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## MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

The Morgan County Commission of Morgan County, Alabama, convened in a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Commission in the Morgan County Commission Office, Morgan County Courthouse, Decatur, Alabama. The following members were present: Chairman Ray Long; Commissioners Jeff Clark, Randy Vest, Don Stisher, and Greg Abercrombie. Also present: David Langston, County Attorney; Greg Bodley, County Engineer; Julie Reeves, Chief Administrative Officer; Jessica Smith, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Mike Wetzel, Communications Director; Laura Vest, Business Services Coordinator. Absent: None. Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Vest acted as clerks of the Meeting. Mr. Clark offered the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Reeves called roll and stated that a quorum was present. The Chairman declared the Meeting open for the transaction of business.

### VISITORS

Matthew Frost, Morgan County Resident  
Heather McIngvale, Morgan County Sheriff's Office  
Erica Smith, Decatur Daily

### AGENDA

The Agenda for the meeting of Tuesday, November 28, 2023, had been presented to the Commission for review.

After due consideration, it is therefore ordered by the Commission on motion of Mr. Don Stisher, seconded by Mr. Greg Abercrombie, and unanimously carried that there being no further additions or corrections to the above listed agenda; it is hereby approved.

### MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, had been presented via email to the Commission for review.

After due consideration, it is therefore ordered by the Commission on motion of Mr. Randy Vest, seconded by Mr. Jeff Clark, and unanimously carried that there being no further additions or corrections to the above referenced Minutes; they are hereby approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO SOLICIT SEALED BIDS FROM THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER MEETING SPECIFICATIONS FOR SHADES AND INSTALLATION FOR THE MORGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE.**

Mr. Don Stisher, member of the Commission, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption. Upon the same being duly seconded by Mr. Greg Abercrombie, it was put to a vote and unanimously adopted to wit:

### RESOLUTION 24-082

BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan County Commission of Morgan County, Alabama, that the Commission does hereby authorize the Chairman to solicit sealed bids from the lowest responsive bidder meeting specifications for shades and installation for the Morgan County Courthouse, this the 28th day of November 2023.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$50,000 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS BY AND THROUGH A SUBAWARD TO LAUNCH 2035, D/B/A SINGING RIVER TRAIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING TRAIL SYSTEM FROM DECATUR, AL TO MUSCLE SHOALS, AL.**

Mr. Don Stisher, member of the Commission, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption. Upon the same being duly seconded by Mr. Jeff Clark, it was put to a vote and unanimously adopted to wit:

**RESOLUTION 24-083**

**RESOLUTION ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT REVENUE REPLACEMENT FUNDS FOR  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the County has received American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“ARPA funds”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Morgan County Commission (the “Commission”) is charged with ensuring that these funds are expended in accordance with state and federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provisions of the final rule published by the United States Department of Treasury dated January 6, 2022, the County has duly elected to designate a standard allowance of \$10,000,000 of its ARPA funds as revenue replacement (“ARPA revenue replacement funds”); and

**WHEREAS**, the County may use ARPA revenue replacement funds to facilitate the provision of government services, including investments in economic and industrial development in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Launch 2035, a nonprofit entity doing business as Singing River Trail, a regional trail system that provides for outdoor recreation, economic development, workforce development, and tourism to eight counties including Morgan County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Launch 2035 is looking to expand the Singing River Trail system from Decatur, Alabama, to Muscle Shoals, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Launch 2035, by and through the Singing River Trail, has requested financial assistance to create a master plan for this expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, County has considered the request for funding and determined:

- 1) That the entity is eligible to receive ARPA revenue replacement funds;
- 2) That an award of ARPA funds to support the proposed program would serve a public purpose;
- 3) More specifically, that expanding the Singing River Trail would promote economic and industrial growth by enhancing tourism and creating jobs; and
- 4) That providing this benefit or service is within the County’s constitutional authority under Ala. Const. § 94.01; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with Section 94.01 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 (also known as Amendment 772), as amended, the County has caused notice of this action in a newspaper of general circulation in the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission desires to enter into an agreement with Launch 2035, to provide ARPA revenue replacement funds to support the expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has determined that the program is a necessary, eligible, and reasonable use of the County’s ARPA funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION** as follows:

1) The Commission hereby allocates up to \$50,000 of the County’s ARPA revenue replacement funds to cover part of the costs reasonably related to the master plan for an expansion of the Singing River Trail from Decatur, Alabama to Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

2) The Commission resolves to enter into a funding agreement with Launch 2035, d/b/a Singing River Trail, in substantially similar format as attached hereto as Addendum 1.

3) The ARPA Program Manager is hereby authorized to expend ARPA funds for costs of the project in accordance with the terms of this Resolution and the funding agreement.

4) Expenditure of ARPA funds, as authorized by this Resolution, shall be contingent on the continued appropriation and availability of ARPA funds for this purpose and in no event shall be used for any costs associated with the project that are not obligated on or before December 31, 2024, and expended on or before December 31, 2026.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Morgan County Commission has caused this Resolution to be executed in its name and on its behalf by its Chair on the 28th day of November 2023.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN, ON BEHALF OF THE  
AMANDA SCOTT, REVENUE COMMISSIONER, TO SIGN THE PAYMENT  
SERVICES ADDENDUM BY AND BETWEEN E-RING SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS,  
INC. AND MORGAN COUNTY FOR CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION FEES,  
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023.**

Mr. Jeff Clark, member of the Commission, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption. Upon the same being duly seconded by Mr. Randy Vest, it was put to a vote and unanimously adopted to wit: