

December 2, 2024

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 2nd day of December 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 Commissioners present were John Dunagan, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Burrough gave the invocation and Eddie Miller led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Appropriations checks were presented to representatives of following agencies:

Walker County Economic & Industrial Development Board

Walker County Chamber of Commerce

ARC of Walker County

Walker County Community Action Agency

Walker County Transportation Program

Alabama Extension Service

East Walker Chamber of Commerce

(Photos taken following the presentation)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2024, the Emergency Meeting of November 22, 2024 and Claims Against the County for November, 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.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Amy Frederickson invited everyone to attend the Bicentennial Brunch which will be held tomorrow morning, December 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Jasper Civic Center.

Al Blanton added that the Secretary of State will be there tomorrow.

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated that they have a few paving projects that have been held up due to holiday and weather, but they will pick back up with paving if not this week, next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Commemorative Plaque Purchase.

After explanation by Revenue Commissioner Jerry Davis that they wish to dedicate the Board of Equalization Room to Prior Revenue Commissioner Jerry Guthrie and place a plaque outside that room to commemorate his 27 years of service to the County, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden, to approve the Commemorative Plaque Purchase.

With no 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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of 2024 Employee Bonuses to be paid from Solid Waste Tonnage Fee pursuant to Act No. 94-199, p.254 as Enacted by the Alabama Legislature.

After explanation by County Administrator Amy Frederickson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the 2024 Employee Bonuses to be paid from Solid Waste Tonnage Fee pursuant to Act No. 94-199, p.254 as Enacted by the Alabama Legislature.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid #834, WCP 54-03-25 Empire Road Surfacing and Striping.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek to accept the lowest bid, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve Bid #834, WCP 54-03-25 Empire Road Surfacing and Striping to be awarded to the lowest bidder Wiregrass Construction.

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 Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Renewal of Kayak Rental Liability Insurance Policy, Effective December 1, 2024, through December 1, 2025.

After explanation by County Administrator Amy Frederickson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve the Renewal of Kayak Rental Liability Insurance Policy, Effective December 1, 2024, through December 1, 2025.

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.

(5) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Proposed FY2025 Budget Amendment to Fund 112-53151 for Utilities Paid Under Object Codes 242 & 247 and for the Elimination of Duplicate Utility Allocations for Utilities Presently Included in General Fund Expenditure Budget.

After explanation by County Administrator Amy Frederickson that this is moving allocations into the appropriate fund, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Proposed FY2025 Budget Amendment to Fund 112-53151 for Utilities Paid Under Object Codes 242 & 247 and for the Elimination of Duplicate Utility Allocations for Utilities Presently Included in General Fund Expenditure Budget.

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 Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Purchase, with Probate Discretionary Funds, Meridian Self-Service Kiosk(s) for Probate Office.

After explanation by Judge of Probate Lee Tucker and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to Purchase, with Probate Discretionary funds, Meridian Self-Service Kiosk(s) for Probate Office.

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.

(7) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Secure Fire Systems, Inc. Invoice #1064 in Amount of \$13,195.00 for Security System Upgrade and Installation in the Solid Waste Department.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Secure Fire Systems, Inc. Invoice #1064 in Amount of \$13,195.00 for Security System Upgrade and Installation in the Solid Waste Department.

With no further discussion, the vote take 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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Secure Fire Systems, Inc. Invoice #1065 in Amount of \$59,515.00 for Security System Installation and Upgrade in the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex No. 1, with Payment from Courthouse Security Fund.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Secure Fire Systems, Inc. Invoice #1065 in Amount of \$59,515.00 for Security System Installation and Upgrade in the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex No. 1 with Payment from Courthouse Security 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.

(9) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hire from the Eligible Register Mr. Christopher Craft, Mr. Jarred Fields, and Ms. Kenesha Dickerson in the Position of Full-Time Jailer with an Effective Start Dare of December 4, 2024.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to Hire Mr. Christopher Craft, Mr. Jarred Fields, and Ms. Kenesha Dickerson in the Position of Full-Time Jailer with the Sheriff's Department Effective Start Date of December 4, 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.

(10) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Add Five Common Laborer Employee Slots to Solid Waste Department.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Add Five Common Laborers to 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.

(11) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Hire Mr. John Moorehead as a Common Laborer for the Solid Waste Department with an Effective Start Date of December 4, 2024.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input by Eddie Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to Hire Mr. John Moorehead as a Common Laborer for the Solid Waste Department with an Effective Start Date of December 4, 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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A public Hearing was held by Terry Acuff discussing monies remaining from the CDBG Grant, that if not used must be returned. He said they had \$69,118 left in equipment and the Commission needs to formerly amend that grant to move that money to be applied for the completion for constructing the permanent morgue. So, basically, there is a balance that needs to be moved, just basically amending the grant to apply those monies toward completion of the morgue. He stated that a public hearing must be held before its amended and that it has been advertised and this is the public hearing.

