

July 21, 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 21st 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.

Commissioner Aderholt gave the Invocation and County Engineer Glenn Peek led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Meeting Minutes of July 7th, 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 would just like to quickly remind you that tomorrow, July 22nd, is our final day for our make-up health screening. This is for all employees that are currently insured through the County. Please encourage all of your employees to attend as we are required to continue this practice so we can keep the current rates.

And secondly, I just want to thank everyone who spent the time to put together their budget proposals, it was a wonderful success." She and Tammy Elliott informed everyone that the wellness screening will be from 1:30 to 2:30 at the jail in the lobby. Tammy gave an update on the wellness screening and stated that this is something they have to do in order to keep the discounted rates for the employees.

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated that he has nothing at this time, that what he has will be discussed during the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval for Application of Opioid Funding.

After presentation and explanation by Director of Northwest Mental Health April Knight, further explanation by Senator Matt Woods, and input by Commissioner Burrough, and Chairman Miller making known that the money is available in the Opioid Settlement and money in a CD from the Opioid Settlement, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Application of Opioid Funding.

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.

Chairman Miller thanked Director April Knight and Senator Matt Woods and told them that their efforts are very much appreciated.

- (2) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Pre-Application of Old Airport for the Ultimate Fair d/b/a Walker County Fair August 8th through August 17th, 2025.

After explanation by Commissioner Borden, input by County Attorney Charles Stephens Jr. and much discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Pre-Application for the Reservation of Old Airport for the Ultimate Fair d/b/a Walker County Fair August 8th through August 17th, 2025 for this upcoming event and the Commission can make a determination on a rental fee schedule or whatever for future events at another meeting.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request by Master Gardener's to Use Extension Office Grounds for Plant Sale on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Request by Master Gardener's to Use Extension Office Grounds for Plant Sale on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Open Discussion of Discussion and Approval to Close Walker County Courthouse and Courthouse Annex Buildings on Friday, September 12, 2025, Due to Foothills Festival Road Closures.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucker and input by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to Close Walker County Courthouse and Annex Buildings on Friday, September 12, 2025, Due to Foothills Festival Road Closures.

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 of Server Security Upgrades to be Paid by Using Courthouse Security Funds.

After explanation by Administrator Amy Frederickson and input by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve Server Security Upgrades to be Paid by Using Courthouse Security Funds.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 850 for Materials and Installation of New Roof for Probate Office Building (Walker County Courthouse Annex #2).

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and input from Probate Judge Lee Tucker and Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Bid No.850 for Materials and Installation of New Roof for Probate Office Building (Walker County Courthouse Annex #2) to be paid out of Fund 116.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 851 for the Resurfacing of 4.5 Miles of Roadway in District Three.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and further explanation and input from Commissioner Borden, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve and Award Bid No. 851 for the Resurfacing of 4.5 Miles of Roadway in District Three to the low bidder, Central Alabama Asphalt Construction, for \$633,450.00.

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.

- (8) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Proposal for Purchase and Installation of 7.5 Ton HVAC System at Justice Center.

After explanation by Chairman Miller that this will be paid out of Fund 116, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Proposal for the Purchase and Installation of 7.5 Ton HVAC System at the Justice Center from Southern Heating and Air for \$15,800.

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 Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request of Contract to Sublet Election Machines and ES&S ExpressVote Machines to Municipalities, for use in Upcoming Municipal Elections.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucker, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to approve the Request to Contract to Sublet Election Machines and ES&S ExpressVote Machines to Municipalities, for use in Upcoming Municipal Elections.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Election Machine Consulting Contract Between County and Marc Stephens and Between County and Participating Municipalities for Reimbursement.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucker, Input by County Attorney Charles Stephens that this would not be a conflict, and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve Request of Election Machine Consulting Contract Between County and Marc Stephens and Between County and Participating Municipalities for Reimbursement.

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.

- (11) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Modify Civil Service Jailer Position Titles for the Following Positions:

- a. Correctional Officer,
- b. Correctional Sergeant,
- c. Correctional Lieutenant,
- d. Correctional Captain, and
- e. Correctional Jail Administrator

After explanation by Chairman Miller that the Commissioners have a letter in their

folder from the Sheriff's Office to modify these positions, and input from Commissioner Borden and Jail Administrator Justin White, Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Request to Modify Civil Service Jailer Position Titles for the Following Positions:

- a. Correctional Officer,
- b. Correctional Sergeant,
- c. Correctional Lieutenant,
- d. Correctional Captain, and
- e. Correctional Jail Administrator

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 stated that this will be passed on to the Civil Service Board for the final decision.

NOTE: Modification Shall be in Name/Title Only. This Shall Not Be Interpreted as Providing Express or Implied Approval to Modify or Otherwise Alter Any Affected Job Descriptions and/or their Related Pay Schedules.

- (12) & (13) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hire Stacey Estes, as Part-Time Clerk for the Walker County Sheriff's Department and Jeffery Peters, as Part-Time Jailer at the Walker County Jail.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve to Hire Stacey Estes, as Part-Time Clerk for the Walker County Sheriff's Department and Jeffery Peters, as Part-Time Jailer at the Walker County Jail; subject to successful Completion of the Walker County Civil Service Board's Drug-Test and Submission of All Required Hiring Paperwork to Payroll Clerks in the Commission Office.

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 that he needed to add the following items to the Agenda: Item 14 -Discussion and Approval to Add as New Hires to the Sheriff Department, Drake Romine and Jordan Mitchell, as Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs from the Deputy Eligible Register; Item 15 – Discussion and Approval of Request to Surplus Lucas Device (Serial No. 3520Q257) to Barney Fire Department; and Item 16 – Discussion and Approval to Authorize Chairman Miller to Conditionally Award JFX Runway and Taxiway Mill/Overlay Construction Contract to Low Bidder (Dunn Construction), Contingent Upon the Award of Federal Grants Presently Applied For.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to add to the Agenda, Item 14 -Discussion and Approval to Add as New Hires to the Sheriff Department, Drake Romine and Jordan Mitchell as Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs from the Deputy Eligible Register; Item 15 – Discussion and Approval of Request to Surplus Lucas Device (Serial No. 3520Q257) to Barney Fire Department; and Item 16 – Discussion and Approval to Authorize Chairman Miller to Conditionally Award JFX Runway and Taxiway Mill/Overlay Construction Contract to Low Bidder (Dunn Construction), Contingent Upon the Award of Federal Grants Presently Applied For.

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.

(14) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open Discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hire Drake Romine and Jordan Mitchell as Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs from the Deputy Eligible Register.

After County Administrator Amy Frederickson stated that the Sheriff's Department had available slots, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve to Hire Drake Romine and Jordan Mitchell as Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs with the Sheriff Department, subject to completion of Walker County Civil Service Board Drug-Test and Walker County Commission Payroll 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.

(15) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open Discussion of Discussion and Approval of Request to Surplus Lucas Device (Serial No. 3520Q257) to Barney Fire Department.

After explanation by Commissioner Borden and input by Chairman Miller, Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Request to Surplus Lucas Device (Serial No. 3520Q257) to Barney Fire 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.

- (16) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open Discussion of Discussion and Approval to Authorize Chairman Miller to Conditionally Award JFX Runway and Taxiway Mill/Overlay Construction Contract to Low Bidder (Dunn Construction), Contingent Upon the Award of Federal Grants Presently Applied For.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and further explanation by Chairman Miller, input by Commissioner Borden and a brief discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve to Authorize Chairman Miller to Conditionally Award JFX Runway and Taxiway Mill/Overlay Construction Contract to Low Bidder (Dunn Construction), Contingent Upon the Award of Federal Grants Presently Applied For.

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 Dunagan continues: "I want to thank everybody for coming and all of our employees. Mr. and Mrs. Knight, thank you for everything you do. This community sure does appreciate it. I thank Senator Woods for coming -- I think he had to leave -- for all the work he's done in this. Amy, thank you for the hard work you put in on the budget stuff, long hours. It's appreciated. We're waiting in District One for our paving projects, the company that got the bid for it is not willing to get to it right now, so District One is fixing to put out bids on my roads that I've chosen, so Mr. Peek is getting them out as quick as possible. I thank everybody for coming, again."

Commissioner Burrough stated: "I want to thank each person for being here and the job they do for the County and the ones that are interested in their county government, thank you for attending. I want to say thank you to each person in here that has reached out to me this past week. I lost my mother. You know, people will text, they'll call, Facebook you, come to see you, and I just want to say thank you to all those that did. I had a good mother and she is in Heaven now. And I'm certainly grateful for that. And I just appreciate

everybody for reaching out.

The second thing, on the opioid, April, it's been a long time coming, but I think it's getting even more closer to reality. And I think this Commission is often looking for ways to help our mental health crises and opioid use. We have other things coming and we're looking for a future together to work with you guys on anything that might come available to help."

