

November 7, 2022

At a scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their office in the Walker County Courthouse Annex, Jasper, Alabama, at 9:30 a.m. on the 7th day of November 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.

Commissioner Burrough gave the invocation and Commissioner Aderholt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Agenda; Approve the minutes of July 27, 2022, Emergency Meeting and the October 17, 2022 Regular Meeting; Approve the October, 2022 New Vendor List and to Approve the Claims Against the County for October, 2022.

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, "I'd like to say also thank you to Jerry and the Judge for all that they've done to work through all the things that have come up with this election. They are steadfast and strong. That's the best way to put it." She further stated that C-Spire is here and are in this building today and she showed the new telephone set that will be installed. She said they will be at the Sheriff's Office Wednesday and Thursday they will be at Probate and that we are still on schedule to convert on the 15th, that everybody is already on the fiber-optic internet in these buildings. She stated that they are working on their 2021 financials and will schedule for the 2021 audit and that they will be closing out 2022 in a couple of weeks. She said the WEX cards are in production and that she would be in contact when they're received.

EMA Director Regina Myers gave an update on Code Red and stated that after they do the training and put it out to the public it will be live.

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "Regina has taken on this and speaking to the Code Red folks and E911, Tim, they are onboard and he's helping

because he is going to be the one who gives them the database, so that's really good. That will save us a lot of time in getting that up and running." She introduced Tammy Elliott and stated that she will be working with her in the Commission Office and with the Sheriff and Justin.

Tammy Elliott stated that they have applied for the emergency fund for the inmate feeding program, that they have jumped through a few hoops to make that happen, that they are on their third cover letter but that they should be getting about just over twenty thousand dollars to be able to help with the inmate feeding program. She further stated that they got their policy last week for the insurance for the inmate program, so they should be able to start filing for reimbursement for insurance for inmate medical.

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "She's already on top of that because it is retroactive to the first of October. So, we've already got some that we can file for, which is great news. She'll be working on that continuously. And she is correct about some hoops were jumped through because it turns out Walker County is the first one to start from zero. So, they didn't know what to do with us. So, after many conversations and three different letters, I think we've got that situated."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "I wanted to speak about the Justice Center and our request for bids a week or so ago. We did not receive any. We were working through the process with our legal folks to determine how we can negotiate with specific individuals here locally to accomplish certain tasks. We would probably try to act as the general contractor and farm each, you know, plumbing, heating and A.C, flooring, things like that, out to people with those capabilities that we have some confidence in here locally, because we did not receive any bids. And this is something that we feel is allowable, but Richard is going to prove that to us."

County Attorney Richard Fikes stated, "It is allowable under the Code of Alabama, and it is just a matter of making sure we do it correctly. And I've got a letter – I need some information and then I'll send a letter to Josh with the Public Examiners and it should be good to go."

Commissioner Davis stated, "So, on that Mike, you're going to get bids from local on electrical and plumbing – you want to sub-bid it out that way?"

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "We'll negotiate with someone that we choose."

Chairman Miller stated, "And on that note we have got tons of things going on, these other projects are also beginning to ramp up, we're going to need a little help there, and I'm going to request that you help us with that personally, okay, we're going to need some help."

Commissioner Davis stated, "I'll be glad to. One other project, we've kind of talked about getting the courthouse pressure-washed and cleaned up a little bit. I'd like to see us kind of maybe move towards that direction, at least, maybe get some bids on that Mike."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "Okay."

Commissioner Davis stated, "Maybe it will be under fifty, I hope, but –

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "We had a quote that was under fifty a year or so ago, so we should be fine under the Public Works Law to request proposals from some folks and be able to pick someone if, in fact, we had confidence in their ability, and it was under fifty thousand dollars."

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open Discussion of approval to liquidate Property to Shekinah Church.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short and after he made the statement that he believed it was in the County's best interest, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Liquidation of Property to Shekinah Church.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Simple Grants/Alagrants Agreement Approval.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes, and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Burrough and Borden to table the motion till the next meeting.

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 Solid Waste/Landfill Holiday Schedule Approval.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and after he made known to the Commissioners that they have the schedule in front of them, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Solid Waste/Landfill Holiday Schedule.

With a brief 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 Approval of Taylor Generator Maintenance Agreement for the Jail.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and after he made known to the

Commissioners that they have the information in front of them, and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to table this till the December meeting.

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 the Discussion and Approval of the Allocation of the Insurance Funds regarding SW Truck.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Allocation of the Insurance Funds regarding Solid Waste Truck and keeping the salvage.

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 the Kitchen Manager job description.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input by Sheriff Nick Smith and Chairman Miller, and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Kitchen Manger job description.

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 for Approval to post and request names at the appropriate time, for two Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technicians for Commission Office.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Two Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technicians for Commission 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the Correction for hiring of Tammy Elliott as PT Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technician effective October 19, 2022.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough to approve both item 7, Correction for hiring of Tammy Elliott as PT Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technician effective October 19, 2022; and 8, Correction for hiring of Barbara Higgins as PT Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technician effective October 19, 2022, in the same motion since they are the same description, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Aderholt.

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 Approval to Hire 4 Full-Time Common Laborers for the Solid Waste Department.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Hiring of 4 Full-Time Common Laborers for the Solid Waste Department.

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 Davis stated, "I would like to make a motion to add the truck purchase finance for the Sheriff's Department to the agenda. Nick explained that we had approved that awhile back, I guess for a van, and the van due to the supply chain, never came in. So, that payment will come from the Sheriff's discretionary funding, so this is a truck, I understand, that they're transferring to do the food operation at the jail. So, I make a motion that we add that to the agenda for approval."

Chairman Miller stated, "Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Davis to add to the agenda the truck for the Sheriff and paying out of his discretionary funds. Do I have a second?" The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrough.

With no further 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.

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Chairman, I have got another item that I need to add to the agenda. I just remembered it while we were going through that item. Can

we add them both, as part of my Commissioner Discussion? Empire, the voting location. We supplied them – we borrowed some air conditioners for them during the primary to keep the place cool. They have a heating and cooling issue there.”

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to add to the agenda the expense of no more than \$300 for copper pipe replacement at the voting center in Empire.

With no further 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion about the truck funding.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith and input by Commissioner Davis, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve for the Sheriff to purchase and pay for the truck out of his discretionary fund.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Borden and Davis (Simultaneously) to open discussion of the Empire voting center \$300 maximum for copper pipe replacement.

After explanation by Commissioner Aderholt and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the \$300 maximum for copper pipe replacement at the Empire voting center.

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.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Mill Creek pipe is supposed to be delivered today and that they are looking forward to getting that project completed. He said he appreciated the patience of the Curry Community, that it is a major project and a major budget killer, costing around \$225,000, but that it must be fixed. He said it's a major cut through road with lots of traffic and he hopes that project will start soon. He further stated that Wiregrass could very well come in this week and start paving Smith Lake Dam Road, the remaining five and a half miles. He gave an update on the Curry shelter. He said that it has been very frustrating at the pace that project has been moving. He said they will have a meeting today and look at some ways to try to speed that up, that the Curry Community has been extremely patient with them on that project also. He made mention of the Toy Drive coming up and asked that anyone who could do so, to help on that. He acknowledged Commissioner Aderholt for his ten-year anniversary, for his

service to the County as Commissioner in District Four. He asked that we remember the Veterans on Veteran's Day coming up this Friday for the sacrifice they and their families have made for us. He wished everyone a Blessed and Prosperous Thanksgiving and that we spend time with our families.

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I'd like to thank each person here that comes. It's always good when you've got a room full of people so we can interact and help people get the job done in the county." He mentioned that Eldridge also has a toy drive coming up if anyone wants to help with that and that it also is a very big deal. He said that tomorrow is election day, that they did have a polling change in District Two, West Side Baptist is no longer used, that it is now at the Jasper Housing Authority Gym. He said he just wanted to let the public know that. He said his road projects are on the same time line as Keith's, that they're waiting on Wiregrass to get to the projects. He thanked everyone and wished them a good Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Borden stated, "I'd like to thank everyone for coming. I do want to salute all of our Veterans. This past month we did get McCollum Road retarred and graveled. So far it seems to be holding up pretty good. I have other projects in the works. I just want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and just have a safe holiday."

Commissioner Aderholt thanked everyone for being here. He said the Pineywoods/Sipsey Road is completed, that they're waiting on the striping, that that was a major project in District Four. He said he had some smaller roads that are yet to be done. He stated, "A special thanks to Walker County Industrial Development Authority for their support and everything that they're doing in east Walker County." He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to remember our neighbor and said he'll see us back in December.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would just like to thank everyone for attending. Just a little bit of reminders, our Justice Center, Mr. Adair is here this morning, we will be in the process of working through our legal here to get things moving. And, again, I've asked Mr. Davis if he'll help us on this as we've got so much going on and this will be something that will be good that we can work on. Then our courthouse, on our doors, Mr. Short and I talked with the architect, and he has got everything ready to basically put the doors and the renovation on the bathrooms and things at the courthouse out for bids, so that should be coming out the next week or so, on our grant that we had. And then also our morgue, county morgue, on the grant, Mr. Short and I talked with the architect again, Mr. Short signed off on the blueprints and all. And that, again, will be coming out for bid in the next few days. And I know all these gentlemen are definitely working on roads, roads, roads, and they're doing a good job. I want to commend them

for that. I, too, would just like to say thank you for everyone here. I know Mr. Tucker, the Probate Judge, has plenty to do on his plate for the next election, this cycle. So, we thank you for that. And I have a letter from the Development Authority that I would like to read to the Walker County Commission.

‘On behalf of the Walker County Development Authority, our staff and Board of Directors, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for your support. The continued financial commitment from the Walker County Commission helps ensure the Development Authority will be able to effectively promote Walker County, creating new opportunities for growth and development.

Years of hard work have positioned Walker County as a go to option for projects considering locating in the State. Economic Development within Alabama is built on product development and driven by relationships. Years of consistency and stability within the Development Authority have allowed us to develop key relationships at the State and Regional level that are second to none.

The Authority is currently marketing multiple sites and buildings across Walker County, Carbon Hill in the west to Cordova and Dora in the east. In addition to these existing private properties, the Authority is also working several major landowners to secure or purchase significant county sites that could eventually provide over a thousand acres of industrial land, for future economic development growth.

While existing privately owned sites are marketable, the key to our future success will be determined by our ability to secure and prepare publicly owned sites. We truly appreciate your support and look forward to working with the Commission to help Walker County realize a bright future it deserves.’

Every member of the board has signed and we do appreciate y’all and appreciate you being here. And with that, we would like to thank everyone for being here and have a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe Thanksgiving. With that, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.”

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough 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 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