

Commissioner Albert Turner, Jr. Is Now Chairman



The Perry County Commission swore in the new members of the Commission on Wednesday. (11-11-20) That organizational session was decisive and without any fanfare.

The Commission made a strong and decisive move when they selected District 1 Commissioner Albert Turner, Jr. as its new Chairman and District 3 Commissioner Republican, Brett Harrison as its Vice Chairman.

The move brought the audience to a quite still. Harrison the first Republican elected to the Perry County Commission since reconstruction made the one swooping motion to nominate Turner as Chairman and himself as Vice Chairman. The newest member of the Commission Anthony Long made the second. The motion was carried on a 3-2 vote with Turner, Long and Harrison voting in favor and Commissioners Eaton and Hudson voting against. District 4 Commissioner Cedric Hudson had served 2 years as Chairman prior to Wednesday's meeting.

The surprise action caught many off guard as Turner and Harrison have been at odds for 18 years. Commissioner Anthony Long said it best, " If you can't beat him join him and we all win". Long went on to say, " things in politics change quickly, in one-minute things can change and in this case it's a change for the better for Perry County. Mr. Turner is one of the most respected Commissioners in Alabama. He can go anywhere and get almost anything done. His contacts around this Country will only enhance Perry County now he has the title to go with the work he will continue to produce. Everyone already believes he was the Chairman by the way he was so involved. I was glad to have brokered the deal to start bring this County together, Blacks and Whites. "

Commissioner Turner remarks were short but on point. Turner said" Commissioners Long and Harrison by their actions have shown a willingness to do what they believe is best for Perry County. They put aside race, self-interest, and division to try to move Perry County as a whole and for that I thank them. " I will be a leader that will work to bring the entire Commission together working for every citizen from Heiberger to Uniontown, from Sprott to West Perry."

Harrison was just as complimentary saying, " as I talked to people that I trust, not a one told me no. They in fact said, "we have tried all of them and we have gotten nothing, let's give it a try and see if progress can be achieved. " Commissioner Harrison went on to say," we won't always agree, but we will always discuss the issues, respect each other for our opinions and try to come to the best solution for the entire community. "I know Mr. Turner and I have one thing in common and that is, we want the best for Perry County. I believe Mr. Turner gives us the best chance of getting there working together. We both want Perry County to be the best it can be."

Do not expect the new leadership team to be popping a beer at the table. However, do expect them to be at the table together working for Perry County trying to make life better.