

June 16, 2025

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 16th day of June 2025, 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, County Administrator Amy Frederickson called the roll and Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Reverend James Johnson from Jasper First Methodist Church gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2025, and the Emergency Meeting of June 5, 2025.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Amy Frederickson stated, "Good morning. Three items: The first one is that the audit for fiscal year 2022 and 2023 is in progress, it's a financial and legal compliance audit. I just want to say first and foremost thank you to the staff. They've worked very diligently getting together all the information that was requested. There's quite a bit of it. Secondly, we're about to start fiscal year 2026 budget preparations. I anticipate next week I will send out letters to all department heads requesting their budget proposals. If, at all possible we'd really appreciate proposals to be returned to me in writing on or before July 25th, so that way, we can sit down and evaluate them and get back to you before we start the inclusion of a final proposal in the entire budget. And lastly, Thursday, just a reminder that all of the non-essential offices will be closed for Juneteenth."

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, "We are currently working on paving plans and bids for projects for each of the districts. Also, we're working with Sain and Associates Consulting on the SS4A Grant. A section of it now is called the Demonstration Grant. It will be between \$150,000 to \$250,000 for – they term it as a temporary, but it

will be for signs and possible guardrails, paint at intersections and stuff like that. It's just another section of that grant that we're already working on. Hopefully, we will have that. I believe it's August whenever we have another meeting. It will be in July before we'll know anything, I believe. Hopefully, we'll see some money from it in August or September."

Commissioner Aderholt inquired if they had an update on the striping and County Engineer Glenn Peek answered in the negative.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Rescind Rejection and Accept Lowest Bid #849 for the Resurfacing of Nichols Road and Hillard Loop Road in District Two.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve to Rescind Rejection and Accept Lowest Bid #849 for the Resurfacing of Nichols Road and Hillard Loop Road in District Two.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Nomination for 2025-26 ACCA Legislative Committee.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Nominate and Approve Chairman Miller to the 2025-26 ACCA Legislative Committee.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(3) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Purchase and Install Two (2) 5-ton Heat Pump HVAC Systems for 1st and 2nd Floor of County Courthouse (Electrical Installation Not Included).

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve to Purchase

and Install Two (2) 5-ton Heat Pump HVAC Systems for 1st and 2nd Floor of County Courthouse (Electrical Installation Not Included).

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(4) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of the Following In-Service Transfers, Effective June 11, 2025:

- a. In-Service Transfer of Alysa Salter to Full-Time Clerk in Solid Waste.
- b. In-Service Transfer of Cheryl Jackson to Full-Time Clerk in the Probate Office.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve the Following In-Service Transfers, Effective June 11, 2025.

- a. In-Service Transfer of Alysa Salter to Full-Time Clerk in Solid Waste.
- b. In-Service Transfer of Cheryl Jackson to Full-Time Clerk in the Probate Office.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(5) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of MOA Between Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments and Walker County Commission.

After explanation and recommendation by EMA Director Regina Myers, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the MOA Between Northwest Alabama Council of Local Government and Walker County Commission.

With no further discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the MOA Between Northwest Alabama Council of Local Government and Walker County Commission.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Dunagan stated that he needed to add a couple of items to the agenda. Number 6, to get the process started on vacating a small portion of a road

where the landowner wanted to make sure it wasn't on the county's maps. He stated, "It's a small section of Duskin Point Road. If we could start looking into that."

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to add to the Agenda, Number 6 – vacating a small spur of Duskin Point Road.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(6) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open Discussion of Discussion and Approval of looking into vacating a small spur of Duskin Point Road.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to start the process of possibly vacating a small spur of Duskin Point Road.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add Number 7 In-Service Transfer of Mr. Mike Mathis from District Four to Solid Waste to the Agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(7) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to In-Service Transfer Mr. Mike Mathis as Common Laborer from District Four to Solid Waste.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the In-Service Transfer of Mr. Mike Mathis from District Four to Solid Waste as a Common Laborer.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Dunagan continues: "I would like to thank everybody for coming. We do appreciate everybody. We appreciate all of our workers. Thank you for helping out at the fairgrounds, Janet, the Cattlemen's Association. It was a good event. My employees came out yesterday and helped me with a tree and I appreciate the fire departments for them coming out and helping through the storms and the rainy weather. It seems like there's a lot more tree damage than normal."

