

March 6, 2023

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 6th day of March 2023, 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 Borden gave the invocation and Commissioner Aderholt led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Agenda, Approve the Minutes of February 21, 2023, meeting and to Approve the Claims against the County for February 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 Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "I just have three things. One is Randy and I are pulling a lot of reports for Harris, so that makes us one step closer to converting over to the new software that we have kind of delayed for a little while. Also, our 2021 financials are being finalized so we can begin that audit as soon as those are prepared. And we will be closing some old accounts, the clearing accounts this week. So please, if you're holding any checks drawn off payroll, the old account, please cash them. I think they're all pretty much cleared."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "We are working on plans for several of the Commissioners choices on some road improvements and hopefully by the first or middle of April we will have those advertised and received those bids so that you can make a decision if you choose to do those projects."

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Rock Bids Approval.

After explanation and recommendation by County Attorney Richard Fikes that this be postponed until he receives further verification from the Auditors General Counsel in Montgomery, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to postpone this till the next commission meeting.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Model Policies and Procedures Approval regarding Federal Funds.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Model Policies and procedures regarding Federal Funds.

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 Davis to open discussion of Hiring of Glenn Peek as County Engineer.

After comments by Commissioners Davis, Burrough, Borden and Aderholt and comments from Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve Hiring of Glenn Peek as County Engineer as provided by the pay scale.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One; 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 of all Pistol permit Funds received to be paid to Sheriff's Discretionary Fund.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that these are grant funds that will pass through the Commission Office to the Sheriff's Office and input from Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Pistol Permit Funds received to be paid to the Sheriff's 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 Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Approval of Vonzie Cooley as Part Time Maintenance Technician.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve Vonzie Cooley as Part Time Maintenance Technician.

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 Approval of the letter of intent for POWER grant through Regional Planning Commission.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the POWER grant through the Regional Planning Commission.

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 to open discussion of approval of Jessica Walker's Pre-application.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input from Jessica Walker stating that they have secured insurance through Shoreline Aviation, input from Commissioner Davis and Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve Jessica Walker's Pre-application.

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: "Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again, we want to thank everybody for their attendance this morning. I say it most County Commission meetings, we work for the citizens of this county. We take that privilege and honor seriously. We do the best we can with what we are provided. And I continue to ask you to continue to pray for us each day as we make decisions that are hopefully bettering this county. A lot of activity over the weekend. I know there are folks that are still without power as of yesterday. District One, probably roughly 25 trees, most wrapped in lines, so fantastic job by Alabama Power and District One's crew. We had several citizens that also got out. B&G Marina got out and cleared one off of Smith Lake Dam Road for us. Tons of citizens pitched in to help during this cleanup and, of course, the Volunteer Fire Departments that are always there to assist us in District One." He said it came through quick. He thanked Tim of 9-1-1 and said they had great communication back and forth with the fire departments and with the districts and with 9-1-1 to know where they needed to go and scrambled to get there and clear roads for citizens to have access. He said it was a smooth process, but because of so many trees down wrapped in lines it took a little longer, that they had to wait for Alabama Power to clear that before they can do the things the district crews do. He said it was fantastic teamwork by the community. He thanked Sanders Aviation for the work that they do. He said that there are a lot of positive things to focus on in the county. He further stated: "Again, continue to pray for our community, our county and this commission and elected officials."

Commissioner Burrough stated: "I would like to also thank each of you for coming. I know people come to our meetings for different reasons and different concerns, but for the most part it's always handled real well in our audience and I appreciate you coming and voicing your concerns. Also, I would like to thank, you know, everybody that keep us all in prayers for what we go through in these storms. We have a lot of people, I mean, they were scrambling. I think I talked to Tim, maybe two or three times on the day of the storm and I used to get the 9-1-1 calls, just one and then a few minutes later get another one. Well, he sort of waited for an hour or so and called me and spent about thirty minutes on the phone with me giving me a rundown of pages of trees that were down. And like Keith, we had probably close to thirty on the ground. We had a lot of help from the Fire Departments. I think I talked with Richard once trying to track somebody down. But there are just a lot of work that goes on that people don't see. And those Alabama Power men, I'm telling you, they scrambled around and had a lot of places to go and done a good job. And I appreciate each one of them." He inquired of Mike regarding the striping bid.

