

September 3, 2024

At a scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their offices in the Walker County Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Alabama, at 9:30am on the 3rd day of September 2024, 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 the Commissioners present were Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden, and Steven Aderholt.

David Miller gave the Invocation and Judge A. Lee Tucker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Mr. John Merrill, Waggoner Engineering, gave an informative presentation on a potential project and partnership with Walker County for the design and construction of a storm shelter engineered to withstand an F-5 tornado. Mr. Merrill relayed that this proposed facility would also double as an office facility/community space that would be tailored to the needs of Walker County and its residents.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda; to Approve the Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2024, and to Approve the Emergency Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2024, and August 12, 2024; the New Vendor List, and to Approve the Claims against the County for August 2024.

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 THE STAFF:

County Administrator Amy Frederickson reported that the County had received a \$24,750 reimbursement from CAWACO, pursuant to the previously awarded grant. She stated that this CAWACO grant was awarded to reimburse the County's expenses paid to Condrey & Associates for the completion of the County's Job Classification and Pay Scale Study. She thanked Department Heads who have met with her and the Chairman for their feedback on the job classification changes suggested by Condrey. And she indicated that the Commission was working diligently to prepare the FY 2025 Budget in light of this Study's recommendations.

County Engineer Glen Peek stated that they are currently working on plans for FY 2025 paving projects affecting each of the districts, in addition to Scott Cemetery Rd. He relayed that the first of these projects is slated for bid opening on September 18, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Close the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex on September 13, 2024, due to Downtown Road-Closures for the Foothills Festival.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and Judge A. Lee Tucker, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and vote to approve the closing of the Courthouse and Annexes on September 13, 2024, due to road-closures for the Foothills Festival.

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.

- (2) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Simple Grants' Work Plan for Grant Application and Management for the Bridge Investment Program, Planning Bridge Project Grants.

After explanation from Ms. Janet Clayton, Road & Bridge Department, and brief discussion motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and vote to approve the Simple Grants' work plan for the Bridge Investment Program, Planning Bridge Project Grants.

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.

- (3) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Simple Grant's Work Plan for Grant Application and Management for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program 2024.

After explanation from Ms. Janet Clayton, Road & Bridge Department, and brief discussion motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and vote to approve the Simple Grants' work plan for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program 2024.

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.

- (4) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Easement for the Parrish Water Works & Sewer Board to Facilitate Operation of Pump Station Situated on Property Owned by Walker County.

After brief explanation from Richard Fikes, County Attorney, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion of and approve the Easement for Parrish Water Works & Sewer Board needed to continue operations at the Pump Station situated on Walker County property.

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.

- (5) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid 828: Repaving Jasper Library Parking Lot.

After explanation and recommendation by Mr. Glen Peek, County Engineer, that they accept the low bid of \$66800.00 and brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Borden to close discussion and award Bid 828: Repaving Jasper Library Parking Lot to the low bidder.

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.

- (6) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Proposal for Roof Replacement of Courthouse Annex #2 (Archives Building) in the Amount of \$39,000.00.

After an explanation by Judge A. Lee Tucker and a brief discussion, County Attorney Richard Fikes affirmed that the amount of \$39,000.00 is under the bid limit. Motion was then made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Borden to close discussion and vote to approve the \$39,000.00 Courthouse Annex #2 roof-replacement proposal.

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.

- (7) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of \$3,500.00 Software Proposal for 1-Year

License of County Information Management System Software by Diversified Computer Services.

After a brief discussion between County Engineer Glenn Peek and Commissioner Burrough, Commissioner Burrough made, and Commissioner Borden seconded, a motion to table the discussion and approval of purchasing the 1-year license from Diversified Computer Services for their County Information Management System Software.

With no further discussion, the motion was tabled.

- (8) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPC) 2025 Membership Dues in the amount of \$24,951.00.

After brief explanation by Chairman Miller, Commissioner Burrough made, and Commissioner Borden seconded, a motion to close discussion and approve the payment of Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham Membership Dues in the amount of \$24,951.00.

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.

- (9) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of One (1) Time Donation to Alethia House in the amount of \$250,000.00 to be Paid Out of Opioid Funds Allocated by State

After brief explanation by Chairman Miller and Commissioner Burrough, Commissioner Borden made, and Commissioner Burrough seconded, a motion to close discussion and approve the one-time donation of \$250,000.00 to Alethia House to be paid from funds earmarked by the State to benefit the County and its residents in the responding to the Opioid Crisis.

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.

- (10) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Apply for Airport Improvement Funding Assistance from ALDOT for the FY 2025 Improvement Project at Bevill Field Airport.

After brief explanation, motion was made by Commission Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to re-apply for the Airport Improvement Funding Assistance from ALDOT for the next fiscal year's Improvement Project at Bevill Field Airport.

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.

- (11) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Reappoint Mr. Chad Wilson and Mr. Kenny Allen to the Walker County Department of Human Resources Board.

With brief explanation from County Administrator Amy Frederickson, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion and reappoint Mr. Chad Wilson and Mr. Kenny Allen to the Walker County Department of Human Resources Board.

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.

- (12) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to In-Service Transfer Lora Tirey to the EMA Department as Assistant Director, Effective September 6, 2024.

With brief explanation from County EMA Director, Regina Myers, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and approve the in-service transfer of Ms. Lora Tirey to be the Assistant Director in the EMA Department, effective September 6, 2024.

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.

- (13) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to In-Service Transfer Mr. Mark Bailey to Road & Bridge Department, Effective September 6, 2024.

With a brief explanation by County Engineer Gleen Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and approve the in-service transfer of Mr. Mark Bailey to Road & Bridge Department, effective September 6, 2024.

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.

- (14) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of a Full-Time "Utility/Maintenance Technician" Position within the Solid Waste and Road & Bridge Departments, and District Offices.

With a brief explanation by Chairman Miller and based on the pay-scale provided, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to close discussion and approve the creation of a full-time "Utility/Maintenance Technician" job classification within the Solid Waste and Road & Bridge Departments, and District Offices.

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.

- (15) The motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Airplane Hangar Rental to Mr. Rodman P. Gomez.

With a brief explanation from the Airport Manager, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion of and approve the rental of the airplane hangar to Mr. Rodman P. Gomez.

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.

- (16) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Walker County Employment "Slot" List: Ascribing Position Availability within Departments under County Employ.

After brief discussion by Chairman Miller as to the purpose of the "Slot List" in light of the Condrey Study, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and approve the Walker County Employment "Slot" List, limiting the position availability within Departments under County Employ.

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.

- (17) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Commission Resolution Entitled "Hiring Approval for All Walker County Departments."

After some discussion amongst the Commissioners and with input from Sheriff Nick Smith and County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and

seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion and approve Commission Resolution Entitled "Hiring Approval for All Walker County Departments."

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

With opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (18) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Commission Resolution Entitled "Freeze of Overtime Pay."

After some discussion among the Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to table the Resolution Entitled "Freeze of Overtime Pay" for the next meeting.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the item tabled.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Burrough began by thanking everyone in attendance. Commissioner Burrough relayed that, in response to limited revenue, the County is working very diligently to find sources of funding to better the roads and to increase employee pay to ensure Walker County is a competitive employer. Commissioner Burroughs indicated that the County and the Sheriffs Department have sought grants on a regular basis. Commissioner Burroughs encouraged Department Heads to participate in the budget process, while being mindful of the revenue restraints currently facing the County. He stated that he was optimistic about the direction the County was moving and expressed his appreciation for everyone working together. Commissioner Burroughs added that he looked forward to the progress that is being made to address District 2 roads and indicated that he expected to start prepping and graveling several roads in the next few weeks. Commissioner Burroughs listed several roads that are slated for these improvements, including Patton Hill, Fish Chapel Road and Scott Cemetery Road.

Commissioner Borden expressed his gratitude for everyone in attendance and commended the public commenters for "showing up and participating in [their] local government."

Without further comment, Commissioner Aderholt thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chairman Miller thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Chairman Miller conveyed that it was the Commission's intent and desire to pave every road within the county but relayed that the Commission's goal is limited by the funding that the County receives. While supporting the importance of quality education, Chairman Miller explained that most of residents' tax dollars are given to the County Board of Education and Jasper Board of Education, not the County. Chairman Miller expressed how blessed the County was to receive \$12 Million in funding through the Federal Government's Covid relief package but cautioned that this money is not a regular stream of income, and relayed that the entire sum has been allocated.

Looking forward, Chairman opined that finding a stream of income for the districts would be critically important in order to fund the continuation of progress that the districts have made. The Chairman expressed that this effort is of particular import because of the 27-million-dollar debt taken on 20 to 25 years ago, which directs about \$1.5 Million in debt-related payments away from the County's service to the public.

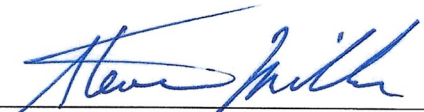
Despite these challenges, Chairman Miller remained hopeful for the County and thanked the Districts for their hard work and dedication. He then thanked "each and everyone" in attendance for their investment and service to the County.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough 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.


Chairman
Attest, County Administrator