

May 1, 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 1st day of May 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, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Burrough gave the invocation and Commissioner Borden 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, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2023 and to Approve the New Vendors List and Claims Against the County for April, 2023.

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 Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated that she will be attending the Administrator's Conference May 10th and 11th. She stated that they will be reaching out to all the department heads regarding their fixed assets, that they're concentrating on vehicles and equipment to get an accurate list, but also to look at what is insured and what is not, due to the fact their insurance premiums increased. She further stated that their federal filing is done, which is for ARPA COVID money that the county received, that they have to file for quarterly on everything that was spent. She stated that this payroll will be the last one for the Temporary Premium Pay.

County Engineer Glenn Peek gave an update on the Bridge Projects.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Simple Grants USDA Grant discussion and approval.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt to table the Simple Grants USDA Grant. The motion was not seconded and after affirmation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, Chairman Miller declared the motion failed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Simple Grants USDA Grant.

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

With one opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion for Discussion and Approval to Liquidate Jail Convection Oven.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve Liquidation Jail Convection Oven.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion, Discussion and Approval for Jeremy Chambers as Solid Waste Supervisor.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve Jeremy Chambers as Solid Waste Supervisor.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Posting for Solid Waste Driver/Operator for Byron Bridges to replace Dan Smith.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by

Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve Byron Bridges as Solid Waste Driver/Operator.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Bid 773-Russell Dairy Road.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Award Bid 773-Russell Dairy Road to the lowest bidder without E-treatment.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden, to open discussion of Approval of Bid 774-Moon and Holly Grove Road.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Award Bid 774-Moon and Holly Grove Road to the lowest bidder without E-treatment.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion of Approval of Bid 777-Old Birmingham Highway.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Award Bid 777-Old Birmingham Highway to the lowest bidder without E-treatment.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Borden and Burrough (simultaneously) to open discussion of Approval of Empire Road Grant-Rebuild Alabama Grant Program.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and Commissioner Burrough stating that he thought this was a grant he tried to hijack, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve Empire Road Grant-Rebuild Alabama Grant Program.

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.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Burrough stated that he needed to add Public Hearing to this meeting. Commissioner Burrough made a motion to amend the Agenda to add a public hearing for discussion to vacate L-Clair Farm Road, which is located in District One.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, who stated that they had advertised for a public hearing, but somehow it didn't make it to the Agenda, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add Public Hearing to the Agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, who stated that the abutting landowners had made a request and actually filed a petition with the Commission to vacate a portion of El Clair Farm Road, which actually ends on their property and that there have been no objections, and that today is just a public hearing. He inquired if there was anyone in attendance for the Vacation of the El Clair Farm Road Public Hearing and no one was present in regards to that. He stated, that he would recommend to the Commission that this be placed on the next Agenda for a vote approving their request and that he thinks that's all we have to do today.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Burrough stated, "Also, I would like to thank each of you for coming and, you know, thank everybody that works for us that does a good job in the county. And I know we provide many services to people and sometimes it's a headache, but we do have good people running it and we thank y'all for all your hard work. Also, to the young lady that spoke, congratulations on your success. Other things we've got going on, we have got some road construction, I mean, we've got Glenn pretty much busy on getting our plans ready for like Rebuild Alabama money, some of our ARPA money to put pavement down on the roads. District Two today began tearing up Self Road to do a reconstruction project on it. And like I said, the engineer has the Redmill/Saragossa and striping project on Prospect Road that is currently pending waiting on the actual construction to begin. Those are just a few things and I know it's going to be getting into mowing season, so we'll have tractors out, each of us, just be careful when you come upon them." He, again, thanked everyone for coming.

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just want to thank everyone for being here today. Again, we always thank our county employees, all the county employees, all of our first responders. Again, they're out there, especially our first responders. Of course, people in their daily lives never realize what a lot of our first responders do at night, especially our Volunteer Fire Fighters. Again, trees constantly fall in this county and those guys are out there all hours of the night. Again, also, just like public service announcement, please be aware that the county employees are subject to be in any part of their district during the day. And I've noticed just since I've been Commissioner this is a very dangerous place to work. Pass the word to your neighbors and friends, if you see a mower ahead sign, you know, we've got a tractor there. They will be in the curves, blind spots, we've got men actually in the roads and I've personally witnessed very dangerous situations with our people out there. Other than that, I have nothing else."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "I have a terrible earache, so I'm going to hold my comments until the next meeting."

Commissioner Burrough stated that he needs to add an item to the Agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add Item 9 to the Agenda, the Resolutions presented by Mr. Terry Acuff since there were no bids for the Morgue and Courthouse.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open for discussion the approval of the Resolutions for the Morgue and Courthouse.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by County Attorney Richard Fikes and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Resolutions for the Morgue and Courthouse.

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.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to thank everyone for coming. As each Commissioner talked about watching these folks on the roads when they're out working, a lot of stuff going on during these summer hours and hopefully a lot of paving going on and the approval of these bids and the grant, so there's something in every district here going on, just about every day, but we appreciate these gentlemen for working hard to try to work on these roads. I do appreciate each and every employee of the county. I know we have Ms. Joyce, Ms. Janet, Ms. Regina and John here and the Chief Jailer, Mr. White back there, Mr. Mote. We appreciate y'all, the Sheriff was here. But we appreciate everyone of y'all and appreciate the

things that you do. Ms. Robbie does a good job. And, of course, our new engineer, he's doing a great job. He's sitting here grinning. Okay. Ms. Barbara sitting here, too. But we do appreciate each and every one of you and it has been a privilege working with each and every one of these folks. And it's just – they do a good job for the county. All right. With that, we 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 Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:


Chairman


Attest