Commissioner Burrough stated he has two things he needs to add to the agenda. Number 8, Safe Street Demonstration Grant Work Plan to approve Simple Grants to go forward with that grant.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to add Number 8, Safe Street Demonstration Grant Work Plan, to the agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(8) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open Discussion of Safe Street Demonstration Grant Work Plan through Simple Grants.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Safe Street Demonstration Grant Work Plan.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 add Number 9, To Hire two Part-time Jailers, Bailey Reed Lane and Robert J. Robinson as Part-time Jailers, effective date June 18th, 2025, to the agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(9) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hire Bailey Reed Lane and Robert J. Robinson as Part-time Jailers in the Sheriff's Department.

After explanation by Jail Administrator Justin White, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Hire Bailey Reed Lane and Robert J. Robinson as Part-time Jailers in the Sheriff's Department, with Effective Start Date of June 18, 2025, conditioned upon successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug-test and hiring paperwork.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Burrough continued: He stated that he and his supervisor looked back on their schedule and that every weekend after Easter, they have had 9-1-1 calls and that it has been an extremely bad season for trees falling. He said his men are exhausted and tired from picking up trees. He said he hoped the weather will get somewhat stable and get dry so they can get out and do other projects that they always do in the summertime. He stated that one of his employees, Mr. Allen Cook, passed

away. He said Mr. Cook worked 30 plus years with the county and was a well-known dedicated employee. He asked that everybody take time to remember people who lose loved ones. He offered condolences to Sheila and the family and asked that we keep that family in our prayers.

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here. "Again, as Commissioner Burrough said, the weather has not been our friend so far this year. If you go, like he said, all the way back, even back into our warm weather, starting towards the end of April to May, now we're already into the middle of June, this hampers the stuff that we try to do out here on the roads. I mean, potholes, they're wet, they're standing with water. District Three, the heavy truck traffic that we put up with daily as the road bases underneath get wet, they will not hold the loads. So, we're doing the best we can to make repairs on those roads. Again, our funds are limited. I'll say it until the day I leave office our sales tax does not go to our roads. People constantly call me. It is a daily deal. I try to explain to them, 'Your two cents (sales tax) does not go to your roads. Very little of our county tax goes to the roads. It is designated for other departments.' We are limited with what we get from the State. I think we mentioned last month, so far this year we've received around forty-four hundred dollars (\$4,400) in coal tax. I went in the office and had accounts payable pull up back in 1993, I believe it was, pulled up what – each of us have a coal tax. I went back to '93, District Three spent over a million dollars (\$1,000,000) out of that fund in 1993. Today I have forty-four hundred dollars (\$4,400) so far this year.

The cost of everything – you take inflation, you go back '93 up till now, that million or so they were spending is probably two-plus-million (\$2,000,000) today. That gives you an idea of our shortages that we have in these districts. And you're operating on less than a million dollars a year. And each district is responsible for all its expenses from payroll, through the utilities, parts, materials, the whole nine yards. We're limited in what we can do. As Mr. Burrough stated, he's going to do 3.2 miles this year. This cost will be well over four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) and that's not a good job. That's not going in and milling roads up and resurfacing roads. It is what we call, basically, a new paving job, but you won't get the longevity out of it that we would need on those roads. Again, it comes back to lack of funding. We do the best we can with what we have and we will continue to do so. I will continue to do so.

