

October 17, 2022

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 17th day of October 2022, 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: Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Borden gave the invocation and Commissioner Burrough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Appropriation checks were presented by the Chairman and Commissioners to several agencies. (Photos were taken simultaneously)

Ms. Jessica Taylor, founder and CRO of Simply Grants made a very informative presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Minutes of the September 29, and October 3, 2022 meetings.

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 Robbie Dickerson stated that she has a few things, "Just to let everyone know that the 2020 audit we did the exit interview. Of course, we can't talk about it. But that final will be coming, hopefully, soon so we can get ready for 2021, but it's my understanding no one in the state at the moment is doing '21. So, we'll all be on 2021 together. So that is a great accomplishment for the office that we have done quite a few audits in just three to four years. The next payroll will include the 5 percent pay increase for the employees. That payroll will be the October 5th to the 18th period which, of course, will be paid Friday.

Hunt Insurance, which was the company that was approved in the commission meeting which should receive their payment today, we express mailed that Friday, so they would have it so that we can get the insurance, that is the catastrophic insurance for the inmates, going. They have to, its insurance, so they have to receive money first.

WEX cards will be submitted today and hopefully that turnout will be fairly fast. We are paying our Workmen's Comp, which is going to take a big chunk of money out of the General Fund Budget, but however the good news is, it has gone down approximately \$50,000 this year. So that's a good thing. And as of today, all appropriations, other than those that we need to mail have been paid for the year."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "I was going to let the Commission know that we're continuing to work on the paving projects. Wiregrass is patching Empire Road today. They've probably completed everything on Pineywoods/Sipsey Road other than the permanent striping. And I'm anticipating they will be on one of the two jobs they will build out of the Jasper Plant, either Smith Lake Dam Road or Dogtown Road possibly this week."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of 2022 Holiday Schedule Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to cancel the Commission Meetings for November 21st, December 19th, 2022 and January 3rd, 2023 and to approve the holidays for the 2022 Holiday Schedule as follows: November 24th & 25th for Thanksgiving, December 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th for Christmas, January 2nd, 2023 for New Years and to follow the State holiday schedule for 2023.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Bid Approval.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Mike Short, input by Sheriff Nick Smith and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Bid.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of the Resurfacing and striping of Parrish Main Street Bid.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Resurfacing and Striping of Parrish Main Street Bid, with Dunn's Construction being the low bidder.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of the ACCA Requested Amendment Approval.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the ACCA Requested Amendment Approval.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Approval to hire Barbara Higgins as PT Administrative Assistant/Commission.

After explanation by Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the hiring of Barbara Higgins as a PT Administrative Assistant/Commission.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Approval to hire Tammie Elliott as a PT Administrative Assistant/Commission.

After explanation by Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the hiring of Tammie Elliott as a PT Administrative Assistant/Commission.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the FY2022 Final Budget Amendments.

After explanation and clarification by Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the FY2022 Final Budget Amendments.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONER:

Commissioner Davis thanked everybody for their attendance. He stated, "I say this just about every commission meeting, we work for the people of Walker County. We do the best job we can with what we have available for us to do." He thanked everyone for their patience with the projects that they have going on, that the projects were slower than they anticipated due to the companies being backed up, but that there are a ton of road projects and a ton of miles of asphalt going down, which is great news. He stated, "We have a lot of road projects going on, which is fantastic for this county." Commissioner Davis stated, "On the budget amendments. Again, the budget, we passed that October 1st based off of anticipated revenues. We have to pass a balanced budget. We have things that happen in between the year of that budget that has to be amended. That's what we just did. A lot of that was grant money. A lot of that was ARPA Funding, which was put towards roads, ARPA Funding that was put towards employee pay increases for four years." He said there are a lot of good positive things going on that this Commission and employees are working extremely hard on, that he is extremely proud of all the positive things that are going on in this county. He asked for continued prayers for the Commission, the law enforcement and employees. He gave a brief report of the Solid Waste truck accident that happened this week and stated that the driver was very fortunate not to have been hurt any worse than he was.

Commissioner Burrough thanked everyone for being here and stated he was very proud that the Commission was able to keep the appropriations to the different agencies, that that is big, that he has been here when they weren't able to do the appropriations. He said he appreciated the work that is done with the appropriations. He also commented on the employee who was injured and was thankful that the injuries were not as serious as they could have been.

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here today. He gave a report on the Main Street project in Parrish, stating that it is still a county road. He said when you look around the county all the schools have good access and that when this project is completed that Parrish Elementary will also have good access, that he is proud to spend Rebuild Alabama money on this project. He said he did have other paving projects that he's working on, still doing the pothole patching as fast as he can get to the roads. He said that they are behind on their mowing, that they did get some new tractors the other day and that they will get caught up on the mowing. He also stated that they are thankful that the driver was not injured any worse than he was, just bruises, banged up and being scared. He stated, "That being said, our truck was basically totaled out. And us taking on new garbage services from some of the other municipalities in the county, we're short a truck. So, I want to see if we can add this to our agenda and let's discuss the purchase of a new truck, so that our service doesn't get behind and the citizens don't go lacking with the garbage pickup."

Chairman Miller asked that that be presented in the form of a motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to add the purchase of a garbage truck to the Agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the purchase of a garbage truck.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, input by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, Chairman Miller, County Engineer Mike Short and County Attorney Richard Fikes, much discussion, and a recommendation that the financing be left to the Chairman's discretion to either finance or lease, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to give the Chairman the authority to purchase the truck with financing or a lease.

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 Aderholt said he just thanked everybody for being here. He said he was looking forward to good progress and positive motion in Walker County in the coming year. He said he knew there had been focus on a lot of negative things in the past, but that they are making a lot of positive momentum and that they needed to stay focused on that. He stated, "Reach out and care about your neighbor across the street. The holiday seasons are coming and we should be up and about the Lord's business."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to thank everybody for attending. Everybody that works hard for the county, we appreciate your work. We appreciate each and every employee. We appreciate all these folks that came today for the appropriations. You all are doing a great job and we want to continue to help where possible. At this time, I will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting."

ADJOURN:

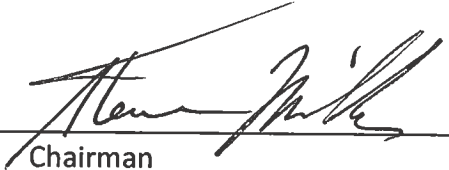
Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

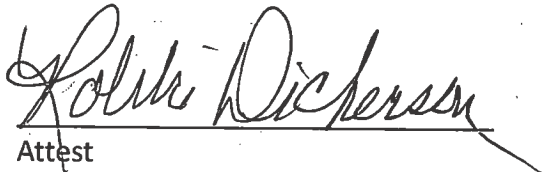
With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows:

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