

September 16, 2024

At a regularly 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden, Steven Aderholt, and Chairman Steve Miller.

Mr. Al Blanton led the Invocation and Mr. David Knight led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Chairman Miller read aloud the Walker County Commission's Proclamation declaring the week of September 16, 2024, as Alabama Extension Week. Commissioners commended Mr. Danny Cain for his years of service to the County and its citizens and applauded the work of Walker County Extension Office and Mr. Cain in their efforts to provide educational outreach on topics highlighting residential and commercial agriculture and gardening.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Agenda; to Approve the Meeting Minutes of September 3, 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 Commissioner declared the motion carried.

#### **REPORTS FROM THE STAFF:**

County Administrator, Amy Frederickson reported that she had been working closely with the County's Accountant, Mr. Randy Dodd, in preparation for presentation of the FY2025 Budget. Ms. Frederickson expressed her gratitude for Mr. Dodd's invaluable assistance throughout the process. And, inviting all department heads and interested citizens to attend, she announced that the County Commission had scheduled two special meetings at 9:30am in the Commission Meeting Room with the first on September 20, 2024, which would be the work session for the FY2025 budget; and with the second on September 25, 2024, for the Commission's discussion and approval of the FY2025.

County Engineer, Glenn Peek reported that he was looking forward to beginning new FY2025 projects and was entertaining bids for new paving projects that would get started in the next fiscal year.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Commission Resolution . . . 'Freeze of Overtime Pay.'"

With input from Mr. Charles Tatum on behalf of the Walker County Sheriff's Office, and discussion amongst Commissioners Aderholt, Davis, and Burrough, motion was made by

Commissioner Burrough and Seconded by Commissioner Davis to table the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Commission Resolution . . . 'Freeze of Overtime Pay.'"

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Bid for Project SW000076-01 (Tubbs Hill Road Cross Drain Replacement)."

After explanation and recommendation by the County Engineer, Mr. Glenn Peek, that the Commission accept the low bid of \$170,087.00 made by Avery Landscaping and Associates, LLC, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion and award bid for Project SW000076-01 to 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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (2) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Engineering Services Proposal from EEFS Company, PC for Project SW000076-01."

After a brief explanation by the County Engineer, Mr. Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to close discussion and approve EEFS Company's Engineering Services Proposal for Project SW000076-01.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (3) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Freshwater Land Trust Concerning Proposed Improvements to Walker County Property."

Ms. Rusha Smith, spoke to the Commission on behalf of the Freshwater Land Trust, and explained the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Smith recognized that there may need to be certain alterations to the Memorandum to reflect potential egress changes that scheduled to be discussed with current easement owners, Alabama Power. Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to close discussion and to give the Chairman the authority to execute the Memorandum of Understanding in its current, or amended form so that it could accurately reflect any changes necessitated by the outcome of the easement/ingress/egress discussions.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (4) Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Commitment to Pay \$5000.00 from Capital Improvement Fund towards Courthouse Clocks for the Jasper Main Street Project."

With a brief explanation from Chairman Miller as to the request from Mayor O'Mary, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close discussion and approve the payment of \$5000.00 from Capital Improvement Fund to Jasper Main Street for the purpose of restoring/replacing the Courthouse Clocks.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (5) Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of to repair roofing for Courthouse Annex #2, Probate Office, and adjacent Space; \$48,000.00 by Finishing Solutions."

With a brief explanation from Judge A. Lee Tucker and Chairman Miller, and with approval from County Attorney, Richard Fikes, that the contract amounts fell below the State Bid Requirements, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close discussion and approve Finishing Solutions \$48,000.00 proposal to repair the roofing for Courthouse Annex #2, Probate Office, and adjacent spaces.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (6) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of [WVTM] request to install cameras atop the Courthouse Annex/Courthouse Building."

County Administrator Amy Frederickson briefly explained the intent and purpose of the WVTM project, and motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to close the discussion and vote for approval of the request to install cameras atop the Courthouse/Courthouse Annex Building by WVTM.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (7) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of Application to Rent Old Airport/Fairgrounds on October 5, 2024 by Reebo Reeves Invitational, Inc."

County Administrator Amy Frederickson, joined by Commissioner Borden, provided an explanation for the rental request by Reebo Reeves Invitational. Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to close the discussion and vote for approval of the rental application by Reebo Reeves Invitational's for the rodeo scheduled October 5, 2024.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (8) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of the Part-Time Employment of Ms. Shanna Davis and Ms. McKenzie Clark in the Revenue Department with Employment Beginning September [18], 2024."

With brief explanation by Revenue Commissioner Jerry Davis, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close the discussion and vote for approval.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (9) Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of the Employment of Ms. Cynthia Cagle as Part-Time Payroll Clerk in the Commission Office with Employment Beginning September 18, 2024."

With brief explanation by County Administrator, Amy Frederickson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close the discussion and vote for approval.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

(10) Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval of the Part-Time Employment of Jarred Fields and Jordan R. Moore as Part-Time Jailers with Walker County Sheriff's Office, and with employment to begin September 18, 2024."

With reference to the Walker County Departmental Employee Slot List by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to close the discussion and vote for approval.

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

Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

(11) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open for discussion the item entitled, "Discussion and Approval to Authorize Chairman Miller to start [initial inquiry about] renovations in Courthouse Annex to include opening wall for the expansion of Commission Office.

After brief explanation by Chairman Miller and input from Commissioner Aderholt, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to close the discussion and vote for approval.

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. Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

**Public Hearings:** None

**Executive Session:**

After County Attorney Richard Fikes stated that the matters to be discussed meet the criteria for an executive session and provided a letter stating the same to County Administrator Amy Frederickson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis that the Commission then retire to Executive Session and reconvene afterwards.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

(Commission Retires to Executive Session)

(Commission Reconvenes)

Chairman Miller called the meeting back to order.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to adopt a resolution approving the County Commission's retention of the County Attorney for the defense of any pending and related claims involving appeals from the Equalization Board.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (12) Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough that #12 be added to the agenda for discussion and approval of the Probate Court's proposal for the replacement and addition of new support joists to the GMay/Archives Building. In support, Judge Tucker indicated that the necessary contract changes were late arriving and unable to be added to the agenda at the time of its creation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open for discussion the Probate Court's proposal for the replacement and addition of new support joists to the GMay/Archives Building.

With some additional context and explanation by Judge A. Lee Tucker, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to close discussion and approve the proposal for the replacement and addition of new floor joists to be added in the GMay/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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

- (13) Motion was then made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough that #13 be added to the agenda for discussion and approval of the Revenue Commissioner's request to hire an additional Seasonal Part-Time worker whose name was not included in the batch of hiring letters sent to the Commission Office, like the other seasonal, part-time revenue clerk's employment would be effective September 18, 2024.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open for discussion the Revenue Commissioner's request to hire an additional seasonal revenue clerk with employment effective September 18, 2024.

With some additional context and explanation by Revenue Commissioner Jerry Davis, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to close discussion and approve the part-time seasonal hire with an effective date of September 18, 2024.

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, Chairman Miller declared the motion carried.

#### **DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for their attendance and expressed his sincere appreciation for the many thoughts and prayers for his recovery from back surgery. Commissioner Davis happily reported that he had received very positive news from his medical team that predicted a full recovery. In conclusion, Commissioner Davis thanked the public, his associates, and the employees of Walker County for their support and continued prayers.

Commissioner Burrough began by thanking everyone for attending and for taking an active interest in the County and its business. Commissioner Burrough also gave special thanks to County employees who were working diligently through the weekend to clear storm debris. He then spoke to the revenue strains on the County and encouraged everyone to attend the Commission's upcoming special sessions. He indicated his desires to implement the Condrey and Associates study's results and increase Walker County employees' salaries to make the County more competitive. Commissioner Burrough also thanked the County Administrator for her hard work on the budget and indicated that he was looking forward to her upcoming presentation.

Commissioner Borden thanked all in attendance and expressed his appreciation for the employees and their hard work. Commissioner Borden echoed Commissioner Burrough's comments thanking not only the employees of the County who were working over the prior weekend, but also the first responders who give so freely for very little in return. Commissioner Borden spoke briefly about civic participation and encouraged everyone to attend the special meetings on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Commissioner Borden expressed his sincere appreciation for Mr. Danny Cain and all the exemplary work that he has done for the community and in educating the public through the Alabama Extension Office.

Commissioner Aderholt thanked all in attendance. He then gave special thanks to Ms. Rusha Smith from the Freshwater Land Trust and expressed his excitement at the plans to encourage eco-tourism using Tyson funds to develop a canoe launch with potential for mountain biking and hiking trails. Commissioner Aderholt emphasized the potential for the surrounding communities. He also recognized and thanked Mr. Danny Cain for his service to the County through the Alabama Extension Office.

Chairman Steve Miller began by recognizing Mr. Danny Cain and voicing his appreciation and offering a congratulations for his instrumental service to the County and its residents. Chairman Miller addressed his hopes for the County Commission, his goal is to keep the County moving forward, and explaining that it requires a hard-working County Commission and anticipated the need to promote fiscal responsibility and frugality. Chairman Miller also voiced his appreciation for Mr. David Knight and his efforts to develop Walker County. Chairman Miller ended with a call for cooperation amongst Departments as we head into the new fiscal year.

#### **ADJOURN:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the special meeting scheduled for September 20, 2024.



With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 so carried.



Chairman, Steve Miller



Attest. County Administrator