

September 19, 2022

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 19th day of September 2022, 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: Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Reverend David Miller gave the invocation and County Attorney Richard Fikes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Minutes of the August 15th and 29th 2022 meetings.

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 Robbie Dickerson stated that they are trying to clear out the year and they are reaching out to everyone to begin the new year October 1st.

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "I want to let the Commission know that we have begun the four paving projects, that it just so happens that they were free out of their Birmingham plant and they're going to pave the Pineywoods/Sipse Road and Empire Road out of Birmingham. And once the Jasper plant gets free at Wiregrass Construction they'll move on to Smith Lake Dam Road and Dogtown Road. I'm not absolutely certain about the order of either one of those, but they should be moving ahead in the next four to six weeks."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion on the Airport Grant Application approval.

After explanation by Courtne Tomblin, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Airport Grant Application.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Alabama Youth's Agreement.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input by County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Alabama Youth's Agreement.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Digital Information Contract/Re-Appraisal Department.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input by Andy McSpadden from Re-Appraisal, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Digital Information Contract/Re-Appraisal Department.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the EMA Grant Approval.

After explanation by EMA Director Regina Myers and input by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the EMA grant.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Approval to hire two part-time common laborers for the WCHAC, Kelly McCurry and Freddie Busby.

After explanation by WCHAC Director Kay Farley, input from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the hiring of two part-time common laborers for WCHAC, Kelly McCurry and Freddie Busby.

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 Davis to open discussion of WEX Fleet Card approval and replace current fuel cards.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes stating that it is on the State Bid List and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the xxx Fleet Card and replace current fuel cards.

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 Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Inmate Feeding Resolution.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith, input from County Attorney Richard Fikes and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Inmate Feeding Resolution.

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 Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Inmate Feeding Emergency Funding.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, input from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Inmate Feeding Emergency Funding.

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.

After County Attorney Richard Fikes made known that an Executive Session was needed to discuss possible legal action and that he has prepared a letter and given to the County Administrator stating that what will be discussed meets the criteria for an

executive session, motion was made by Commissioner Davis seconded by Commissioner Burrough to adjourn the Commission Meeting to Executive Session and reconvene afterwards.

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.

(Commission Adjourned to Executive Session and Reconvened)

Chairman Miller called the Commission meeting back to order.

After explanation and recommendation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, that the County purchase the old G-May Building Downtown based on the contract terms that have been proposed and to take necessary legal action to make sure clear title is obtained by the County, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the purchase of the old G-May Building Downtown.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER:

Commissioner Davis stated, Again, I want to thank everybody for their presence this morning, I appreciate you, Nick, and the staff what you're doing to help save the taxpayers dollars, \$200,000 is a lot of money. And the savings actually could range more than that. So, I appreciate y'all and the staff for the good work that y'all are doing to continue to help the county in that situation. We've got paving, like Mike said, on Smith Lake Dam Road waiting on rock from Wiregrass. but to get that Mike's kind of given a timeframe on that. I think it's a little quicker than that, from what I'm getting from Wiregrasses contacts. So, hopefully, we'll get that project finished. It was a two-year project due to the amount of money that was spent and the cost now to pave one mile of road is about \$160,000 a mile. So, the county has eleven hundred miles of roads and a hundred bridges, so do the math on the funding that we need and we talked about that the last work session, the funding that's needed to continue to improve the roads we've got. Some other paving that was done in District One that we were waiting on for a while, we've got Lamon Chapel Loop paved, we've got Whittemore Road Paved, Bird Farm Road has been paved. We're waiting on the contractor to come back because they ran out of rock. And I know gentlemen y'all face this, there's a major issue of rock

shortage throughout the state, so paving is kind of coming to a halt in some areas because of that. They're coming back to get Lamon Chapel Loop and also Bennett Road, so that area over there will have all nice smooth paved roads. The striping crew will be scheduled to come in once those two additional roads have been finished. So, a lot of work, a lot of things going on in the district, a lot of things going on here with the budget and things of that sort, so I know we're trying to finish that up here before October 1st. I know we've got some meetings today to go over some of the various things, so just a lot of positive things going on in the county. And I like to focus on the positive instead of the negative."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I would also like to take the time to thank each of you for coming. I did get to meet the new jail administrator and I look forward to working with you. Welcome to Walker County. On the paving projects like Mike has said, Wiregrass will be coming in on Rebuild Alabama projects, it will be three miles of Dogtown Road which starts at I-22 and comes all the way to Carbon Hill. We have some other small projects that our men are paving. They delivered tar and we will start on them tomorrow, streets in and around the Carbon Hill area. We have Maddox Road. We have Buttercup Road and New Oak Grove Road, that are fixing to be repaired and resurfaced. Other than that, thanks for everybody coming."

Commissioner Borden stated, "I want to thank everyone for being here today. Again, welcome our new jail administrator. We've got McCollum Road here in the near future, we are going to resurface it. I'm having the rock delivered now. I want to say that Brown's Bridge is under construction now. I had some people call me about Brown's Bridge, the first responders mainly. The company is putting up road closed signs on the 69 Highway side because Brown's Bridge makes a loop down and back up to the old Tuscaloosa Road. I was down there the other day talking to the construction foreman and he said to leave the signs in place, this will just be for the first responders, they'll leave the signs to where if they do need to get through there's not going to be any permanent barricades, so everybody, the first responders can make a loop if need be. But that's big news for the Brown Bridge. McCollum Road, like I said we'll work in conjunction with District Two, he's going to help us on that project. And then I've got some other road projects that I'm looking at in the near future."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "I thank everybody for being here today. There's a lot going on in District Four. We don't talk about it a lot, but we're picking up a lot of trash in District Four still. Out of sight out of mind, if you don't see it, you don't really recognize or know of it, but we've got a lot of that going on. We picked up 252 bags in July alone from multiple roads in District Four and I think in August we picked up almost 200 bags of trash, that was from Sipsey Hull Road, Bryan Road, Old Bankhead Road, Sharon Boulevard, Empire and Hill Road, just multiple roads, so if you see a trash truck out there picking up trash, the liter crews, be observant because I don't want anybody hurt out on the side of the road picking up trash. Two road paving projects, Mike you

mentioned that they're coming to pave Pineywoods/Sipse. And are they going to do the smaller projects like County Line Road while they're there?"

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "We're going to try to convince them to do that, yes. They're aware of it."

Commissioner Aderholt, "I just want to correct Chairman Miller's comments at the beginning about beautiful weather this week." He said it was going to be in the upper 90s. He thanked everyone for coming.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say I appreciate everybody for coming. And I appreciate the article about the Airport. This is the gateway to Walker County as far as industrial development goes. We continue to work on the airport. They do a good job. A lot of these things, if you've ever flown in and out, you do realize how good a runway that Walker County has and I appreciate that work. And I appreciate our new jail administrator. He and I met and got to talk a little bit. I believe he's going to do a great job. And we appreciate that. I appreciate the Sheriff taking over this feeding of these prisoners. I know they will appreciate it. Everything that we're working toward for Walker County is for the betterment of Walker County. These guys are working hard. We have just "X" number of dollars to work with because of our revenue stream. At some point for this county to do more and more and more is going to have to some other revenue stream. Just continue to think about that. With that said, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

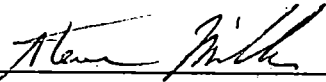
Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows:

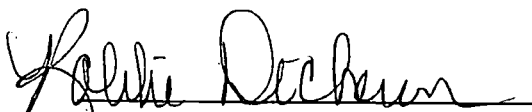
District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest