not have to be here if there is no need. As this is a public meeting she is not asking people not to attend, only to be safe.

ADDENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESS QUESTIONS

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gruber said he appreciates the work performed by the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) staff and all County employees. They are working hard to comply with what is going on and it has been very tough. The employees are still providing services, and everyone is doing a fantastic job in complying. Things are working pretty well.

Commissioner Ball thanked staff for all they are doing and said the Commissioners put out a message earlier this week that “Together we can get through this.” Everyone is working together as a team to do the best they can to provide accurate information to the public. As Commissioner Gruber stated, everyone is working very well together as a team and they are doing everything they can to get through this the best they can.

Commissioner Davis said it is critical to identify essential and nonessential. Nonessential does not mean unimportant. It only means it does not have to move at the same pace as essential items. The Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Department and others have worked behind the scenes to make all of this happen in a way that everyone can better understand. It is critical to use this as an opportunity to recognize how important cross training will have to be. Commissioner Davis encouraged everyone to not be afraid, move forward and help make things better as they move forward.

Chairman Underwood thanked staff for all they are doing and said this has been an unprecedented situation. There have been other emergencies that have come before the Commissioners. This has been something that the entire world is dealing with. Chairman Underwood said she wants to give a “shout-out” to all County employees and said first and foremost, their health, safety and welfare are the Commissioners main concerns. The Commissioners are here today to let the employees know they care about them and they are going to do all they can to keep them employed and safe. Chairman Underwood encouraged the employees to keep the lines of communication open. “Social Distancing” does not mean not talking with anyone, it is actually physically distancing yourself from others. She encouraged everyone to keep in contact with others.

W ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner James E. Ball, seconded by Commissioner Charles F. Gruber, to adjourn the March 27, 2020, Baldwin County Commission Special Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - James E. Ball, Joe Davis III, Billie Jo Underwood, and Charles F. Gruber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Chairman Underwood said the March 19, 2020, Baldwin County Commission Emergency Special meeting is adjourned at 10:15 a.m.



**COUNTY COMMISSION
BALDWIN COUNTY
312 Courthouse Square, Suite 12
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA 36507
(251) 937-0264
Fax (251) 580-2500
www.baldwincountyal.gov**

DISTRICT MEMBERS
1. JAMES E. BALL
2. JOE DAVIS, III
3. BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD
4. CHARLES F. GRUBER

March 26, 2020

Mr. Wayne Dyess
County Administrator
Baldwin County Commission
312 Courthouse Square, Suite 12
Bay Minette, Alabama 36507

Dear Mr. Dyess:

Pursuant to Section 11-3-8 (b), Code of Alabama 1975, "A county commission may schedule a special meeting [of the Baldwin County Commission] when determined necessary in writing by a majority of the members of the commission, or in the case of an emergency, upon call of the chair."

Therefore, taking into account the aforementioned, coupled with the fact that this request is styled an emergency due to the necessity of precautionary measures and preparations that must be taken by the Baldwin County Commission related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which poses a hazard to the safety and welfare of the general public, please be advised that I have determined in writing and by this instrument that it is necessary to conduct an Emergency Special Meeting of the Baldwin County Commission for the date/time/place as follows:

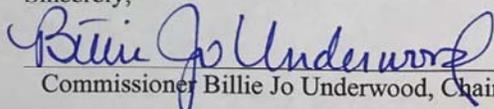
Friday, March 27, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Baldwin County Emergency Operations Center
Training Room, 2nd Floor
23100 McAuliffe Drive, Robertsedale, AL

The purpose for the Emergency Special Meeting is to:

- [1] Adopt revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy; and
- [2] Authorize the Chairman to approve future revisions and amendments to the Baldwin County Commission Planned Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Policy as needs and conditions evolve during the State of Local Emergency currently in effect in Baldwin County, Alabama; and
- [3] Consider and/or authorize any other actions necessary to be taken by the Baldwin County Commission related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which poses a public health hazard to the safety and welfare of the general public.

Please make the necessary arrangements for the conduct of the Emergency Special Meeting.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Chairman

(BALDWIN COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F)