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April 17, 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 17th 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.

Commissioner Aderholt gave the invocation and Commissioner Davis led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Meeting Minutes of April 3, 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 would just like to follow up with our wellness visit. We did hit right at 71% of the minimum of 80% needed. There will be one more makeup which will be on May the 30th and there will be some more information. We have forty-five who did not get screened, and we will be sending them out a note." She stated that she will have a little time to get them motivated since the next screening will be May 30th at the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center. She informed the Commission that Glenn is not here as he is attending the Engineering Conference this week.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Bid 783, Sale of Tractor District Three, Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by Commissioner Borden and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve Bid 783, Sale of Tractor for District Three.

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 Burrough to open discussion of Bid 781, Stone, Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes, further explanation by Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Burrough and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Award Bid 781, Stone, to Wiregrass Construction for District One.

With no further 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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Award Bid 781, Stone, to Wiregrass Construction for District Two.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Award Bid 781, Stone, to Wade, Sand and Gravel for District Three.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Award Bid 781, Stone, to Wade, Sand and Gravel for District Four.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Bids for District Three Road Work, Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by Commissioner Borden, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Award Bid 779 & 780 to Norris Construction and Bid 771 to Central Alabama Asphalt & Construction.

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 Commissioners Davis and Burrough, simultaneously, to open for discussion Bid 782, Solid Waste Transfer Truck, Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Award Bid 782, Solid Waste Transfer Truck to Ryder Vehicle Sales in Birmingham.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the ARPA Townley Water Project.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough that action may not be needed since it falls under the \$50,000 threshold, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to table the ARPA Townley Water Project at this time.

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 Davis to open discussion of the CMH Architects Contract.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucker, and upon the recommendation of the County Attorney Richard Fikes that if it is approved that both the Chairman and the Judge sign off on the contract, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the CMH Architects Contract.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Approval for RUFF to use the old airport pending insurance verification.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve RUFF to use the old airport pending insurance verification.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the WC Transportation/ALDOT Budget Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioners Burrough and Davis, simultaneously, to approve the WC Transportation/ALDOT Budget Approval.

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 Davis to open discussion of Approval to liquidate Maintenance Ford Truck-Road and Bridge Proceeds.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to liquidate Maintenance Ford Truck-Road and Bridge Proceeds.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of two part-time employees for the WC Humane and Adoption Center.

After explanation by Animal Shelter Director Kay Farley and County Administrator Robbie Dickerson making known that these are replacements and had been approved previously, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Burrough and Borden, simultaneously, to Approve hiring two part-time employees, Hailey Yates and Nicole Nuss, for the WC Humane and Adoption Center.

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 Commissioners Borden and Burrough, simultaneously, to open discussion of Request to Hire Jerry Kiker as full-time Solid Waste Driver/Operator.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan and his making known to the Commission that Mr. Kiker was hired as a part-time and has taken the test, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to hire Jerry Kiker as full-time Solid Waste Driver/Operator.

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 Burrough to open for discussion Request to post for In Service Promotion Solid Waste Supervisor.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, and his stating that this will be for Jeremy Chambers who is currently their mechanic, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Request to Post for In Service Promotion Solid Waste Supervisor.

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, "Every Commission meeting I make a statement that we work for the people of this County, and we take that job serious and we're doing the best job we can with the available means that we have to do it. I thank you for your attendance. It's good to see a bunch of Nauvoo folks there in the back and the Mayor. My wife's from Lynn, so I know all about Nauvoo. It's a beautiful part of our county in Jeff's district and it's good to see the council ladies and administrator of the waterworks and, of course, the Mayor. Lee, I appreciate you making that building, we know is going to be a good project. Hopefully, we can find a lot of Grant Money for that. Again, continue to pray for us each and every day. We covet those prayers. A lot of good things, again, going on in District One, projects I mentioned last week with the approval of the bids some of those – the rock bid was maybe a little confusing, maybe not confusing, those projects can now start. We were waiting on that. The way that these projects were bid out, and I'm not sure when Jim bids these last ones out, but getting the rock price at the bids price lowers the project, paving project, so we're basically