Chairman Miller inquired if there was any public input and there was none.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Borden stated he needed to add an item to the agenda as Number 12. Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add item (12) for Discussion and Approval of CDBG Covid Amendment Resolution.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to Approve to add Item Number 12 – CDBG Covid Amendment Resolution 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 Miller: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(12) Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of the CDBG Covid Amendment Resolution.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input by Commissioner Borden, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the CDBG Covid Amendment Resolution.

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.

Commissioner Dunagan thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Curry Volunteer Fire Department and Alabama Power for coming out on Thanksgiving Day to help to get a tree out the road. He stated that he does appreciate our fire departments and everything they do for our communities. He asked that everyone continue praying for them that they make all the right decisions.

After conferring with the County Administrator Amy Frederickson and County Attorney Charles Stephens, Jr., Commissioner Burrough stated that he needed to add item 13 to the agenda, Discussion and Approval to Allow the Animal Shelter to Close Early for the Jasper Christmas Parade.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to add Item Number 13 – Discussion and Approval to Allow the Jasper Animal Shelter to Close Early for the Jasper Christmas Parade.

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.

(13) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Allow the Animal Shelter to Close Early for the Jasper Christmas Parade.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dunagan and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approval to Allow the Animal Shelter to Close Early for the Christmas Parade in Jasper.

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.

Commissioner Burrough continued stating that he hoped everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and that he hopes the Christmas Holidays start out and end on a positive

note for each family. He stated that as Glenn said, they've got several road projects in the works. He said that the Smith Chapel Bridge Project is finally completed. He thanked the Commission members for keeping that bridge on the back burner even though it took them about ten years to get it opened. He said he hoped to have an official opening of the bridge one day next week. He thanked each person for coming and if they can ever help them to reach out to them.

Commissioner Borden stated, "Thank everyone for being here. I hope everybody had a Happy Thanksgiving and didn't overeat too much." He thanked the First Responders for their enduring service to the County and that they are thankful they have people that do those jobs. He said the Volunteer Fire Departments don't have to do this. They do this because they have a sense of serving. He stated, "They are generally overlooked, but I like to sing their praises because I've always said when nobody will show up, you can count on them. Again, just thank everyone for being here. Just have a safe rest of the month. I think we have another meeting before Christmas." He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Aderholt said he echoed the sentiments of these gentlemen up here. He thanked everyone for being here, that it's always good to see a full room. We got County Government going on for good reasons. He said he was thankful for all the appropriations that they get to make as a County Commission to all these different organizations. He said he was thankful for what they do to move Walker County forward through these agencies. He also thanked the First Responders for their service, that sometimes it goes unnoticed, but he just wanted himself, personally, and his family to say thank them for what they do. He said it was a good meeting and he is looking forward to moving Walker County forward in 2025.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say, thank you. Thank you, this new Commission, things are going smoothly. Mrs. Amy doing a great job and new attorney, we appreciate you folks that have come to our meeting. We appreciate you being concerned about Walker County. I, too, as Mr. Aderholt says, am looking forward to moving Walker County through the future. We're continuing to do so. Mr. Tucker here is trying to get us into the 21st century down at Probate. We appreciate all of that. We appreciate the ladies here. These ladies don't get commended enough in our payroll department. They do a fantastic job. There's a lot of things that go into these Christmas bonuses, these paydays, rate changes, insurance changes, all of the things that they have to deal with, with all of the employees. So, they do a great job. Everybody else in the County that works for the County does a great job, too. The employees, if it wasn't for y'all this County would not move forward. We appreciate that. I hope everybody had plenty of turkey to eat and looking forward to the other holidays that are coming up. And we just appreciate each, and every one of you. At this time, we'll

move to adjourn to the executive session and the reason we left this to the last is we'd like to adjourn to the executive session and not come back. I don't think there's anything we would have to vote on. Mr. Stephens is this a good executive session?"

County Attorney Charles Stephens, Jr. stated, "Yes, sir, based on the topics that are going to be discussed and the sensitive nature, I believe the executive session is proper, so as to not demean anyone's character."

ADJOURN:

After the County Attorney Charles Stephens, Jr. stated that the matters to be discussed meets the criteria for an executive session, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Dunagan, that this meeting be adjourned to Executive Session and 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.

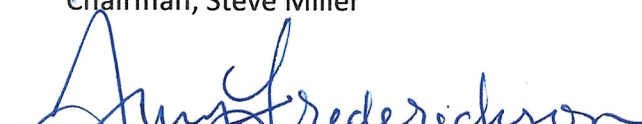
With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(COMMISSION RETIRES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Read and Approved:



Chairman, Steve Miller



Attest, Administrator