

**March 3, 2025**

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 3rd day of March 2025, 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, County Administrator Amy Frederickson called the roll and Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden, and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Burrough gave the invocation and Commissioner Borden led the pledge of allegiance.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:**

A presentation on Electronic Cigarettes was given by Ms. Amy Tubbs, Program Coordinator for CATCH My Breath with assistance of Northwest Alabama Mental Health Department.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 3, 2025, Emergency Meeting of February 18, 2025 and Emergency Meeting of February 20, 2025, New Vendors list for January & February, 2025 and Claims Against the County for February, 2025.

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 Amy Frederickson stated, "Good morning everyone. This past week we were fortunate to meet with website host for some training and I just wanted to report that our website is now updated with minutes – it will be updated with today as of the end of the day, but up to today's approved meeting minutes."

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, "Last week we had our first meeting for the SS4A Grant money that we're spending to improve the safety for all communities. We also are working on a Logging Efficiency Grant for possibly replacing a small bridge which is up to four hundred thousand dollars. Just to update you on Gibson Hill Road, that bridge has been repaired, but we're waiting for them to break the forms off of it and do an

inspection on it. So, we should be opening that bridge back up this week. That's all I have."

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems ("ENDS") Inside Walker County Facilities.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input from Commissioner Aderholt and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to table this motion until a financial statement on the Sheriff's Discretionary Fund is received from Sheriff Nick Smith.

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 tabled.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Budget Amendment Request to Credit the Sheriff's Expenditure Budget (001-52100-550) by \$16,181.00 to Reflect GovDeals Auction Proceeds from January and February, 2025 Sales.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden, to approve the Budget Amendment Request to Credit the Sheriff's Expenditure Budget (001-52100-550) by \$16,181.00 to Reflect GovDeals Auction Proceeds from January and February 2025 Sales.

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.

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Retroactive Reappointment of Mr. Greg Zachary to the Housing Authority of Walker County Board of Directors. Mr. Zachary's appointment will begin February 3, 2025 and will expire on February 2, 2030.

With no discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Retroactive Reappointment of Mr. Greg Zachary to the Housing Authority of Walker County Board of Directors. Mr. Zachary's appointment will begin February 3, 2025 and will expire on February 2, 2030.

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.

(3) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Appoint Ms. Brenda Doss to the TriCounty AID Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Appointment of Ms. Brenda Doss to the TriCounty AID Board.

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.

(4) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Appoint Mr. Bryan Sparks to the Townley Water Authority.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Appointment of Mr. Bryan Sparks to the Townley Water Authority Board of Directors in the Seat Vacated by Mr. Patton.

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.

(5) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Proposed Amendment to Building Maintenance Coordinator (Jail/4) and Building Maintenance Supervisor (BM?1) Job Descriptions. Effective Upon Approval by Both the Commission and the Walker County Civil Service Board.

After explanation by County Administrator Amy Frederickson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve the Proposed Amendment to Building Maintenance Coordinator (Jail/4) and Building Maintenance Supervisor (BM/1) Job Descriptions, Effective Upon Approval by Both the Commission and the Walker County Civil Service Board.

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.

(6) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to give the Chairman Authority to Enter into Agreement with Big Sky Environmental, LLC for the Disposal of Industrial Waste.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by Commissioner Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to give the Chairman Approval to Enter into Agreement with Big Sky Environmental, LLC for the

Disposal of Industrial 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.

(7) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Hire, from the Eligible Register, Ms. Madison Sargent as a Full-Time Communications Officer for the Walker County Jail. Pending successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug test and hiring paperwork, Ms. Sargent is expected to begin her full-time employment on March 5, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Request to Hire, from the Eligible Register, Ms. Madison Sargent as a Full-Time Communications Officer for the Walker County Jail. Pending successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug test and hiring paperwork, Ms. Sargent is expected to begin her full-time employment on March 5, 2025.

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 this motion tabled.

(8) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hire, from the Eligible Register, both Mr. Braxton Bridges and Ms. Tabitha Dupre-Allen as Full-Time Jailers for the Walker County Jail. Pending their successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug test and hiring paperwork, both Mr. Bridges and Ms. Dupre-Allen are expected to begin full-time employment on March 5, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Request to Hire, from the Eligible Register, both Mr. Braxton Bridges and Ms. Tabitha Dupre-Allen as Full-Time Jailers for the Walker County Jail. Pending their successful completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board drug test and hiring paperwork, both Mr. Bridges and Ms. Dupree-Allen are expected to begin full-time employment on March 5, 2025.

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 Charles Stephens, Jr. presented a letter to the Commission that matters to be discussed meets the Criteria for an Executive Session, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan that this meeting be adjourned 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 stated, "All right, at this time we'll bring everybody back to order. Thank you for waiting on us."

