

January 17, 2023

At a scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their offices in the Walker County Courthouse Annex, Jasper, Alabama, at 9:30 a.m. on the 17th day of January 2023, Chairman Miller gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

After Chairman Miller gave the invitation for comment from citizens and other elected officials, the County Administrator called the roll and commissioners present were: Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Mr. Al Blanton gave the invocation and County Engineer Mike Short led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda; to Approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2022 meeting; to Approve the New Vendor List for December, 2022 and to Approve the Claims against the County for December, 2022.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson thanked everyone for their help during her absence due to surgery.

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "I want to let the Commission know that Dunn Construction will be mobilizing this week on Main Street in Parrish to begin that project. We've been planning that for several months and we're just getting a break in their schedule to do that. Also, Wiregrass Construction is working on Smith Lake Dam Road and once they finish that project, they will move to the Dogtown Road in District Two."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of STEM Camp by Ms. Jessica Sanders Walker.

After a very informative discussion by Ms. Jessica Sanders Walker, and her stating that it is a co-sponsored event with FAA and requesting that they be able to host the camp July 10 through July 16, 2023 at Bevill Field Walker County Airport, and that she would come back, at a later, date with an update, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to end discussion.

After a brief discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Approval of bids 733, 752, 757, 758, 754, 753 and 735.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the bids 733 – Advanced Asphalt Products, 752 – Professional Striping, 757 & 758 – J&G Culverts, 753 – Vulcan Asphalt or can go through ACCA and 735 – Viking, and to table bid 754.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Alabama EMA Grant Approval.

After explanation by EMA Director Regina Myers, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Burrough and Borden (consecutively) to approve the Alabama EMA Grant Approval.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Approval to appoint Jake Allred to the Boldo Water & Fire Authority.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that the Commission had received a letter requesting that Jake Allred be appointed, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the appointment of Jake Allred to replace Mr. Kenneth Allred for the remainder of his term to the Boldo Water & Fire Authority Board.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye;

District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Approval of Budget Amendments.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Budget Amendments.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Budget Approval of Budget Amendment related to Summit Foods.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Budget Amendment related to Summit Food.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Discussion and Approval of Budget Amendment related to Sheriff's truck purchase.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Budget Amendment related to Sheriff's truck purchase.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Approval to liquidate two vehicles from Sheriff's Department.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the liquidation of two vehicles from Sheriff's Department.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye;

District Three; Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Approval of web design by Ingenuity.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the web design by Ingenuity.

With no further discussion the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the ACCA Participation Agreement approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the ACCA Participation Agreement.

With no discussion the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden for Approval to hire Joshua Brom and Austin Gurganus for Solid Waste Driver/Operators.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, input from Commissioner Burrough and County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the hiring of Joshua Brom and Austin Gurganus for Solid Waste Driver/Operators.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Discuss the Rebuild Alabama end of year report.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short of the Rebuild Alabama end of year report and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to end discussion and to put the Rebuild Alabama end of year report in the Commission record.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye;

District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Approval of the Smith Chapel Bridge Agreement.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short that this is a new agreement since the price had increased so much that they had to go back to the State and ask for some more funding, which was graciously granted, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Smith Chapel Bridge Agreement. Commissioner Burrough thanked the State for helping them out.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER:

Commissioner Burrough stated, "First off thank each of y'all for coming. I know we have a lot of people in here that – nearly everybody in here works for us. I appreciate the job that each of you do. I appreciate that when I call on you that you're willing to help and I hope you feel the same when you call me. Other than that, this agreement on this last item Smith Chapel, that will be something that District Two will be appreciative of and be glad to see it get started. As I understand it, Mike, they're working on our other bridge –

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "Brown's Bridge is probably in the neighborhood of fifty to sixty percent complete."

Commission Burrough further stated, "That's great news for that area, too. Like, I said, I'm just thankful that – I know these things take a long time, but you know, it's a lot of money and a lot of planning and it takes a lot of people putting in their part to make it happen. Other than that, just thank each of you for coming. Nick, congratulations on your second time, you're getting sworn in today, you're dressed up real nice. I hope you have a big day."

Commissioner Borden stated, "Thanks everyone for coming. As Jeff alluded to, Brown's Bridge – Brown's Bridge is well on its way to becoming complete. Mike, with no delays, May, June, at the latest –

County Engineer Mike Short, "Yes."

