

**February 21, 2023**

At a scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their offices in the Walker Courthouse Annex, Jasper, AL at 9:30 a.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2023, Chairman Miller gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

After Chairman Miller gave the invitation for public comment from citizens and elected officials, County Administrator Robbie Dickerson called the roll and Commissioners present were Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Mr. Al Blanton gave the Invocation and County Engineer Mike Short led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

**CONSENT OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Minute Meetings of February 6, 2023.

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 Engineer Mike Short stated, "I wanted to update the Commission on the two bridges that we have scheduled for construction. Brown's Bridge is approximately fifty percent complete, the girders are set, they're ready to start pouring the deck. And then Smith's Chapel Bridge we're in the process of getting ALDOT our match portion of that contract and hopefully we will be starting in the next couple of months breaking grounds on that."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Boldo Water Appointment of Mr. Greg Gilmore.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that the

Commission had received a letter requesting the reappointment of Mr. Greg Gilmore, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Reappointment of Mr. Greg Gilmore.

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 Davis to open discussion to reappoint Mr. Jonathan Appling and Mr. Victor South to the 9-1-1 Board.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that the Commission had received a letter from the 9-1-1 Board of Directors requesting their reappointments, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to close discussion and approve the reappointments.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of the approval to purchase a John Deere Excavator for Road and Bridge.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and approve the purchase of a John Deere Excavator for Road and Bridge.

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 reappointment of Mr. Steve Pruett to the Curry Water Authority.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that the Commission had received a letter requesting the reappointment of Mr. Steve Pruett to the Curry Water Authority, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioners Aderholt and Burrough (simultaneously) to approve the reappointment of Mr. Steve Pruett and asked that the reappointment letter be emailed to the Curry Water Authority today.

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 Commissioners Burrough and Borden (simultaneously) and seconded by Commissioners Burrough & Borden (simultaneously) for the posting of two Driver/Operators for Solid Waste.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the posting to two Driver/Operators for 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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Bid Approval for Striping for Tutwiler Road, Goodsprings Road and Prospect Road.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short and upon his recommendation, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to award the Bid to Ozark Striping for Striping of Tutwiler Road, Goodsprings Road and Prospect Road.

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.

After County Attorney Richard Fikes made known that the topic to be discussed in executive session will be ongoing litigation and/or updates on ongoing or pending litigation, which would meet the criteria for an executive session, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden that the Commission retire to executive session and reconvene.

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 adjourns to executive session)  
(Commission reconvenes)

Chairman Miller called the Commission back to order.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Burrough stated, "One thing I would like to do, I would like to Amend the Agenda to include I don't know if it's posting or just approving this Solid Waste position for Mr. Hammond —"

Solid Waste Director John Dunagan stated, "Sharon said y'all could approve the job, once the posting comes down to cut out the next step. That's what she told me earlier. Since he's already working for us.

Commissioner Burrough continued, "Okay. This is to speed the process up on somebody that – Help me John."

Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, "Sharon said since he's already working as the emergency hire and he is one of the three names, we can go ahead and approve the job in this meeting."

Commissioner Burrough continued, "I make a motion we approve Mr. Hammond for the position from the emergency hire to a regular job."

Chairman Miller stated, "I have a motion by Mr. Burrough to add to the Agenda and Mr. Hammond to be hired on as full-time driver from his part-time position."

Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to Amend the Agenda to add the posting of a full-time Driver/Operator job for Solid Waste.

With no further discussion, the vote taken was 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 hire Mr. Hammond as full-time Driver/Operator for the Solid Waste Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough to put Mr. Hammond into a fulltime position from the part-time position.

Commissioner Davis stated, "Point of order, Amend that motion pending Civil Service Board approval on the start of the payday, add that to the motion if that's all right gentlemen."

Chairman Miller stated, "All right. I have a motion to approve Mr. Hammond to full-time after the approval of the Civil Service Board, correct, Mr. Davis?

Commissioner Davis, "Yes."

Chairman Miller stated, "Okay. Do I have a second?

Commissioner Davis stated, "I'll second that motion."

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 Burrough stated, "I'd just like to thank each person for coming. You know, continue to pray for our county. I'm excited, Mike, getting the bridges rolling." He said he hoped the striping projects will be completed within the next month. He said Dogtown Road is right in the middle of being repaved and that the folks in District Two are excited down there.

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just thank everyone for being here today. As Mr. Burrough said, we need to be praying for our county and we need to be praying for our country. Again, the paving for the Tutwiler/Goodsprings Road that's been several weeks now in getting this bid in. I've had people asking back in the fall about paving the road." He stated some of these roads haven't been striped in twenty plus years and some may not have been striped since they were asphalted the first time. He stated, "Also, a lady in my district her younger daughter, I was not aware of this till the other day, and she sent me a letter and I was going to read this for the record. She had asked that I do this. She sent this letter as a request to have the Walker County Courthouse illuminated at night in Blue and Green in recognition of Eating Disorders Awareness Week – February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>. (Commissioner Borden shared her letter by reading it out loud)

He further stated, "Again, just pray for people. We have all kinds of illnesses and mental illness in our communities. I just encourage everybody to – if you know someone in need, reach out to help. And again, just continue to pray for this country."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "I'd just like to thank everybody for being here today. And I'd like to remind everybody to pray for our county and pray for our country. And what I was reading this morning, I thought I'd just read it right here today, Psalms 37:3: Trust in the Lord and do good."

Chairman Miller stated, "All right. I, too, would like to thank everybody for coming. We appreciate you all. And again, just pray for our county, our state and our country. And with that, I'm going to entertain a motion to adjourn."

**ADJOURN:**


Motion was made by Commissioner Davis 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 Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:

  
Chairman

  
Attest