Commissioner Burrough said he has got conformation from Dunn's Construction last week that one of the bids on the District Two project, they're starting date is around August 11th or the 18th, according to the weather. He stated that they were out last night picking up trees from 9-1-1 calls. He said the weather has slowed them down on grass cutting in certain areas, but the tractors are out working as fast as they can and that they will get to your area as soon as possible. He thanked each one again for attending.

Commissioner Borden stated, "Again, as the first two commissioners said, I continue that. Thank everyone for being here. Again, our opioid money, I've been in the past over a year now, in discussions with Mental Health. We think long and hard on these decisions from this opioid money. We are wanting long term benefits off of these monies that we receive. And I know people say, well, you ought to do this or do that. It takes time to get this ball rolling, as we say, but we, as always, want to be good stewards of this money and get the most out of every dollar to benefit the most people that we can. Again, thank you for the work you have put into this. You didn't just walk in here today and bring this idea. And the next time it won't be you doing a lot of the behind the scenes work on these projects.

Again, the roads, I'm looking forward to the roads that have been named, doing some repair." He explained how much it costs per mile on the roads.

Commissioner Aderholt stated: "Like these other gentlemen up here, my colleagues said, thank you for being here. We appreciate everybody that's involved." He said there are a lot of road projects going and to be aware of the workers on the highway, that they're doing all they can do. He said there are several positions available in District Four if anybody knows of someone looking for a job. He stated, "The opioid issue, I sincerely wish that with the opioid money we could undo the damage that has been done in our County. And I say that with all sincerity, over the years, the lives, the families, people I know in my own family, friends I went to school with that have passed away and went on because of opioid use in our county. It's truly daunting to sit back and think about the impact that opioid has taken on -- not just Walker County, but Walker County seems to be the epic center in the State of Alabama, but to know so many people that it has affected over the years. It's sad. I wish there was an immense amount of money to go back and undue all that damage that's been done, but we can't do that. So, we're moving forward

trying to stop being further damaged from that. I thank you for taking the reins there and doing everything that you can do. I appreciate all the Mental Health's concentration that we've had, but it's going to take more than just that organization. It still takes a county.

Switching gears here, David, thank you for everything you do on the Industrial Development side. I don't think we can highlight enough all the benefits that's been brought to Walker County as a result of our Industrial Board efforts. I live in east Walker County and I see – you know, Walker County is on the move.”

Commissioner Aderholt stated that everything is happening in east Walker County that's going to benefit our county long after you and I are gone, when we're done here. That they have things in the works right now that he's really proud to be a part of and thankful for and he appreciates all the help. Again, he thanked everybody for being here.

Chairman Miller stated, “I, too, want to say thank you everyone for being here. All the employees in the County, thank you for what you do. There's a lot that goes on in this County behind the scenes that nobody really ever sees and that's true of these employees that continue to pay the bills and puts funds in the correct accounts. Out of these accounts there are certain things you can do out of them, and certain things you cannot do.

Back to the guys on the roads, that one million dollars that Mr. Borden talked about earlier, all the funds and paying back with SSUT to make these guys be able to do some of these projects. And then Road and Bridge funding and so, we're digging at every dollar that we can get to work roads.

Opioid funding, that is our desire that we spend every dollar of this in every way that we can benefit to help mitigate what has happened in Walker County, the epic center of opioid problems. We understand working with Mrs. Knight and Senator Woods that it is very good use of these funds. And so, we're very appreciative of what y'all do and what folks in Montgomery do to try to help us with. So, we thank Matt and we think that this is a move in the right direction.

Mr. Knight and the Industrial Development, as Mr. Aderholt said, I am so grateful to be on board with Mr. Knight, because his exceptional expertise in drawing business to this County which produces those mega, mega projects that I'm just thankful for. I know he has a lot of work to do. This county is set potentially, as Mr. Aderholt says, of just exploding. We're looking forward to that. We're looking forward to the day that it does exactly what we think it's going to do.

I thank the Administrator for her work on this budget that we've got coming up. With a handful of dollars, we have to do handfults of business. So, it's kind of hard to juggle all the departments. We appreciate their efforts when they came up and talked about

this budget. We ask again for their patience and appreciate their willingness to work with us. And I thank, each, and every one of you, for attending this meeting.

With that, gentlemen, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.”

ADJOURN:

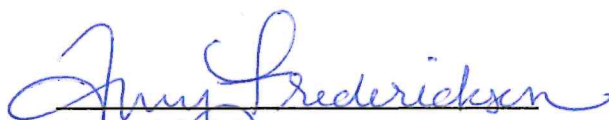
Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

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, Administrator