

April 1, 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 1st day of April 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 Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Mr. Ryan Cagle gave the invocation and County Engineer Glenn Peek led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Mr. Paul Graves gave a presentation about the possibilities of building a Mega Sports Park for the youth in Walker County and how it would help the youth as well as bring revenue into the county.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024, to Approve the New Vendor List, and to Approve the Claims Against the County for March 2024.

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.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Engineer Glenn Peek gave an update on Smith Chapel Road Bridge.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Rescind and Rebid No. 811 – Slag and Stone.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve to rescind and rebid Bid No. 811 – slag and stone.

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.

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Replace the Fire Alarm System in the Juvenile Department.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to Replace the Fire Alarm System in the Juvenile Department.

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.

(3) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to add more wood structure and roofing over the dog kennels at the Greater Birmingham Human Society.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to add more wood structure and roofing to the structure and roofing over the dog kennels at the Greater Birmingham Humane Society.

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.

(4) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to cancel the Commission Meeting of April 15, 2024.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to cancel the meeting on April 15, 2024.

With no further 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.

(5) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Pay invoice presented by Court Reporter Candace Lemmons for Civil Service Board Hearing on March 7, 2024.

After explanation by Commissioner Aderholt that the law requires that they pay these expenses and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to pay the invoice from Candace Lemmons for Civil Service Board Hearing on March 7, 2024.

With no further 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.

(6) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to pay invoice submitted by Attorney Russ Robertson for services rendered.

After explanation by Commissioner Aderholt that this is the same proceeding as item 5, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve to pay invoice.

With no further 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.

(7) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to accept the proposals from Johnson Control for Boiler Igniter and Boiler Motor Control Board.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the proposals presented by Johnson Control for Boiler Igniter and Boiler Maker Control Board.

With no further 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.

(8) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to hire a Common Laborer for Solid Waste and to hire Mr. Kenneth Dawson for that position.

After explanation by Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to post and hire a Common Laborer for Solid Waste and to hire Mr. Kenneth Dawson for that position.

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.

(9) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to cut the trees as required by the FAA and ALDOT 34.1 approach, which is a requirement to be able to continue use of the airport and get the Four Million Dollar grant to pave the runway.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and input by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to cut the trees as indicated.

With no further 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.

(10) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to buy and install reflective film for courtroom.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to buy and install reflective film for courtroom.

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.

(11) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to buy one transfer trailer for Solid Waste.

After explanation by Director John Dunagan and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to check with County Attorney Richard Fikes to make sure that this conforms to all bid laws on the purchasing of equipment and then proceed with purchasing this transfer trailer for Solid Waste and giving the Chairman the authority to either look at paying for it or financing or financing part of it.

With no further 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.

(12) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to in-service Brandon Samuels from Solid Waste to District Two.

(Commissioner Aderholt left the room and Chairman Miller inquired of County Attorney Richard Fikes if they still had a quorum and Mr. Fikes answered in the affirmative)

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to in-service Brandon Samuels from Solid Waste to District Two.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(13) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to approve Condrey Study to reclassify all job descriptions and pay.

(Commissioner Aderholt returned)

After explanation by Chairman Miller and his stating that a CAWACO grant had been applied for to help pay for the study and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Borden to approve the Condrey Study. After further discussion, Commissioner Borden withdrew his motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to go ahead with the study and to apply for the CAWACO grants for reimbursement back to the general fund.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(14) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval for local bill for Probate Judge to be presented to the Legislature.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucke, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the local bill pertaining to the Probate Judge to be submitted to the Legislature.

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.

After County Attorney Richard Fikes provided a letter stating that the matters to be discussed meets the criteria for an executive session, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to retire to executive session.

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.

(Commission Retired to Executive Session)

(Commission meeting reconvenes)

Chairman Miller called the meeting back to order.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough that the Commission Meeting Reconvene.

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.

Chairman Miller called the meeting back to order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I want to thank each of you for attending today, always interested in our county government, what's going on in the county. I think most people in this room are dedicated and willing to do what it takes to run the county in a good physical way and to do their jobs and make everything work as smooth as possible. Mr. Graves, I think he left, I don't know, but he had a huge, good idea on that. That's something that I think, you know, I don't know if it would be a joint effort between the city, the county, the legislatures and all that to get together and try to figure out a way to come to a common place, maybe out around the Walker County Lake area and, you know, have something to do for our kids. He was very true in his statements. I know most of y'all have kids and grandkids and when you travel you see what goes on in other cities and towns and it would be beneficial for our kids, also." He stated that they are still planning on having the Opioid meeting on April 22, even though it is a holiday. He inquired about the Greater Birmingham Humane Society if they had an opening date. Chairman Miller stated that they are open and running. Commissioner Burrough further stated that the place had been cleaned and renovated and he hopes they do a good job helping with our animal shelter. He stated that as soon as the Smith Chapel Bridge gets pavement on it that they will have a grand opening for it and that they have other road projects that will start as the weather continues to get better and that they had just mailed out bids on several road reconstructions in several parts of District Two and he looks forward to good weather so they can get out and do some repairs and do their part in the districts.

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here today. He stated, "Other than just repeating a lot of information, I'll just back up what Commissioner Burrough said. It's getting that time of year, the weather is changing, so our roadwork will begin to pick up now that the ground temperatures begin to warm up. So, we just look forward to continuing to work for the people of Walker County and particularly District Three." He stated, "Again, I just thank everyone for being here."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Just like everybody else, I thank everybody for being here. I'm thankful to be here. I've had a life event here the past few months. I thank everybody for the phone calls and prayers. God's faithful, for sure, absolutely. Yeah, it's that time of year where roadwork is picking up. It's also time to plant a garden. I'd like to thank our County Engineer Glenn, he's been answering the phone quite a bit for the past few months getting business taken care of for District Four, particularly, because we have quite a bit going on. Again, I thank him for everything he's done and will continue to do as things continue to pick up. Again, thank everybody for being here."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to thank everybody for being here. I would like to say a little bit about the animal shelter. We've been working on it with the Greater Birmingham Humane Society and done quite a bit of work out there to bring everything up to the standards they needed and want to be able to take care of animals. And Mr. Ed Howell was out there the other day and got some good pictures in the paper. So, everything is looking really good there. The Smith Chapel, we're thankful that we're getting that closed down, just like Mr. Burrough said and able to get it going and opened. I'm really excited about the employees' Condrey Study. This will be something that will be great, to be able to bring back and have all the reclassifications and narrowing some of these things down probably and look at the pay scale. It will be beneficial for this county, for the employees and I think will do each employee a good service. I'd like to say and remind everybody that we put \$200,000 in each gentlemen's account last meeting and they have that in their accounts now. And it's wonderful to get that going and hopefully that will help them on these roads. Most of you may not know, but as it's cold and wet, it's really hard to do work on roads. But it's dry and pretty and now they can really go to work. So, those things are out there. We appreciate each, and every one of you. We appreciate the service that the employees give to the county. With that, we'll entertain a motion to adjourn."


ADJOURN:

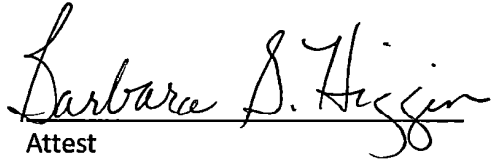
Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

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

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:


Chairman


Attest