Tractors are trying to get out now to start our mowing. We're about two and a half months behind on our first round of mowing. The ditches have been standing in water. If you get a four and half ton tractor off the road, it doesn't hold up very good in the ditch lines, so we will try to avoid that. With that, I'll pass it to Mr. Aderholt."

Commissioner Aderholt said he echoes what Commissioner Borden said. He stated, "Also the rain that we've had, not only prevents us from fixing potholes, but the more rain that we get, creates new ones." He stated that they fix the potholes and more of them pop up. He asked that everyone be patient, that they're going to get there. He

said he appreciated not only the employees in his district, but all the county employees. That everyone is doing a real good job hanging in there doing what they can do. He reiterated what Mr. Borden said about the 9-1-1 calls and the employees working them. He said he appreciated everybody for being patient with them, that they're doing the best they can, making progress, and he thanked Janet and the Cattlemen's Association for the rodeo.

Chairman Miller stated, "Let me touch on a little bit of our two cents sales tax. This morning while sitting at my desk getting stuff ready, our administrator handed me some checks, I get copies of the checks that we get, whatever we get coming into the office. The two cents sales tax is collected by Avenu and, of course, they give us a breakdown.

Today when you take the five months that have come in and divide that by five and multiply it times twelve, that gives us a projected look at revenue for that two cents sales tax. Last year that two cents sales tax was \$21,000,000 and some change. This year projected is \$22,774,000, continuing to rise. The County Commission gets \$6,000 a month, \$72,000 for the year to work on these roads with. The other monies, some twenty-two million this year projected and climbing goes to our boards of education. And they need the monies, certainly. We're not talking about taking any money away. We just want the citizens of Walker County to understand where your two cents sales tax is going to. We need revenue here to work on these roads. These gentlemen all tell you revenue. They don't have the funding and that's what this is about, ladies and gentlemen, is your county needs funding to certainly do your roads.

Which road in Walker County is the most important? It is the road that you live on, I'll assure you. This morning when I drove up my driveway, which is some sixteen hundred feet from Herman Road, it was washed out. About every two or three months, I take my farm tractor, after buying loads of gravel from Red-Ryder, and I rework my driveway and fill it in and continue to work on it. So, why I'm telling you that is, is that these guys they can get something fixed, but it will wash out, kind of like Mr. Aderholt here. These things are going to continue to happen. These rains for this year are kind of different than we normally have. Regardless, it is still our roads. And again, which road is most important? The one you live on. We get that. So, we are working hard to get every bit of funding we can. You know, we just got a couple of million dollars and they named some roads that they're going to be doing. And we're going to continue to try that every year that we can get our hands on some of those funds.

But we appreciate the rodeo. Ms. Janet, we appreciate what y'all did there at the rodeo, the Cattlemen's Association. I did not get to attend because my wife had had some surgery and I was staying there at home with her, but you know, we appreciate their eagerness to continue those rodeos and – I used to go to rodeos back when I was a kid in Montgomery, Alabama in Garrett Coliseum. That's been a long time ago. But these things we continue to try to make this county better. These folks do. That's what our goal here is. And I appreciate each, and every employee of the County. Those that continue to keep government functioning and we're short-handed all the way around, not just one department. But as we continue this effort, pray for us. Pray for this

Commission. Pray for this County. Kind of like our pastor who led the prayer this morning. Pray for unity. Pray for becoming one to move this County forward. I appreciate him being here this morning. With that said, gentlemen, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

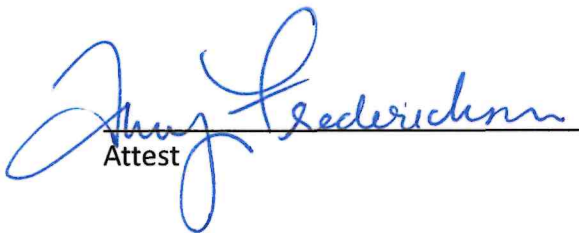
Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:


Chairman


Attest