

**April 3, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 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.

Mr. Al Blanton gave the invocation and County Attorney Richard Fikes 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 March 20, 2023, Approve the March 2023 New Vendor list and to Approve the Claims against the County for March, 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 reminded everyone about the Wellness Screening that will be today and tomorrow for employees who have insurance with the county and stressed that it was very important to have a minimum of 80 percent participation.

County Engineer Glenn Peek gave a progress report on Brown's Bridge and Smith Chapel Bridge. He stated that they are also finishing up and need final inspection to be done on a few of their paving projects and that they are also bidding out a few more paving projects.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Resolution to declare April as Fair Housing Month.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that this is a proclamation that marks the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the United States Fair Housing Law, which needs to be declared by the Commission in order to participate in CDBG and ADECA Grants, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to declare April as Fair Housing Month.

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 Borden to open discussion of Copeland Ferry Board Appointments for George Hicks, Thomas Graves and Carol Hubbard (Items 2, 3 & 4).

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Copeland Ferry Board Appointments.

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 Discussion and Approval of the Summer Holiday Schedule.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Summer Holiday Schedule as follows: To follow the State on the Juneteenth holiday, to declare July 3<sup>rd</sup> as a holiday for county employees; cancel the meetings for July 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup> and all other meetings that fall on the other Monday holidays to follow their usual procedures to have the meeting on the Tuesday following.

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.

After County Attorney Richard Fikes made known to the Commission that what is to be discussed in executive session meets the criteria, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to retire to executive session.

(COMMISSION RETIRES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION & RESUMES)

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Reconvene from Executive Session.

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.

Chairman Miller called the Meeting back to order.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Davis thanked everybody for their attendance and stated: "I like to say this at every meeting, that we work for the people of this county. We take it very serious. We try to do the best we can, each and every day, with what we're allowed and what we have to work with. Smith Lake Dam project is finally finishing up. I think we're waiting on reflectors. That was a two-year project, eleven miles of paving, a little over 2.1 million dollars to pave eleven miles of road. So that gives you an idea of what it costs. Again, we've said it for ten years in these meetings and work sessions what cost per mile of road of asphalt paving is. And the district's budget is roughly about \$800,000 a year. So, eleven miles 2.1 million dollars paved. But it's the most heavily traveled road in District One. So, it adds to a list of roads that we have asphalted, paved over the past several years. We have another twenty miles of paving that will take place this summer. We have another thirty miles of striping that will go down also this summer. So, a very active summer for District One and the crew and Glenn." He commented that it's been very active for Glenn the past few weeks and that Glenn continues to do a great job, that the transition has been smooth, that they are still looking to get him some help. He further stated, "There's a lot of positive things going on besides, of course, roadwork and things in District One and in this county. And I try to wake up every day and I try to think of the positive things and not dwell on the negative things. This county is blessed with a lot of good projects coming into the city." He stated that they also have a lot of great things working in the county, a lot of industry they're recruiting and things of that nature going on, that hopefully will pay off in the near future. He asked for continued daily prayers for them to lead and be the leaders that the Good Lord wants them to be.

Commissioner Burrough stated that he needed to add something to the agenda and motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to add item 6, rental options or whatever for transfer truck for Solid Waste.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted 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.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough and input from Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion and after a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to give the Chairman and John the authority to rent a Road Tractor for Solid Waste, or whatever is needed, to keep hauling garbage to Bryan Landfill.

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 thanked everybody for coming and gave an update of things going on in District Two. He stated, "It is a shame that the cost is so high on them, but you know, we're doing the best we can as far as getting the most asphalt on the ground. But other than that, thank you for coming."

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here today. He stated, "I just want to say this: Now, if you've been watching the news lately, across the United States we've had a lot of our town, some larger towns that's been hit by tornadoes. We just want to keep all those people in our prayers. So far we've been fortunate here in Alabama, but the season is still early. Also, I want to announce that Granny Hyche Road just in the Barney Community, the culvert has been reinstalled there and the road is open. We got in there this past week and did some grading." He said that was going to be a big plus in the community down there with the fire service and our first responders. He stated that Brown's Bridge is really coming along. That they will soon have to do some roadwork there as it's in pretty bad shape. He stated: "We have some other projects coming up, some of them are out for bid now. With that being said, I just thank everyone for being here."

Commissioner Aderholt stated: "I would just like to thank everybody for being here. The Cattlemen's Association, I appreciate what y'all are doing. I'm glad for good use of our facilities that does good things for Walker County. We've got a lot of roadwork going on in District Four like everybody else does, so be mindful when you're out and about and see county vehicles or state vehicles, be mindful of people who are usually out on the sides of the roads, so just be aware of that so we can keep our guys safe. It's Holy Week, the Resurrection Week, so I would just like to tell everybody I hope you enjoy your family this weekend. I hope you get to spend time with your family this weekend as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Chairman Miller stated: "I, too, would like to say thank everyone for coming, being interested in your county, there is a lot going on as Mr. Davis talked about, Smith Dam Road, a lot of projects in the Curry or District One area. District Two the Smith Chapel Bridge and the road paving projects, in District Three the Granny Hyche culvert finished up, Brown's Bridge and the paving and everything that's going on in District Four. These gentlemen are working hard. This has been an unprecedented year for the county in that they've got some funds available to work on these roads. It's just been a windfall for the county as what has been going on and these guys are working hard to make these things go. And we see some improvement in the county, although it may be slower than a lot of people want, it is actually happening. We do appreciate the Sheriff and our Chief Jailer here today and I saw some of the other county officials here, it looks like maybe they've already gone, but we appreciate them being here, appreciate what Mr. Peek is doing, Ms. Robbie and all you gentlemen here, you're doing a great job. Just keep it up. With that, I'd 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 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