

March 20, 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 20th 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 Jeff Burrough and Jim Borden.

Chairman Miller inquired of the County Attorney Richard Fikes if there was a quorum and Mr. Fikes replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Al Blanton gave the invocation and County Engineer Glenn Peek led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Agenda, Approve the Minutes of March 6, 2023 and to Approve the New Vendor list for February, 2023.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "I have a few things. The first is for all employees our wellness screening is coming up in about two weeks, it's April 3rd and 4th. There is a schedule and it's been updated. There are some in the back and they will also be emailed to each of the departments. It's very important that we have minimum of 80% participation from all of those who are on local government insurance. And that keeps us -- not only helps us stay on top of ourselves, but also gives us our premium rate. So that's very important. We've got a safety meeting Wednesday at 8:30 in the boardroom here. Also one thing I want to mention to department leaders is that we are having monthly cabinet or some people call it PSIsafe software classes a Wednesday of each month and if you've got employees you would like to send to it, or come yourself, just please let me know and I'll give you the dates. Tim Peek is starting from 'this is the program and going forward'. So, if you've already been working the

system, you still can start at the very beginning and learn with everyone so everybody can be on the same page.” She stated that she went to a class Friday in Fayette to meet with Administrators in this area and also with the ACCA. She further stated that she wanted to let the Commissioners know that May 9th is a new county advocacy day and they’re really asking that all Commissioners try to attend one of these and to let her know if she needs to do anything for them because this is something that Sonny Brasfield really puts emphasis on.

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, “Currently we’re putting together plans for future paving projects and doing bridge inspections. Just an update, Brown’s Bridge is nearing completion, possibly in May, weather permitting. And the other thing is Smith Chapel Bridge will be starting soon.” He said they have scheduled a preconstruction meeting this week.

Commissioner Burrough inquired of the date and Mr. Peek said it is scheduled tomorrow at 3 o’clock.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of BID No. 754 Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input by County Attorney Richard Fikes, and with Mike Short recommending that they disregard Bid No. 754 and relet the bid in a format structured to allow each District to pick a supplier for general use stone and another bid to allow each District to pick a supplier for paving stone, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to discontinue Bid No. 754 and put out a new bid starting as soon as possible.

With a brief discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Bid 770 Discussion/Approval Road Treatment. After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve Bid 770 Road Treatment, awarded to the lowest bidder Norris Paving.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 the reappointment of James Patton to the Townley Water Board.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that the Commission had received a letter from the Townley Water Authority requesting reappointment for James Patton and input from Commissioner Burrough that he works with them closely all the time and that he wants to grant their wishes , motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the reappointment of James Patton to the Townley Water Board.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 for Approval of Cagle Lease for the Jail.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Cagle Lease for the jail.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Approval to post for a FT Solid Waste driver/operator to replace upcoming retirees.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the posting for a FT Solid Waste FT driver/operator.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 the Approval to hire Christopher Sparks as driver/operator to replace Tim Frankenburg.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the hiring of Christopher Sparks as driver/operator to replace Tim Frankenburg.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Approval for an emergency hire of Jerry Kiker to replace Josh Brom.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to hire Jerry Kiker to replace Josh Brom.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 the AI Department of Youth Services Grant Approval for HARTT Program.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and her making known to the Commission that this was flow through grant money, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the AI Department of Youth Services Grant for HARTT Program.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 the Discussion/Approval for Road and Bridge to purchase four Dodge Ram Pickup Trucks.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, input by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson asking that the money be obtained by liquidation of a CD and a brief discussion, motion was made Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the purchase of four Dodge Ram Trucks for Road and Bridge using money from liquidation of a CD as required.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Approval to hire Mike Short as Engineer Consultant under contract labor.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input from Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the hiring of Mike Short as Engineer Consultant under contract labor.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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/Approval to replace Mike Short on Bank Accounts with Glenn Peek.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve replacing Mike Short with Glenn Peek on Bank Accounts.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

After Commissioner Borden made known that he would like to add something to the agenda, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to add Reappointment of Randy Speers to the Housing Authority of Walker County Board.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After explanation by Commissioner Borden that he had received a letter from the Housing Authority of Walker County asking that Randy Speers be re-appointed to the Board, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough that Mr. Randy Speers be re-appointed to the Housing Authority of Walker County.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just want to thank everyone for coming today. As I said, our rock problem, we will get that solved. I know Richard said they already met with the people in Montgomery. I'm just looking out for District Three. Anything that we can do to make it better on the citizens of District Three on the use of their tax

dollars, is what I'm here for. Whatever we have to do to make this work in the bid process, I don't think there's that much difference in the particular types of rock. From what I understand, they're all limestone. Also, Brown's Bridge Project is coming along. "

He inquired from County Engineer Glenn Peek a date and Mr. Peek stated that they're May right now weather permitting, that they were scheduled to pour one of the deck sections today.

Commissioner Borden continued: "Parrish Main Street the paving was completed on that here awhile back. We're still waiting on the striping to be completed on that job. Waiting on contractors for our Goodsprings Road and Tutwiler Road. Those should be coming up any day. I guess a lot of that will be weather dependent. And then we've got other projects that I will be working with Glenn on. Got a lot of good things going. We're behind again on pothole repairs, the weather has not been cooperating, but now that we're – Spring will get here and we'll be back out just as we done the past two years just as fast as we can make it to your roads, we will be out trying to make them better for you. Got big things planned for District Three this year. I think we've made progress. Again, I'd like to thank all our county employees and all our first responders. I'd like to thank our speakers for today. With that I'll pass it to Mr. Burrough."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "Also, I'd like to thank each of you for coming and attending our meetings. It's always good to have a room full of people. We often try to do our very best in making decisions for the county and like I said, that's what part of this rock deal that Jim is talking about, is getting the best product for the best price. That's basically what that's all about. We do have projects that are finishing up. We've got a lot of them that's going. Glenn is hard at work getting contracts ready to go on several different roads that we're going to use our ARPA money with. You know, we'll be bringing those forward maybe here in the next meeting or two, trying to get those awarded. I'm excited about tomorrow's meeting on the Smith Chapel. That's a bridge that has been not repaired in, I don't even know how many years, it was down before I came into office. And I'm looking forward to getting construction going on it and getting it back up. But other than that, thank you for attending and if I can ever help you, please reach out."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say thank you to everybody for attending, our speakers and everybody that works hard for the county, all the county employees, we appreciate each and every one of them. I, too, would like to remind everybody that this Commission does have a lot going on. This Brown's Bridge and Smith Chapel have been a long time coming and we're really pushing hard. I know Mr. Short and Mr. Peek has really been pushing on those and we'll continue to do so. All of the road money that we've got added to these districts and they're working on those. Keep in mind when it's raining and when it's wet, it's impossible to pave roads. So, there are roads out there that are some issues, but because of all the bad weather we've been having, that's been some of the problem. These guys are working hard, and they

continue to do so. We appreciate Mr. Peek stepping up as our county engineer. We thank you for that. And I know you'll do a great job. And we appreciate Mr. Short for getting back in here to be consulted and help just as we knew he would do and we're still looking for that help, too, Glenn. So, with that said, I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:


Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden, 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.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:


Chairman


Attest