Commissioner Borden – on the opening of the bridge? So, as discussed a little earlier with Mike, we mentioned back in the fall about the Main Street in Parrish

resurfacing that road. He informed me this morning that Dunn a couple of months back was awarded bids. They should start on the resurfacing this coming week, probably weather permitting today, hopefully, by the end of the week they should be on site paving the road. I've got some more striping projects that I'm wanting to get completed as the Engineer and I, Mike, discussed over the past months. With all the construction going on, there's a lot of delays. I have actually got my contracts out on some of bigger roads in the county, the main roads to have them striped, but the delay is the volume of work and we're leaving it to the one contractor. Also, I get a lot of calls here in the last couple of weeks, as we get into wintertime in District Three with the conditions of our roads -- it's hard to make repairs this time of year. You're dealing with rain-soaked ground, our industrial loads is still a major problem on the roads. We can repair a road, patch, however you want to determine it, they come in two months later and do damage to the road. We are aware of it and as weather permits, as we get more in the springtime we will go back and start back repairing the roads just as fast as we can get to them. That's all I have."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Thank you Mr. Chairman, I'd like to go back and add one item to the agenda, which will be item 14, which is to pay the Sheriff on a monthly basis the difference between the Federal inmate feeding, I guess, the State reimbursement. So, I want to be able to speak to that. I would like to make a motion to add that as agenda item 14."

Chairman Miller stated, "Okay. I have a motion on the floor by Mr. Aderholt to add, correct me if I'm wrong, which is to pay the Sheriff on a monthly basis the difference between the feeding of the State inmates and the Federal inmates?"

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "That's correct."

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "Going back to October."

Chairman Miller stated, "Going back to October. Okay."

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "This fiscal year."

Chairman Miller stated, "It will be this fiscal year, yes. Correct?"

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Correct."

Chairman Miller stated, "And I have a second by Mr. Burrough?"

Commissioner Burrough stated, "Yes."

Chairman Miller stated, "So, we're adding that the agenda. That will be item number 14. All right. Now then, that we've added it to the agenda, I need to --

The vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye; Chairman Miller; Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion to pay the Sheriff on a monthly-basis the difference between the feeding of the State inmates and the Federal inmates retroactively beginning October, 2022.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input by Sheriff Nick Smith and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to pay the Sheriff monthly the difference between the feeding of the State inmates and the Federal inmates retroactively beginning October, 2022.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chairman Miller stated, "Now, moving back to Mr. Aderholt for discussion.

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank everybody for being here today. I'm looking forward to a good 2023. There will be a lot of good prospective things coming for Walker County. We're trying to accomplish a lot of things in District Four as far as road maintenance and paving and things like that. There are several big projects coming to completion, PineyWoods/Sipsey Road. Hopefully more projects, in the near future, as we get contractors available. There's still a pull on contractors on their time right now, so we just have to be patient until we can get those guys in here to complete some of this work. And I would like to reiterate and say again, that I'm so excited for Jessica Walker and the STEM Program. I think that is, again, to have an organization like that in Walker County is just truly a massive step forward, not only just the county itself, but every citizen within the county potentially benefits from that in some way, so thank you for your vision and your effort and everything that you're going to do to educate our children a little better. God Bless everybody and thanks for being here."

Chairman Miller stated, "All right. Thank you, Mr. Alderholt. I, too, would like to thank everybody for coming. I especially want to thank my wife. She's here today. I appreciate her coming. And I hope she's going to buy lunch."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "She said you were."

Chairman Miller stated, "I would like to say that – just tell everybody that this current administration here, I just want to remind you of things that we've accomplished. And this is on our watch. We're looking at the purchasing of the old G. May & Son's Building right now. That's ongoing. We have purchased the old Alabama Power Building and made it the Justice Center. We improved the Solid Waste Department and it's up and doing a fantastic job. As you heard, we have two bridges that we've had, Brown's Bridge and Smith Chapel. We've had several roads paved with this nine-million dollars that this Commission has approved to use and funded. The reserves of the County now are five million plus. Something that we haven't had in years. The County continues to strive to do better, the five percent employee raise that

we got and passed through. These things that we've worked hard to provide this county and move this county forward. We'd like to say, also, that Sheriff we appreciate you and your second term. We hope you very good success, just like you've had. And the taking over the feeding of the prisoners, you've done a great job there. And working on drug intervention here in our county, you're doing a great job with that. Also, we'd like to say thank you to Ms. Walker for the STEM research program and we look forward to that. And I know being involved with Aviation, I tell you as a young person, I always wanted to fly. I had a great uncle that owned an airplane and flew. And that was always my goal. I got in and enjoyed that. So those kids look forward to that. That's something that's a great program and I appreciate that. With that said, thank you for each and every one of you coming, thank you for the employees of the county for what you do in this county. And I would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting."

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

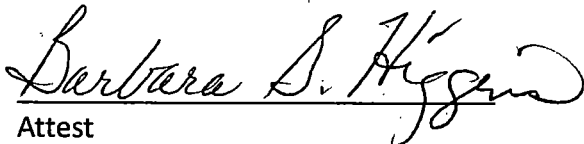
With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest