

July 7, 2025

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 7th day of July 2025, 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, County Administrator Amy Frederickson called the roll and Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden, and Steven Aderholt.

Reverend David Byrd gave the invocation and County Administrator Amy Frederickson led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Miller stated that he needed to have the agenda amended to add two items that were inadvertently left off because of some confusion. Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to amend the agenda to add two items to the agenda: Item 10 - to Add Joseph Aldridge's name to the Hiring of Full-Time Common Laborers and Item 11 - Discussion and Approval to In-Service Transfer Jason Cory to Driver/Operator.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda as Amended; to Approve the New Vendor Lists for May and June, 2025; and to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2025, the Emergency Meeting of June 17, 2025, and the Emergency Meeting of June 18, 2025.

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 Amy Frederickson stated, "Good morning everyone. I hope you had a wonderful Fourth of July Holiday. First, just following up on the letter to

department heads. We have requested that before the end of the day next Tuesday, July 15th, department heads have sent to me their proposals for their department's budget for fiscal year 2026. Please, as always, let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist in preparation of your proposals. Secondly, we had some changes to State Law by Sunset on June 30th, this basically expired provision that exempted overtime from State Income Tax. As a result, we are asking that no later than 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, all of the payroll timesheets must be submitted into the system. The ladies downstairs are working hard to make sure they calculate each individual tax withholding for any individuals that do work on the three days that are affected by the Sunset of this State Law. And then third, on July 22, it's a Tuesday, we have our final makeup health screening for all employees. This is for all employees that are insured through the county. Please encourage everyone's attendance, because it is the final health screening and we are required to meet certain thresholds in order to keep our discounted insurance rates.

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated, "We are currently working on putting some bids out and getting some plans together for some paving jobs. We are also working on an application for the 2026 Local Road Safety Initiative Federal Program. I'm not sure we're going to qualify because it goes off of accidents, so we're looking through the accidents and we've got to have that turned in by the 25th of this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request by Mr. Tommy Pearson to Reserve Old Fairgrounds for AL Southern Fair August 10, 2025 through August 20, 2025.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by County Administrator Amy Frederickson and Janet Adams-Clayton, Commissioner Burrough made a motion to approve his request and approve the Chairman to reach out to him and tell him he'd rather he have it at the Airport and let the Chairman handle it.

Commissioner Borden stated that he had some other questions he would like to ask Mr. Pearson and made a motion to table this until the next meeting.

Chairman Miller stated, well first of all, I have one motion already.

Commissioner Burrough stated, I make a motion that Jim handle this – and the Chairman –

Commissioner Borden stated, "No, I want to do this as the Commission, but this is the way I look at it, this takes tax dollars to keep this place up out there. This guy is coming in as a for profit business. I think we need to have time to access some kind of rental fee or something for the monies that we have in case we have to redo, come back and straighten up stuff. That's what I'm wanting to question him on.

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "And also he's supposed to provide insurance to cover any damage to the property."

Chairman Miller stated that he did provide the insurance last time.

Commissioner Burrough suggested that they table it until he brings in proof of insurance.

Chairman Miller stated, "So, you withdraw your request (motion)?"

Commissioner Burrough withdrew his request (motion).

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Table Item 1 - the Request by Mr. Tommy Pearson to Reserve Old Fairgrounds for AL Southern Fair August 10, 2025 through August 20, 2025 until the Next Meeting.

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.

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of City of Cordova's Offer to Purchase 2015 Heil Liberty Side-Loader Garbage Truck, FL1085D, Last 7 of VIN# HGR8553, for \$57,500.00.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input by County Engineer Glenn Peek, and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the City of Cordova's Offer to Purchase 2015 Heil Liberty Side-Loader Garbage Truck FL1085D, Last 7 of VIN# HGR8553, for \$57,500.00.

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.

(3) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of \$129,000.00 Purchase of 2022 Freightliner M2-106 from Ingram Equipment Company for Use by All Road Districts, Paid out of the Road & Bridge Fund.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Purchase of 2022 Freightliner M2-106 from Ingram Equipment Company for Use by All Road Districts, Paid out of Road & Bridge Fund.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Alabama Power Lighting Services Agreement Parking Lot LED Flood Lighting at Morgue and Fire Association Building.

After explanation by (Fire Association Member) Chief Probate Clerk Richard Fikes that the Commissioners have a proposal in front of them, and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Alabama Power Lighting Services Agreement Parking Lot LED Flood Lighting at Morgue and Fire Association Building.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to a Have Public Hearing to Vacate Unnamed Road Between Old Baltimore Road and River Bend – District Three.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and a brief discussion of where this is located, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Have a Public Hearing to Vacate Unnamed Road Between Old Baltimore Road and River Road – 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.

(6) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Thompson Tractor Quote to Replace Engine in D5K at Landfill.

After Chairman Miller stated that the Commissioners have a quote before them, and Explanation by Commissioner Borden that the quote could vary (up to \$36,334.41) depending on what parts are needed, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve the Thompson Tractor Quote to Replace Engine in D5K at Landfill.

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.

(7) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Surplus Two (2) 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500's on GovDeals (Unit 111, VIN# 1GCUYAEF1KZ378503 & Unit 116, VIN# 1GCUYAEFXKZ376507).

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Surplus Two (2) 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500's on GovDeals (Unit 111, VIN# 1GCUYAEF1KZ378503 & Unit 116, VIN #1GCUYAEFXKZ376507).

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.

(8) After a typographical error was corrected from \$6,360.63 to \$5,350.53, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of \$5,350.53 Proposal from Hughey and Phillips for the Installation and Replacement of Runway Lighting at Walker County Airport.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve the \$5,350.53 Proposal from Hughey and Phillips for the Installation and Replacement of Runway Lighting at Walker County Airport.

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.

(9) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Hiring a Full-Time Common Laborer within the Probate Office, with an Expected Start-Date of Wednesday, July 23, 2025.

After Chief Probate Clerk Richard Fikes stated that Probate Judge Lee Tucker could not attend this morning as he was holding a hearing and he did not remember the lady's name, but that this will not be a new position, but will fill a terminated position, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Hiring of a Full-Time Common Laborer within the Probate Office, with an Expected Start-Date of Wednesday, July 23, 2025; subject to the successful completion of the Civil Service Board drug test and hiring paperwork.

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.

(10) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Hiring of Joseph Aldridge, Jase Prince, and Landon Pate as Full-Time Common Laborers in the Solid Waste Department with an Expected Start-Date of Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Hiring of Joseph Aldridge, Jase Prince, and Landon Pate as Full-Time Common Laborers in the Solid Waste Department with an Expected Start-Date of Wednesday, July 9, 2025; subject to the successful completion of the Civil Service Board drug-test and hiring paperwork.

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

With three Ayes and one abstention, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(11) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Move Jason Cory into the Position of Driver/Operator in the Solid Waste Department.

After Chairman Miller presented a letter from the Civil Service Board that Mr. Cory had passed the Civil Service Driver/Operator Position test and the letter requesting the In-Service, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the In-Service Transfer of Mr. Jason Cory to the Position of Driver/Operator in the Solid Waste Department.

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 Dunagan stated, "I want to thank everybody for coming today. I want to thank our employees. We are doing a pretty good bit of patching in District One. If y'all see our workers out, please, please use caution." He stated that he has some vehicles he would like to sell on GovDeals.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to add as Number 12 – To sell on through GovDeals a 2002 International Single Axle, a 2001 Mack Triaxle, a 2009 Ford F350, and a Chevrolet Blazer.

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.

(12) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion, Discussion and Approval to sell on GovDeals a 2002 International Single Axle, a 2001 Mack Tri-axle, a 2009 Ford F350, and a Chevrolet Blazer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion and vote for Approval.

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

Commissioner Burrough continued: "I'd like to thank each person here that's interested in our County Government for attending our meetings. It seems like when we have these months where the first and third Monday comes in a hurry -- it's been a long time since we met. I hope everybody had a good Fourth of July." He asked that we keep the people in Texas in our prayers, that it is just heartbreaking. He said today is the first time he's sent three tractors out this year trying to get all the grass cut and that he hopes it stays dry enough for the next couple of weeks. He informed County Engineer Glenn Peek that he had received a message from Dunn on the Nichols and Hillard Loop that they're putting them on the schedule.

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated he would make sure they have the proper paperwork to Proceed.

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for attending.

Commissioner Aderholt thanked everyone for attending. He said he was a little under the weather so he will keep his comments short. He said to remember the families in Texas, that it was a tragic event.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say thank you for caring about your county and being here. We certainly have the folks in Texas and even here at home, the Homewood area, who have lost some family members, we pray for those folks. As we go just continue to do that, please. I certainly would like to thank all of our county employees; they really work hard. They do a good job. We continue to struggle to have funding to work on these roads that we need work on. We have provided a pie chart here and those are here available for you to pick up. And basically, looking at the two cents sales tax that the County collects, this year it looks like a projection of about Twenty-Three Million One Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$23,157,000.00) which the Walker County Board of Education will get some Sixteen Million Three Fifty-One (\$16,351,000.00) which is 71 percent; the Jasper City Board will get Six Million, Seven Hundred (\$6,700,000) about 29 percent; and if you'll look really close right here in between the yellow and the dark gray, you'll see where Walker County gets its Seventy-Two Thousand Dollars (\$72,000.00) for the year. Why we don't have money for roads is we don't have a source of funding. Back in the day when all this tax structure was put in place, we had coal revenue. Today coal revenue is \$400 a month, \$4,000 a month is a big month, to each district. Our funding source is our problem. The County operates on about a Fifteen and a half Million Dollar budget a year. We were saddled with that years ago, borrowing money. It pays out in 2032, about a Million and a half Dollars. So, we'll continue to pay that. The Boards of Education need their money. They need more money. We're not saying anything about taking money away, we just want you, the citizens of Walker County, to understand we don't have financials. And Ed, we'll need your help for all the folks in the County that's not here today to see that. I'd like to say also thank you for these guys as they struggle and as they continue to do their very best to pick and choose and pave roads in their Districts that they can with the finances they have. And we're going to continue to struggle to pull monies together. And our office staff here, we're shorthanded just like everybody, and we struggle to keep up with things. This payroll that our administrator talked about because of the Sunset of the Tax Exemption and then I think just about the time we get all of this worked out and finished up, I think the Federal and the Big Beautiful Bill is not going to charge on overtime pay. So that will start another little cycle of having to change the payroll with new things. So, it's a constant work that these payroll folks do back there. They do a great job, but they have a lot of changes to make, so we appreciate them. And with that said, I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt 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