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Dunagan thanked everybody for coming today. He said they are finally getting striping crews in District One and asked that everyone be mindful of that. He stated that, "As far as Big Sky, we wish there were other options but right now there are not. Maybe down the road there will be." He expressed that the County couldn't afford to open a landfill at this time and explained the county's situation, as far as, a landfill and expressed that they are doing what they feel is best for the citizens of Walker County.

Commissioner Burrough thanked everybody for coming. He gave an update on the bridge down on Gibson Hill. He said he just wanted to make sure that the citizens down there know that the repairs have been completed, except for the inspection, and that it should be sometime this week. He thanked the citizens for being patient and having to go a few miles out of the way. He expressed that the litter in Walker County is just awful and that it has to be the same people dumping because it's the same type of garbage on every road. He said that Sheriff Nick Smith has had his inmates out picking up garbage and he knows everybody appreciates all that work. He gave an update on the Spring Clean Up Day and that the State will provide some garbage bags to be distributed out to the communities. He said Spring is coming along and he hopes they don't have all the washouts and stuff as storms come through. He said road crews are out in every district, that it's getting to be warm enough now where they can use the Dura-Patching Machines that actually patch a little better than just throwing coal mix out there. He stated, "I know every commissioner here works trying to help their residents. You know, springtime and better weather affords us the ability to get out and do that."

Commissioner Borden stated, "Just to reiterate Mr. Burrough, the trash is a problem. Now, you almost go back to if you see something, say something. These people are dumping loads of trash out here that they're not throwing this out in two or three minutes. People have got to know. Call and let us know, let Mr. Jones know and we can try to get something done." He said it's everybody's County and the County is what we all want it to be. He thanked Ms. Tubbs for her presentation. He stated, "Again, the roads,

it's getting springtime now, the weather is starting to get up in the 60 degrees, we've actually been Dura-patching some for the last two or three weeks, weather permitting. But as the days get longer and warmer, we'll be out in full force accomplishing as much as we can during that day. He thanked everyone for being here and gave a shout-out to all the County Employees, the First Responders, again keep those guys in your thoughts and prayers for the job they do for us. Like I said, it's behind the scene and a lot of it is after hours. So, they put their lives on the line for us."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Again, on the trash, I haven't said this in a long time, but I think it's worth bringing back up at this point. To make a change in a geographic population you have to do it generationally. So, the trash problem that we have is from a generational mindset from years and decades past. We have seen a lot of improvement in it over the years. But, again, I think it would be worth this Commission's time and the Sheriff Department if we created a new program or re-invest in some of the old programs where we go back out to the schools again and start reaching out to the school age children with the message, don't throw your trash in Walker County." He said he thought they should invest in the school children at the elementary level all the way up, promoting programs like 'Clean as a Whistle,' which was back in the '90s. He said, "It takes a lot of manpower, it takes a lot of energy to pick up trash. So, the issue of trash on the side of the road is not that the Commission doesn't want it picked up. We want it picked up, but we want it not thrown out. And the only way to do that is to change the tone and message of a generation of young people coming up that respect and want a Walker County that looks like we all want it to look." He thanked everybody for being here today. He stated, "On a positive note, there are a lot of really good things, we can't really discuss it at length right now, but there are a lot of good positive things are coming for Walker County that will blow your mind."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, want to thank everyone that came out today and are interested in your County's business. We appreciate each and every one of you. The employees, we appreciate each and every employee here. And, you know, without every one of you at work, this County could not move forward. And we're here trying to do our best." He gave an update on the County's finances. He said that they're trying to watch the budget daily, that the County Administrator is on top of that every day and knows what goes on, that they're working diligently and their administrator is doing a real good job keeping up with those things and commended her for that. He stated that as they move on through today and tomorrow they've got some bad weather and he asked EMA Director Regina Myers to give a quick report.

EMA Director Regina Myers stated that it should be okay tomorrow, but will come in around 7:00 tomorrow night.

Chairman Miller continued, "All that should be good, and again we appreciate each



and every one of you. And with that said, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn."


**ADJOURN:**


Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan 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:

  
Chairman

  
Attest

**STEPHENS & STEPHENS, LLC**  
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14:53

Steve Miller  
WALKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Re: COMMISSION MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION  
3/3/25

Dear Chairman Miller:

A governmental body may enter into executive session under certain provisions provided in the Alabama Open Meetings Act. This includes the discussion of the general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, or mental health of individuals, or, subject to the limitations set out herein, to discuss the job performance of certain public employees. It is my opinion that the Walker County Commission should enter into executive session as the names, good character and reputation of certain individuals are to be discussed and the Walker County Commission desires to avoid any impropriety during said necessary discussion.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Stephens, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles R. Stephens, Jr.

CRSjr/sh