

**December 5, 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of December 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.

Mr. Shawn Morgan gave the invocation and Mr. Ralph Williams 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; to Approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2022 meeting; to Approve the November, 2022 New Vendor List and to Approve the Claims against the County for November, 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 that the conversion from AT&T to C-Spire was done on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, that she knows of three issues outstanding, one being that the DA's Office got ported from AT&T and did not need to be. She stated, "Other than that everything went really well. They have come back whenever we've needed them to, to help us through that transition. Our WEX cards are here. We're finalizing who gets what number and we'll get them out this week. We'll be in touch with you on that. The bonus has been approved. We're waiting in payroll line to have that done. So it will be around the 9<sup>th</sup>, so sometime later this week. Of course, this will be our last scheduled meeting as of now for the year. Also, thanks to many people who had their hands involved in it, we now have the feeding of the inmates funded. So that's a great thing. That was a task for all of us. Also, I just want to remind y'all that I'll be out starting the 21<sup>st</sup> probably till the first of the year, but I'll be available. If you need me, call me. Just not on the 21<sup>st</sup>. I'm having surgery, so I will be out that day."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "I want to let the Commission know that we are progressing some on the contract projects. Patching on the Smith Lake Dam Road has begun. I don't know how much work they'll be able to get done with the wet weather, but they will continue that until finished. And the project on Mill Creek Road, I know, is progressing really well. The rain may have set us behind just a little bit, but I feel certain that Gillespie will complete that as soon as possible."

Commissioner Davis stated, "The Mill Creek Road they've already put the seed straw out so it's coming together. I think there's a little bit more they've got to do, but they should be getting that road, Tim, opened back up here, I'd say in the next couple of days. Like Mike said with the weather permitting." He said they have started on the Smith Lake Dam Road. He commended the Engineering Department who oversaw those projects and he let Tim with 911 know that they were getting the Mill Creek Road opened back up.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Taylor Generator Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that they have copies in their packet from the last meeting, input by Chairman Miller, Chief Jailer Justin White and Sheriff Nick Smith and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Taylor Generator contract after Mr. Justin White informs the Commission which one is needed and to authorize Chairman Miller to sign off on whichever one is selected.

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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the polling location change for Nauvoo.

After explanation by Honorable Probate Judge Lee Tucker, input by Mayor of Nauvoo and County Attorney Eddie Jackson, and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Polling Location change for Nauvoo.

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 Bid Approval/truck for the Sheriff's Department.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Four-Wheel Drive, \$47,463.50 bid from Bill Penny Dodge.

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 Commissioners Davis and Burrough (simultaneously) to open discussion of Discussion/Approval for Grant Writer, Jessica Taylor.

After explanation by Chairman Miller that the scheduled speaker is ill and cannot be here, but they have Ms. Taylor available for a zoom call, and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Grant Writer, Jessica Taylor, the basic \$8,500 for the study and after her presentation to proceed further.

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 Approval to pay Deputy Coroner for temporary duty as Coroner.

After explanation by Robbie Dickerson and input from Coroner Joey Vick and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to pay Deputy Coroner for temporary duty as Coroner.

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 Discussion and Budget Approval for the Justice Center.

After a detailed explanation by Commissioner Davis, input by County Engineer Mike Short and Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the \$500,000 budget for the Justice Center.

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 Commissioners Burrough and Borden (simultaneously) to open discussion of the Discussion and Approval to name the Justice Center as the WC Justice Center Courthouse Annex #3.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the naming the Justice Center as the Walker County Justice Center Courthouse Annex #3.

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 Aderholt to open discussion to post for Four Full-time Solid Waste Driver/Operators.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to Post for Four Full-time Solid Waste Driver/Operators.

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 the Approval to hire Billie Keeton and Kim Whitehead as Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technicians in the Commission Office off the Register.

After comment from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the hiring of Billie Keeton and Kim Whitehead as Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technicians in the Commission Office off the Register.

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 for discussion the Approval for District Two to purchase a Caterpillar Excavator 309.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, input by County Engineer Mike Short, and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve for District Two to purchase a Caterpillar Excavator 309.

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 Approve to hire Pat Hall in the Solid Waste Office as PT Administrative Assistant-Solid Waste.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input from Solid Waste Director John Dunagan and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the hiring of Pat Hall as PT Administrative Assistant-Solid Waste.

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 Approve the hiring of Pam Bailey as FT Common Laborer-120 emergency Hire-Solid Waste.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve hiring Pam Bailey as FT Common Laborer -120 Emergency Hire – Solid Waste.

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 Borden to open discussion for Number 12, Approval to liquidate 2003 Jeep Liberty from WCHAC and Number 13 Approval to liquidate 2002 Chevy Blazer from EMA together.

After Chairman Miller asking Kay from the Animal Shelter and Regina from EMA about the vehicles and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the liquidation of the 2003 Jeep Liberty from WCHAC and the 2002 Chevy Blazer from EMA, to be taken to the Solid Waste, to be sold through gov.deals.

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 the Approval to hire Debra (Deb) Higgins as PT Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technician to replace Pat Hall in the Commission Office.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the hiring of Debra (Deb) Higgins as PT Administrative Secretary/Accounts Payable Technician to replace Pat Hall in the 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 Aderholt for Approval to hire Shannon Whitehead as Maintenance Supervisor-Courthouse.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioners Aderholt and Burrough (simultaneously) to approve the hiring of Shannon Whitehead as Maintenance Supervisor-Courthouse.

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 for Approval to hire Billy Millwood as PT Driver/Operator-Solid Waste.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioners Borden and Davis (simultaneously) to approve the hiring of Billy Millwood as PT Driver/Operator Solid Waste.

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 Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Bill regarding Voting Centers.

After explanation by Honorable Probate Judge Lee Tucker, input by Commissioner Aderholt and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Bill regarding Voting Centers.

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 Tri-County Agency for Intellectual Disabilities Board Appointment.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stating that they received a letter from the Board asking to replace Angie Gossett with Dr. Bridget Brunner, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Tri-County Agency for Intellectual Disabilities Board Appointment.

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:**

Chairman Miller stated that he had one thing he needed for the Commissioners to consider and that was adding to the agenda, for the Chairman to be able to sign an affidavit for the Solid Waste truck that was damaged that they are going to keep so they can do the salvage title.

Commissioner Davis stated, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I make a motion that we add that to the Agenda as Number 19."

Chairman Miller stated, "I have a motion to add to the agenda Number 19 for the Chairman to be able to sign the power of attorney for this title for Solid Waste. 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion to give authority to Chairman Miller to sign the title for the Solid Waste truck that was damaged.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input by County Attorney Eddie Jackson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to give Chairman Miller the authority to sign the title for the Solid Waste truck that was damaged.

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, "We mentioned Mill Creek Road and Smith Lake Dam projects earlier, but they're proceeding, one is finishing up and one is getting started." He mentioned that we keep the toy drive in mind, that we keep Robbie in our prayers as her surgery is coming up. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He asked that we continue to pray for the Commission and their families as they continue to do what's best for the county. He stated, "There are a lot of good positive things going on. I always try to focus on all the positive things, there are always some negative things, but there are a ton of positive going on in the county. It's a great, great place to live and work and raise our families. That's all I've got Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Miller stated, "Thank you, Mr. Davis. Also, it's been brought to my attention, again, too, I should have said this a minute ago. Ms. Kay wants to hire a part-time -- so we'd like to maybe consider adding that to the agenda, as well. At this time, Mr. Burrough go ahead."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I'd like to make a motion that we add Number 20, to hire part-time help for Ms. Kay at the WCHAC."

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to add hiring a PT Common Laborer/WCHAC 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion, close and vote for approval to hire a PT Common Laborer/WCHAC.

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 stated, "I would like to start off saying we've got the Mayor of Nauvoo here today. And he's worked well with me and my district and I just want to recognize him being here at the meeting. I think he's interested in coming and being involved and trying to help. I can address one thing in his district he's asked us to do, Mike. And we did get – they've got an old school building up there that is – it was the Board of Education, now it's their property that they own. And it's a liability for the town and he's been asking us for some time to request that we try to do something with that building. And we have reached out. Mike started reaching out like last – when we were at the thing with the Governor the other day. And Wayne has been doing some talking, too. He's got some information to give back on trying to help remove that building being an eyesore and being dangerous. So, we are working on it and I just want to let that publicly be known."

He stated that he is second in line behind Keith on road projects. He said it was dragging a little bit, that what they thought would be done by now may drag on into the end of the month or next year. He said they're on the schedule and it should happen as soon as the weather permits.

He further stated, "It being our last meeting before Christmas, I want to take time to thank each of y'all. Most of y'all in the audience work with us or work for the county and I certainly appreciate all the work you do. I know whenever I need you, I call on you and you're there and you help me. And I intend to do the same for you, as long as I hold this position. I want y'all to have a Merry Christmas. I hope everybody stays healthy all through the holiday season."

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just want to thank everyone for being here. I also want to put a thanks out to our constables and all our volunteer firefighters. This past week or so when the storms came through the southern part of the county, I was out with some of the crews. A lot of them I did not make it to them, I would go by later on, after I would get the 911 call, and the community fire department had already come by and cut the trees out of the road. And we went back the next day or so and started cleaning up debris. Also, in District Three we have a lot of citizens that pitch in. I don't know their names, but those people are to be commended. I always want them to be safe. A lot of times, they say in the southern part of the county, we're so far out there it's easier for them to do it, by the time we get there they can have it cleaned up. Also, our 911, you don't realize until you're out in these storms at the number of calls that these dispatchers handle, plus the normal emergency calls that they would be getting. They do an excellent job with keeping me updated. Like I said, when they probably had two or three hundred calls on downed trees county-wide. Their workload picks up. They're to be commended also. Again, our county crews that get out and work in these storms, I want to thank those guys. Again, just want everybody to have a Merry Christmas, be safe through the holidays and that's all I have."

Commissioner Aderholt thanked everybody for being here. He stated, "Again, like the other commissioners up here, you may have witnessed a record today. I don't know if we ever cleared twenty items in little over an hour."

"Also, during the storms the other night, Alabama Power is going through some changes and we've always had a community representative that has worked with us and we've always had direct access to them. I believe Britain was the last guy and he's moved on to a new career now. It took me doing some calling, but we had a situation in District Four where I had a tree down on some power lines that was blocking in some residents on a road, they couldn't get out. So, I automatically go to trying to dial those numbers that you have when something happens. The things you can't control like Alabama Power, we've just been missing representation, but they do have somebody and her name is Mitsy Jones. She's currently in Auburn, who comes back and forth right now, but she's in transit of getting ready to move up here. She sent me all of her contact info this morning, and we'll be able to contact her in the future should we need something from Alabama Power."

"Again, Christmas season, Merry Christmas, God Bless everybody. I hope you enjoy the holiday season with your family. And don't forget to look out for your neighbors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Miller stated, "Thank you, Mr. Aderholt. I, too, would like to say thanks to all of the employees of this county. We have a lot of employees here. It takes everyone to make this thing continue to go. There's a lot of different engines that drive this county and they all – we try to keep everything running as smoothly as possible. I'd like to simply thank the people -- citizens of Walker County for caring about this Commission and coming to these meetings. It is Christmastime and, of course, the reason is Christ. Without Christ we just don't really have anything in this whole country. I'd like to thank the Commissioners here for – as Mr. Aderholt said, moving things along and helping to facilitate this easy working of the county. I'd like to say, also, I talked with – we've been working and looking at pay scales, different pays, different things and, of course, county funding is one of the main things that's going to drive this and there's going to be a lot of discussion in the future. I have spoken – Mr. Burrough and I have talked a lot about pay scales and working with different folks, especially the Sheriff's Department and talked about the Condrey Group that does a study for Jasper. I did finally this morning get a phone call back from Mr. Condrey himself and there is an option to get them to do a study for the county. It is a little expensive, it would be something that maybe I think there's some grants out there for us to do studies that I'm going to start looking at, along with this new grant writer. Ms. Robbie and I talked a little bit about Cawaco. I don't have a clue, but we're going to work on some of those. So this Commission is going to continue to work for the citizens of Walker County. Road paving, everyone of these guys up here are working really hard to get their roads up to par with the funds that they have. And they're doing a great job.

With that said, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may God Bless your families and your folks that live around you. At this time, I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

**ADJOURN:**

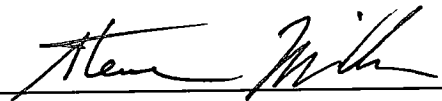
Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

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:

  
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Chairman

  
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Attest