

February 5, 2024

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 5th day of February 2024, 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, Barbara Higgins called the roll and Commissioners present were Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough and Jim Borden. Chairman Miller inquired of County Attorney Richard Fikes if they have a quorum and he responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Davis gave the invocation and County Engineer Glenn Peek led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023, the Special Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023, the Emergency Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2023, the Emergency Meeting Minutes of January 10 and January 12, 2024; to Approve the New Vendor List, and to Approve the Claims Against the County for December 2023.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Engineer Glenn Peek gave an update on Smith Chapel Bridge. He stated that some paving jobs have started back up on County Line Road and that they are currently working on Duncan Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes and input by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden that the MOA between Walker County, Freshwater Land Trust and Vulcan Trail Foundation, Inc be tabled until the next meeting as it pertained to District Four and Commissioner Aderholt was not present.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 New Hangar Plan and Lease at Airport.

After explanation by Commissioner Davis, input by Keith Duncan, County Engineer Glenn Peek, and County Attorney Richard Fikes, and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the New Hangar Plan and Lease Amount of \$400 per month and \$40 per month for each additional aircraft.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

A further motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Hangar Lease Application Requests by Brett Thompson and Red Sky Investments.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

A further motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Hangar Lease Application Request by Joseph Carter Realty.

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

With two Ayes and one abstention, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to hire Jennifer Kilpatrick and Reginal Moore as Driver/Operator in Solid Waste Department.

After explanation by Acting Director James Dockins, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve Jennifer Kilpatrick and Reginal Moore as Driver/Operator in Solid Waste Department.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One; Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 805 – Traffic Striping.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Award Bid No. 805 – Traffic Striping to the lowest bidder, Ozark Striping.

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

Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval of Bid No. 807 – Bituminous Surface Treatment.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to award Bid No. 807 – Bituminous Surface Treatment to Charles Watts.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 808 – Bituminous Plant Mix.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Award Bid No. 808 – Bituminous Plant Mix Resolution to the lowest bidder Wiregrass Construction Company.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 811 – Slag & Stone.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to table Bid No. 811 until the next meeting.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion of Bid Nos. 806, 809 & 810.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek that they did not receive any bids and his recommendation that they rebid these, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to table and rebid Nos. 806 – Emulsified Asphalt - Tack, 809 - Corrugated Metal Pipe & 810 – HPDE Double-walled Plastic Pipe.

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

Two: Aye; District Three: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 812 – Old Tuscaloosa Road WCP 64-02-24.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Award Bid No. 812 – Old Tuscaloosa Road WCP 64-02-24 to Central Alabama Paving.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion and Approval to hire Wiginton Bridge Inspection Services for one year with possibility of contract extension.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to hire Wiginton Bridge Inspection Services for one year with the possibility of contract extension.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval of Renewal Agreements with Avenu Insights.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Avenu Insights Renewal Agreements, pending the approval of County Attorney Richard Fikes.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval to post in-service/transfer for Road and Bridge Supervisor II in the Road and Bridge Department and approve Jeffery Gilbert for that position.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, input by Commissioner Davis,

motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to post in-service/transfer for Road and Bridge Supervisor II in the Road and Bridge Department and approve Jeffery Gilbert for that position.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to hire Cody McNeal and Gregory Allen Hanson as Driver/Operators for Solid Waste.

After explanation by Acting Solid Waste Director James Dockins, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve to hire Cody McNeal and Gregory Allen Hanson as Driver/Operators for Solid Waste.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval to Reappoint Hezekiah Walker, Jr. to the Housing Authority.

After explanation by Chairman Miller that they had received a letter from the Housing Authority for the reappointment, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Reappoint Hezekiah Walker, Jr. to the Housing Authority.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval to Renew Taylor Generator Contract for the jail.

After explanation by Jail Administrator Justin White, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the renewal of the Taylor Generator Contract.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After Sheriff Nick Smith made known to the Commission that Items 13 and 14 relate to the same issues, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded

by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Liquidation of Sheriff Vehicles and Purchase of Sheriff Vehicles from the Sheriff's Discretionary Funds.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve to Liquid the Sheriff's 22 vehicles (VINs provided) and give the Sheriff the approval to buy the new vehicles out of his discretionary funds and whatever monies received from the sale of the 22 vehicles to go back to the Sheriff's Department to buy additional vehicles.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval of Budget Amendment Requests from Sheriff's Office (Solution Software Inc \$27,579 & State Inmate Per Diem \$34,832).

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith and much discussion and the Sheriff making known to the Commission that he is asking for a budget amendment for an additional amount of \$2,346.30, Overtime Grant and after a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Budget Amendments of \$27,579 – Solution Software Inc, \$34,832 – State Inmate Per Diem and \$2,346.30 - Overtime.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval to renew insurance through Byars Insurance Agency on automobiles.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the renewal of insurance through Byars Insurance Agency.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 for a work session on March 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. to include discussion of Credit Card for the Sheriff and Purchase of Monitoring System for the jail.

After an informative presentation by Mr. Greg Bartlett from Combined Public Communications who is in partnership with Reassurance Solutions, input by County

Attorney Richard Fikes and Sheriff Nick Smith and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis that a work session be held on March 14, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. to include discussion of a Credit Card for the Sheriff and that the Purchase of the Monitoring System for the Jail be approved today, pending County Attorney Richard Fikes' approval that it can be bought without a bid and it can be purchased with the Opioid funds.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval of Quote for painting the Circuit Clerk's Office.

After explanation by Circuit Clerk Susie Odom, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the quote of \$16,000 and that the purchase of the paint and labor be included for that project. Mrs. Odom commended Shannon Whitehead on his workmanship and the amazing job he has done for the County and stated that he has saved much money for the County.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Approval of Bid No. 735 – Extending the previous Viking Bid.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Bid No. 735 – Extending the previous Viking Bid.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Davis thanked everybody for their patience this morning. He stated, "I just want to thank the County Employees for their hard work during that week, it seemed like, that we were shut down. The District One crew was out at 2 o'clock in the morning in the ice storm to get a tree up on Country Club Road and a couple of

other roads. So again, thank all the county employees for what they do. That's probably one of the worst ice storms in the twelve years I've been County Commissioner that I've witnessed here. The first time we've had roads deemed impassable for that long. I appreciate the patience of the citizens too. My phone was, you know, ringing off the hook, 'when are you going to open back up the road'. We deem them impassable, not closed, for legal reasons. That way emergency personnel can travel and do the things that they need to do and our crews can travel them and do the things that they need to do. From time to time there are road closures. We had to close the Smith Lake Dam Road because we had seven cars piled up on a hill there. So, be patient with us during these storms. We want the weather to co-operate too. We are in Alabama, we are in Walker County, so we unfortunately are stuck with weather events far too long. I thank everybody's hard work on that. Solid Waste thank y'all. I know that it put y'all behind, weeks and doubling up on routes and things. And Sheriff Department the same thing. I don't know how many calls you received on that, but it didn't go unnoticed or unappreciated the hard work that y'all did also."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I want to thank each of y'all for being here and thank you guys for coming for your presentation. I also want to thank all of our employees that do the work. I know in every department that I go and see, we've got great employees in every department and we certainly appreciate each of you that does the job that you do. Just a little note out to District Two, Glenn we just -- I know the striping crews are there on Saragossa on Thursday? It should be near about completed. I haven't checked the reflectors to make sure that they're there yet, but Saragossa Road and Self Road are at completion. Excited about the bridge. That's a 1.7 million dollar bridge that has been, you know -- I know, Al asked me a question about it and I gave him some updates about it not too long ago. And I think each person that sits on this Commission was supporting that project. We couldn't do that project if it wasn't for all of us being for that project. Chairman, I appreciate your help on things. Those are things that I'm excited about that has gotten done. I know that we're getting ready to clean areas on the sides of roads, getting ready for road projects that's coming up in 2024.

We have several like Rufus Tubbs Road, Beech Road, Atkins -- Scott Cemetery is on our Rebuild Alabama project. Glenn is that correct?

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, "I believe so, yes, sir."

Commissioner Burrough continued, "And then also finishing off Redmill-Saragossa Road. Those are some things I'm excited about in District Two. And like I said, I appreciate everybody that works for the county. If there is anything I can do to certainly help you, please ask. Ryan, Sheriff, I'll be available after the meeting if you guys will wait five minutes and let's sort of set up something for a team, if the other commissioners are okay with that, I'd like to set up that particular team and we can sit down and try to look at some other areas for the Opioid. Outside of that, I pass it down to Jim."

Commissioner Borden stated, "As usual they say everything that you want you to say, other than again, I value my county employees, I value all the county employees. Back during the ice – I think they get overlooked a lot of times, but our first responders. In District Three we have a lot of hills and bad roads. All the fire departments are down there above the normal call of duty. They were assisting people on state highways, county roads. So, a special shoutout goes to our first responders and our volunteer fire departments. They pretty much covered everything. Again, I just thank everyone for being here. Have a safe day.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, want to say thank you for attending our meeting. I appreciate the folks being here for our monitoring system. We appreciate y'all. We understand that this is a good thing and it's a great thing to monitor inmates. We appreciate that. The bridges that we've got finishing up, Brown's Bridge pretty much finished and Smith Chapel and these road, paving projects with the ARPA funding and things in government don't work as fast as they do in individual businesses. And, of course, I had to learn that when I came here. So as these things progress, this County is moving forward. This County is growing. And it's growing in the industrial development end. It's growing in road projects. It's growing in buildings. It's growing in employees for the County. And this county has a potential to really grow in the next few years if we continue the path that we've got going. And the airport is growing. So, look at your county folks, it is growing. It is changing. It is for the better. I thank each, and every one of you. And with that, I'll 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.

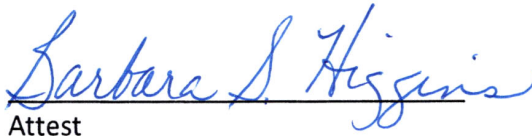
With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest