

November 13, 2024

Regular Meeting Minutes, Walker County Commission

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Walker County Commission held in their offices in the Walker County Courthouse Annex, Jasper, Alabama, at 10:30 a.m. on the 13th day of November, 2024, Chairman Miller gave the welcome and called the meeting to order.

After invitation to both citizens and other elected officials to comment, County Administrator, Amy Frederickson, called the roll and the Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Al Blanton gave the invocation and Commissioner John Dunagan led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the agenda.

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

Without opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Amy Frederickson began by congratulating the Commissioners and Chairman on their Election and Re-Election, respectively. She continued by voicing her approval and excitement for Walker County's future, stating that she wanted to "applaud Walker County for having selected five of the most dedicated, sincere, and hardworking men to represent Walker County's interests for the next four years." Recognizing the volume of work to be done to improve the County for its current and future residents alike, she expressed that it was her honor and privilege to continue serving the people of Walker County with the elected officials before her.

As a matter of business, Ms. Frederickson added that the County's United Way Employee Donation drive was coming to a close and asked that all Employees wishing to

contribute to United Way have their forms completed and returned to the Commission Office by Friday, November 15, 2024.

County Engineer Glenn Peek welcomed the new Commissioners and congratulated them on their election. Mr. Peek stated that work had begun on several road projects including but not limited to Boldo Road. And Mr. Peek added that new paving projects were in the planning process and that he anticipated that these projects would be coming before the Commission in due time.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open for discussion the proposed Walker County Commission Meeting Schedule.

With brief explanation by County Administrator Amy Frederickson and with input from Commissioner Borden, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and approve the Walker County Commission Meeting Schedule as follows:

The Commission is set to meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 9:30am in the Commission Meeting Room.

If, however, the 1st and/or 3rd Monday was a declared Holiday, then the meeting would be held on the Tuesday following the holiday at the same time and place.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

- (2) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open for discussion the proposed Holiday Schedule for Walker County.

After explanation by County Administrator that the holiday schedule proposed mirrored that published by the State of Alabama for 2025 and recognition by Chairman Miller that additional holidays could also be declared by motion of the Governor, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to close discussion and approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule for Walker County.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion the proposal to retain and employ the law-firm, Stephens & Stephens, LLC, and its Associates for the purpose of representing Walker County in all legal matters, effective November 1, 2024.

After Chairman Miller's explanation and confirmation that the firm previously retained by the County had withdrawn as the County's legal counsel, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to close discussion and approve the retention and employment of Stephens & Stephens, LLC, and its Associates, effective November 1, 2024.

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 Aderholt to open for discussion the proposal to pay \$9500.00 to Joey's Plumbing to repair and replace a broken sewer drain line and to plumb the Probate Office and adjoining Archives Building.

After explanation by Judge A. Lee Tucker of the recent discovery of the collapsed drain line, the hardship it has created within the Probate Office, as well as the continuous efforts to mitigate resulting basement flooding, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to close discussion and approve the \$9500.00 proposal by Joey's Plumbing to remedy the collapsed drain pipe, replumb, and run plumbing to the adjacent 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 Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open the discussion of the \$2500.00 proposal by Davis's Tree Service for the removal of a tree located behind the Probate Office/Archives Building that has a root system that imposes on the plumbing being repaired.

Without additional discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the \$2500.00 proposal by Davis Tree Service for the removal of the nuisance tree from its location behind the Probate Office/Archives Building.

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 Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open the discussion of the request to in-service transfer Mr. Jason Swindle to the position of District 1 Supervisor, to be effective immediately.

After explanation by Commissioner Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion and approve the in-service transfer of Mr. Jason Swindle to the District 1 Supervisor position, effective immediately.

