

May 4, 2026

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 4th day of May 2026, 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 John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

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

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Ms. Annalee Rubley with Northwest Alabama Mental Health spoke to the Commission thanking them for recognizing the month of May as Mental Health Awareness month and announced her new team that will be working in Walker County.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Agenda; to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Emergency Meeting of April 20, 2026; and to Approve the New Vendor List for April, 2026.

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 Engineer Glenn Peek stated: "We currently have a paving project going on at the Old Highway 78 in the Kansas area and a section of Empire Road. The Old Highway 78 has already started and the Empire Road will start in the next week or so. I just got word this morning that stripers are moving in as of today. I don't know how many they'll get or how long they'll stay. They might come and go, but the roads will start being striped. I have a list of them.

Also, today started the Airport Runway Rehab Project. I've already been talking with the contractors this morning. The runway will be shut down starting next Monday for 60 to 90 days. It depends on how the weather is how that project goes.

We are also waiting for news about the SS4A Grant. We have a demonstration grant to be awarded mid-May. We don't have an exact date. We have to wait for the Federal Government. This will be for safety and temporary items. Which temporary

items will be for signage, striping and stuff like that. This is just a section of that complete grant. This is called the demonstration part of it. The implementation part, if it's awarded, we will probably be trying for about Ten Million for that, so the County will have matching funds for that. That will go to paving, striping, for signs, anything that's needed to make the roadway safer."

Chairman Miller reminded the public that they're not guaranteed these grants that it's something they have to apply for, that sometimes you get them and sometimes you do not.

Mr. Peek further stated: "We are very hopeful, since we were awarded the planning section of it. So, we're having to go through each of the steps that the Federal Government requires for grants."

Upon being questioned by Commissioner Dunagan if everyone was given notice about the airport closure, he stated that he sent letters, emails and posted signs notifying everyone of the runway closures.

Chairman Miller reminded everyone that on the Airport Grant that those monies cannot be used for roads, that's for Airports only.

County Engineer Glenn Peek concurred that this grant can only be used for this airport project.

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated further: "Again, we have a plan for more paving, but paving costs are averaging around \$130,000 a mile. That's simple paving. It doesn't include a lot of patching or leveling or even striping. So, if we have any way to generate more funds we definitely need to.

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Purchase One Front-Loader for the Solid Waste Department (Sourcewell Contract #110223-LEG/110223-THC).

After explanation by Commissioner Dunagan, input by Chairman Miller, Commissioner Borden and Randy Dodd, and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve to Purchase One Front-Loader for the Solid Waste Department (Sourcewell Contract #110223-LEG/110223-THC).

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of \$5M 2026 Road Package for Walker County Districts.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input and recommendation by Mr. Randy Dodd (who presented a handout to the Commission) and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the \$5M 2026 Road Package for Walker County Districts.

With no further discussion, the vote taken (all standing) resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Final Walker County Solid Waste Management Plan.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Final Walker County Solid Waste Management Plan.

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.

(3) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hold Public Hearing on June 15, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. on Petition to Vacate the "Spur" off of Harbor Loop, District One.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Hold a Public Hearing on June 15, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. on Petition to Vacate the "Spur" off of Harbor Loop, District One.

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.

(4) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Paycor Payroll Software Proposal.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and Mr. Randy Dodd, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Paycor Payroll Software Proposal.

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.

(5) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Establish "Solid Waste Manager" Job & Pay Classification.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve Request to Establish "Solid Waste Manager" Job & Pay Classification, but with the pay scale changing to the Road & Bridge and Districts Supervisor II pay scale.

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.

(6) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Three (3) Seasonal, Full-Time Common Laborer Positions in the Road & Bridge Department for 2026 Summer Work Program.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve Three (3) Seasonal, Full-Time Common Laborer Positions in the Road & Bridge Department for 2026 Summer Work Program.

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 this motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Dunagan stated: "I would like to thank everybody for coming. District One has got several paving jobs. I want to thank Chairman Miller for all the hard work on the money he was able to help the Commission reserve. This Commission wants to do all it can for the citizens of this county. We're all here because we want to help. Like I said we just got done paving a couple of roads that are heavily traveled roads, Burroughs Crossing and Whittemore Road. The Lord willing if we get more money, I'd like to see more roads paved."

(A brief discussion about striping was held between Commissioner Dunagan and County Engineer Glenn Peek about the length of time needed

before the roads can be striped.)

Commissioner Dunagan continued: "Again, I'd like to thank everybody. Thank all our employees for the hard work they do."

Commissioner Burrough stated: "Also, I'd like to thank everybody for their attendance. And I'm certainly excited to see our new team there. It's something, I know we went through all the settlements fund over -- it's been over a year ago, I guess, when we started all of that and I hope that it continues and I hope our Legislation just keeps it going for many, many, many years. I appreciate y'all. And thank y'all for applying and becoming, I guess, this is our first team in Walker County, right? We've had them somewhere else, but it's the first team in Walker County. I'm certainly excited to see that coming to fruition.

Also, too, it's decoration season and I know most of the commissioners will back me up on this, I have decoration book with District Two, and we try to work those particular areas every week before that Sunday comes. People are welcome to still call our shop and request it, because we sure don't want to miss nobody. You know, I know grass needs cutting a lot of places, but with gas prices, I guess, I'm probably only going to cut twice this year because of the prices. Tractors have begun to get out and go to those places and stuff, so be patient with us and we'll get all that work done.

Also, Chairman, I think it's a big thing that we've come through on this paving plan for this year. If the Lord blesses us, I hope we can come up with something for next year, but right now, we'll be thankful for what we've got. Knowing that this possibly could have come, I've done paved several of my roads in anticipating this money and got several, several more to go. I just hope that we can make a difference in our districts. Thank each of you for coming."

Commissioner Borden stated: "I just want to thank everyone for being here today. There's not much I can add to what these two commissioners have said, so I'll pass it over."

Commissioner Aderholt stated: "Likewise, I really can't add much more than what the other commissioners have already said. I just thank everybody for being here and let's pave some roads."

Chairman Miller stated: "Well, I too, certainly would like to say we're thankful to be able to get this money for these gentlemen so they can pave these roads. And we want to do more. We want to do a lot more for this county.

We're certainly appreciative of our mental health team. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Appreciate what y'all are doing. This opioid money, we hope, goes far. And we hope to do more and more help throughout the years to come. And just thank you

for that. And I'd like to thank each and every one of you that are here.

At this time, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn to executive session and not come back."

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt that this meeting be adjourned to executive session 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.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest

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May 1, 2026

Steve Miller
WALKER COUNTY COMMISSION

Re: COMMISSION MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION
5/4/26

Dear Chairman Miller:

A governmental body may enter into executive session under certain provisions provided in the Alabama Open Meetings Act. This includes the discussion of pending or threatened litigation, or to receive legal advice. See *Ala. Code* § 36-25A-7(a)(5). It is my opinion that the Walker County Commission should enter executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Stephens, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Charles R. Stephens, Jr.

CRSjr/sh/amf