

The Shelby County Commissioners met on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., present were Commissioners Abel, Lawson, Runnebohm, County Attorney and County Auditor.

MINUTES:

Motion to approve February 17, 2026, minutes was made by Lawson, seconded by Runnebohm, approved 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING / VACATE 406 S. CENTRAL ALLEY - WALDRON:

Robert Dewhurst of Waldron is requesting for the alley vacation at 406 S. Central in Waldron. Commissioner Abel advised Mr. Dewhurst was here a couple weeks ago and we all decided to get some more information regarding this request. Mr. Dewhurst advised he sent out all of the notifications and advertised it in the newspaper. He advised he also emailed the School Corporation so they would have the notification quicker. Mr. Dewhurst advised he has been reviewing the video from the last meeting and he feels that there has been some undue influence in this matter by one of the commissioners, by having private conversations in the background before our first meeting. Mr. Dewhurst believes this breaks Rule 2.9. and feels this Commissioner should be recused from this matter. After some review, the County Attorney does not feel this rule was broken. In order for the Commissioners to do their due diligence to the public, things must be looked into and listen to the public. With the opinion of the County Attorney, they will not honor Mr. Dewhurst request. Mr. Hitchcock Superintendent of Shelby Eastern Schools advised he represents 7 board members, three of which represent the Waldron area, so we did have some conversations about this. They felt like the proposal was fair and reasonable, but the consensus amongst the board and myself was, it may not be the best decision for the school corporation long-term. So, a couple things specifically that we thought of is, Mr. Dewhurst may not always be the property owner, and it is hard to say whether we would have the same amicable relationship with the further property owner, as we do now. The biggest one for us, potentially we have had some discussions about long-term strategic planning for our athletic complex, and one of those diagrams that we have drawn shows us having to shift the softball field to the west. If we have to do that and still want to allow a lane, which is currently begin utilized for people to access the field behind it, that could fringe upon that. Blake Newkirk wanted to ask a question. She just wondered, the way that Mr. Hitchcock just stated that, they would prefer that the county maintain control of this alley and responsibility of this alley while they continue to utilize it. I do not necessarily think that is the best way for the county to handle it. I just wondered if they might consider applying to take control of that, rather than leaving the responsibility on the county long-term, for them to continue using it. Commissioner Abel asked how much footage would Shelby Eastern be losing for perspective future facility needs. Right now, we are dividing it in half, so currently the way it is drawn up is about 20 feet from the edge of what is a retention pond. This includes the lane that people drive on. So, the consideration in regard to the softball field specifically would be that if we have to move the field west there is a possibility that we may also have to have a few more feet to make sure we can still have the lane to get access to the field behind it. After more discussion in regard to drainage the Waldron Conservancy having drainage under there were a few more questions, Abel asked who maintains this property right now, Mr. Dewhurst advised he takes care of half and the school takes care of half. With no more questions or comments Abel entertains a motion. Motion to approve was made by Lawson, seconded by Runnebohm, motion denied 0-3.

COMMISSIONERS DATA CENTER MORATORIUM RESOLUTION:

Commissioner Abel wanted to let the community know that the Commissioners are aware of the how Data Centers have become a popular thing and we have not just put your request on the side burner. This is part of the law of people seeking annexation providing they meet certain

requirements. Abel advised they have been working on a plan to put a simple Resolution together for our county and it takes time. They are working on putting a board together that will consist of members of the public, representatives from the Commissioners, Council, and the Plan Commission. The group will work in conjunction with a law firm based out of Greenwood that specializes in crafting local ordinances, for these types of issues. In the meantime, the Commissioners feel like a 6-month moratorium is appropriate. With that being said Commissioner Abel presented Resolution 2026-02 for a 6-month moratorium pause on qualified Data Centers on Applications. Motion to approve was made by Lawson, seconded by Runnebohm, approved 3-0.

ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTED OFFICIAL BOND:

Commissioner Abel entertained a motion to approve the bond for Jeff Powell County Surveyor. Motion to approve was made by Lawson, seconded by Runnebohm, approved 3-0.

SHERIFF:

Sheriff Koch presented the Commissioners with he annual Jail Report. Koch read over some of the numbers. This was information only, no action was needed.

HIGHWAY:

N/A

CLAIMS:

PAYROLL - Motion to approve payroll was made by Lawson, seconded by Runnebohm, approved 3-0.

TRANSFER / ADDITIONALS:

N/A

MISCELLANEOUS:

HOUSE KEEPING:

Commissioner Abel advised there is a Plan Commission Meeting tomorrow.

MAINTENANCE:

Jose advised they have signed the contract to repair the Annex Elevator in the amount of \$85,000.00. He has talked to them about getting the elevator we have currently working until they can get the new one installed. They are looking into what they might be able to do to get the current one working and they said they would collaborate with us. Jose also advised the quotes he has for the Court House are from 2024 so you will need to add around \$2,000.00 for each year, for price increase. This was information only, no action was needed.

There being no further business to come before board. A motion to adjourn was made by Lawson, seconded by Runnebohm, approved 3-0.

AYE:

NAYE:

ATTEST:

AMY L. GLACKMAN
SHELBY COUNTY AUDITOR