County Engineer Mike Short stated that one thing that the striping company stressed was that there is no roadway cleaning in the contract, so look at the road and see if there is something that you need to do to make sure they're not striping over something that is discolored due to mud or debris or something like that. He said he thought they would be in here within the next month.

Commissioner Davis stated that his District One crew runs ahead of the striping crew now since Fall City Road striped over a dead possum and someone put it on Facebook.

Commissioner Burrough continued: "But like each of us, we've all got projects, especially these storms they throw us back a week, you know, trying to clean up for them. And we all have had some decent weather to get out and take care of our roads and do some projects and stuff and we just hope that these storms are few and far in between the rest of the Spring. And I know, like in District Two we've got, you know, eight or ten roads that Mike has already got plans to give us, you know, the engineering drawings and plans of some of these roads we're going to redo. We've got a lot of projects coming up in the Springtime. If anybody has any direct questions on District Two roads, you're welcome to get ahold of me, call me on the cell phone, whatever, call me. We just finished up Dogtown Road and it's all back in good shape. We do have a project with the Mayor of Nauvoo there. We're going to clean up the old school. We've got it planned for maybe April and May. And those are some of the things that are going on. But again, I appreciate each of you coming and continue to pray for everybody that works for the county."

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just thank everyone for coming today. Again, the storms, District Three, we came out very well. I just want to thank all the citizens, all the first responders – the district is so big in District Three that there's trees down that a lot of time I know about, and the Fire Department gets with me and lets me know that they have already took care of most of the problems. But shout out to the citizens and the first responders for coming out during the storm. As I said earlier, I've only known Mike a little over two years. We've become what I believe to be good friends. Mike helps me tremendously. I go to him constantly for advice and his honest opinions. I hate to see you retire, but we'll still be in touch, you know, you've got to move on with your life and all the best for your future."

County Engineer Mike Short Thanked Commissioner Borden.

Commissioner Borden further stated: "And then on Glenn he's going to get tired of me calling him. I think Mike uses Pal as kind of get you off the phone. But Glenn, he'll have to come up with a new name or something. But anyway, I look forward to working with you. I believe you're going to be an asset to the County. You have been an asset to the County, and I intend on, as they say, taking advantage of you. With that, again I just thank everyone for coming out."

Commissioner Aderholt stated that, incredibly, he didn't have any storm damage this past weekend, that the wind was incredibly strong and that he is thankful that his district didn't have any damage. He noted that Jessica Walker had come and given an presentation earlier and he stated: "I just want to highlight one more time, the people of Walker County at least take note that this is something that's really special. This is

something that has the opportunity to gain a lot of attention, not that we're seeking the attention, but the benefit that's going to come from this. And again, I thank y'all for just taking the initiative. It's innovative, it's forward thinking, it's giving back and I really do appreciate you taking your resources and time to put this together for the kids in this county. It means a lot."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, ladies and gentlemen would just like to say thank you for everyone coming out. And as you know, each and every commissioner and myself, we're here, you know. And just give you a little bit of information, when we're doing the public comments or whatever, we don't talk back to folks about public comments. We are here available to talk after the meeting. I'd like to say that our Brown's Bridge, Smith Chapel Bridge, our Justice Center, Probate Building, our road pavings, our airport is all a positive thing for this county. I really appreciate Sander's Aviation and what y'all do for the kids. I know back years ago when I was doing a little flying out there, we had some of those times that we flew kids around. And I tell you, those smiles, the interest they had once they get in that airplane the first time is awesome. So, we appreciate what you do and those are future pilots that we may get to ride with one day. But at the same time, keep that good work up. We appreciate you. With that, I will entertain a motion to adjourn."

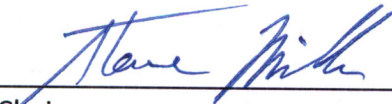
ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis 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