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 ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Dunagan began by making a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Burrough, to add to the agenda item #5 for the discussion and approval of \$2500.00 proposal by Davis's Tree Service for the removal of a tree located behind the Probate Office/Archives Building that has a root system that imposes on the plumbing being repaired. A vote was taken on the addition of agenda item #5 as proposed with results as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye. With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried

Next, Commissioner Dunagan made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Burrough, to add to the agenda item #6 for discussion and approval of the request to in-service transfer Mr. Jason Swindle to the position of District 1 Supervisor, effective immediately. A vote was taken on the addition of agenda item #6 as proposed with results as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye. With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Once the two agenda items (# 5 & #6) had been addressed, Commissioner John Dunagan thanked the voters of Walker County for placing their confidence in him as their District 1 Commissioner. Commissioner Dunagan characterized the opportunity to serve District 1 and the County as both an "honor and privilege" and expressed his high-hopes for the Commission in its efforts to work together over the next four years to build a better Walker County. In closing, Commissioner Dunagan asked that everyone please keep this Commission in their prayers, asking for blessings and divine guidance to help the Commission do what is best for the County.

Commissioner Burrough began by thanking everyone for attending the meeting and the swearing-in Ceremony. Commissioner Burrough expressed that it is both an honor and privilege to work for District 2 as your commissioner and recognized the outstanding assistance of District 2 Supervisor, Daniel Keeton, without whom, Commissioner Burrough declared the District would not

be able to function at its current capacity. Commissioner Burrough also indicated that this County's ability to perform is due – in most part – to its phenomenal employees, who Commissioner Burrough indicated, are deserving of increased salaries to compensate for the ever-increasing workloads and needs of the citizens. Next, Commissioner Burrough reported that several road projects were finished or were in final stages of completion with the most notable being the Smith's Chapel Bridge, a project that Commissioner Burrough indicated had taken nearly 12-years from conception to completion. Additionally, Commissioner Burrough reported that Rebuild Alabama Road Projects were just beginning, and among those were improvements being made to Scott Cemetery Road. In closing, Commissioner Burrough thanked everyone for attending and thanked everyone who supported him in his re-election.

Commissioner Borden began by extending salutations to the newly-elected Commissioner Dunagan and to his fellow Commissioner's on their re-elections. Commissioner Borden expressed his optimism for his second term as the District 3 Commissioner, taking pride in the progress that the Commission has made together over the past four years, but recognizing the accomplishments of the Commission are to be tempered by the amount of work left to do. Before closing, Commissioner Borden wanted to specifically thank his wife for her continued love and support throughout his campaigns and time in office. To that end, Commissioner Borden recognized the number of extraordinary efforts, challenges the wives of all the Commissioners so graciously endured alongside their husbands, remarking that much of his success as a commissioner was attributable to his wife's unwavering understanding, sacrifices, and support.

Commissioner Aderholt thanked everyone for attending and espoused his optimism for the next four years. Commissioner Aderholt expressed his sincere appreciation for the residents of District 4 and reiterated his call to public service, stating that he works to "make a difference for [the residents of District 4] everyday" and that it is not only his "duty but also an honor to do so." Commissioner Aderholt also welcomed to the County's family, Attorney Charles Stephens, Jr., and his firm. In closing, Commissioner Aderholt gave all the Glory to God and promised to continue his service as a "man of faith serving District 4 and, above all else, Jesus Christ."

Chairman Miller reiterated that it has been a blessing and an honor to serve the people of Walker County for the past four years and even more so to continue this service. Chairman Miller then thanked his wife, Mrs. Pam Miller and his grandson, Luke, for attending the meeting and swearing-in ceremony and thanked his wife, specifically, for her continued love and support and unwavering belief in him. Chairman Miller also thanked Administrator Amy Frederickson and County Attorney Charles Stevens, Jr., the ladies in the Commission Office, and his fellow Commissioners for their hard-work, devotion and service to the County and its residents. In particular, Chairman Miller applauded John Dunagan for running for County Commissioner for District 1 and recognized Commissioner Dunagan's distinguished service to the County. Chairman Miller expressed his delight to serve alongside the Commissioners and reiterated his goal to work together as a team for the betterment of the entire County.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt 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 One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

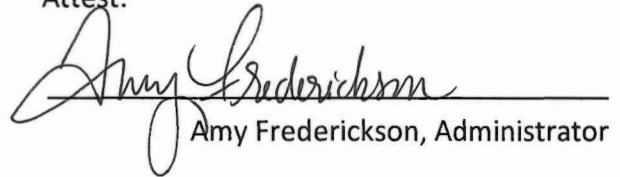
With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Miller, Chairman W.C.C.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Frederickson", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Frederickson, Administrator