paying for the labor of that project on the ones that were approved last meeting for District One. So, a lot of miles of roads are getting paved. Looking at some others that we'll maybe announce here in the next couple of meetings. So, pray for us."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I also would like to thank each of you for coming today and showing your interest in our county government. Like Keith said, we have a contingency of a small army from Nauvoo here today. I appreciate all of y'all and like I said, Terry we might could take this time to discuss – we're still actively trying to get the Nauvoo School on the ground. From the last meeting to this meeting Keith met with a couple of people, Mr. Boswell, I think. And I've met with some people on some grants and stuff like that and they're actually coming back to town on May 2nd and we're going to meet up in the Carbon Hill area, so he will get with me and I'm sure come to that meeting and be there to talk with them trying to find grant money to get it on the ground. It might take some time, but it's the safest and most, you know, efficient way that we can get it done. We also have, like Keith said, some paving projects that were bid last meeting that are still out there and I've got Holly Grove Road and a striping project on Prospect Road that is still pending a month or so ago and I'm just in line waiting on that. The engineer is not here today to discuss it, but in the May letting we're going to have a May letting. We're going to have sort of similar to what Jim done today on bids that we're going to award like to Self Road and Saragossa Road, Redmill/Saragossa Road some improvements and paving on some of those. Also, the Williams Road in Eldridge. That is just sort of a synopsis of what we've got going on. A lot of paving is going to happen between now and the end of the year. And I know each Commissioner is working hard to get in line and do what we can do to get it down there as fast as we can. I'd like to thank John for coming out – Jeremy—I didn't know for sure that's who that was, but Jeremy does an excellent job at our Solid Waste Department. You know, if any district needs him he can work on anything. He's an awful good employee. We appreciate him. Kay thank you, you do a selfless job, and I appreciate the work you do. And Mr. Tucker I appreciate all the work you do. Anytime I call on you, you're there. I'll brag on Richard, too. He's the same way. Anyway that's all I've got. Thanks for coming."

Commissioner Borden stated, "It's hard to follow the first two. I think they compete sometimes on the long windedness part. No, everything they said I just reiterate. I mean, there's no sense in rethinking everybody. But our employees are doing a great job for us. As he said, Jeremy out at the landfill – Jeremy is a great employee for this county. I've actually utilized him some in the past. He helps to save us money on some of the mechanic work. Again, I just want to thank everyone for being here. The paving projects will get going, weather permitting, and when the contractors get caught up. As this government money flowed in over the last year or so, contractors were covered up. So, people will call me and want to know why – when you're going to do this. Well, we're waiting on the contractors. We've got things planned for District

Three. I think we're making progress. It is a daunting task to say the least to get these roads in better shape. But I do work for the people of District Three and I will do my best to accommodate and to repair some of these roads as we can get to them. There are just a lot of little problems that compound it. I'm down to seven employees. I need thirty men working today. But the sign of the times it's hard to get people to apply for the county jobs anymore. So, we do the best we can. We do work every day. I just want people to understand that, especially in the District Three area. Also, I just wanted to say over the weekend, the shooting in Dade County—I mean, not in Dade but South Alabama, we just pray for those families that are affected by this. It seems like we constantly hear this stuff on the news. We don't know what's going on in society. But we've got to, I guess, turn to the Good Lord for guidance to step in and help this country. But just keep those people in your prayers."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "Sometimes I feel like the small boy sitting in church and the preacher said, 'In closing' and he looked at his daddy and said what does 'In closing' mean? His daddy said, 'absolutely nothing'. So, we're down to the end of the line in closing here, I appreciate everybody for coming. There's a lot of roadwork going on in District Four, as well. We've got some smaller projects and some bigger projects. We've also got a coming grant announcement that we haven't officially got put together yet. It's already happened in Montgomery, but we're going to do something official here. I don't know, the Probate project I'm really looking forward to seeing that. That's going to be some kind of another gem downtown for Walker County preserving our past. And I appreciate you for taking up the challenge and taking that bull by the horn, so to speak, and moving forward with it. But I appreciate your initiative and what you're trying to do. I think that will be a great – another asset for Walker County. Again, thank everybody for being here. If I can help anyone in any way at any time, please just reach out and let me know."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would just like to say thank you for everybody attending. I appreciate your interest in the county. Mr. Tucker, Mr. Fikes, Mr. Blanton, Mr. Dunagan and Ms. Kay and Ms. Barbara -- Ms. Barbara sits up here and is always quiet because she's always taking all these notes. We sometimes overlook her and forget to say thank you for what she does. But every one of you that are here, all of the county employees, thank you for what you do for this county. It takes all of us to make this work. I'd like to say that Brown's Bridge is processing. I get the reports and the pictures on it quiet often and it's looking really good for the finishing up stages. Smith Chapel was starting. So, we have two bridges in the county that's ongoing, a lot of paving these gentlemen are working on. This weather, rainy days, doesn't work good for paving roads. So, as it begins to clear up these guys are going to be busy, busy, busy, so we appreciate what they're doing there. Ms. Robbie keeps us going on these funding things and monies that we've got. I'd like to say, I appreciate her too. And for the most part we are striving to make this county better. We have worked very hard in the time that we've been here and will continue to do so for the citizens of Walker County. With that,

I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt 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 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