

January 18, 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 18th day of January 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: Jeff Burrough and Jim Borden.

Chairman Miller stated, "Mr. Fikes per the rules and regulations, we still have a quorum present?"

County Attorney Fikes stated, "Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman."

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

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Agenda and to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2022 meeting.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "You'll find a business license report as far as the budget. I'm looking at it quarterly. Any excess is being divided equally between the four districts and you'll see where the deposit was made last week. And just to keep everybody up to date we met with the bank regarding payroll direct deposit along with some other options that we're looking at to help make certain tasks that we do here more efficient and faster and also help with the Solid Waste Department. So there are some good things coming that will help the citizens and our employees and we will be reaching out to all the staff members before too long about their comments on direct deposit."

County Engineer Mike Short stated. "I just want to let the Commission know that ALDOT notified me that Brown's Bridge is in the March letting at this time. As you know, we cleared all the property acquisitions on both Brown's Bridge and Smith's Chapel Bridge in District Two. Brown's Bridge just happens to be a little bit further along, so it is scheduled for the March letting and Smith's Chapel Bridge should be right behind that."

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the M4A Board Appointments.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to appoint Renee Sides and Deidre Tatum to the M4A Board.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Tri County Agency on Intellectual Disabilities Board Appointment.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that the Commission had received a letter from the Tri County Agency requesting that Ms. Ava Stewart from Jasper, Alabama be appointed to replace Mr. O'Neal Sparks, whose term has expired, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the appointment to the Tri County Agency on Intellectual Disabilities Board.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of HAVA Grant Acceptance.

After explanation by Probate Judge Lee Tucker, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to accept the HAVA Grant.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Sheriff Budget Amendments.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Sheriff Budget Amendments.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the COVID Resolution.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input from Chairman Miller, County Attorney Richard Fikes, Sheriff Nick Smith and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to table the COVID Resolution till the next meeting.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Solid Waste In-Service Promotion-3 Driver/Operators.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Solid Waste In-Service Promotion-3 Driver/Operators.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Commission Office In-Service Promotion-Payroll Clerk.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and complimentary remarks by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Commission Office In-Service Promotion-Payroll Clerk.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Solid Waste In-Service Promotion for Solid Waste

Administrative Clerk.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan and complimentary remarks by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Solid-Waste In-Service Promotion-Solid Waste Administrative Clerk for Starr King.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Approval PT Position for PH&T.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the PT Position for PH&T for Mark Stephens.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Bid Approval Curry Storm Shelter.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and the Chairman recognizing that Commissioner Davis is absent, input from County Engineer Mike Short and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the lowest Bid for the Curry Storm Shelter.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Pinnacle Lot Lease Approval.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Pinnacle Lot Lease.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Appraisal Vehicle Acceptance.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by County Administrator Robbie

Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Appraisal Vehicle.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to retire to executive session and to reconvene afterward.

County Attorney Richard Fikes explained that he had provided a letter to the Commission that what they will be discussing meets the criteria for an executive meeting.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(COMMISSION RETIRED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 10:12)

(COMMISSION MEETING RECONVENED AT 11:45)

Chairman Miller called the Commission Meeting back to order.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to grant authority to the County Attorney Richard Fikes to move forward with legal action to explore and pursue any options to keep the Bryan Landfill open.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to grant the authority to Chairman Miller to report and/or respond and sign off on all the 2018-2019 audit reports.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to appoint a building maintenance technician.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Burrough stated: "I really don't have any comments, but each of y'all that works for us and do your job, Barbara, John, Mike, Richard, Robbie, I appreciate you."

Commissioner Borden stated: "Just as Commissioner Burrough says, you know, our employees are what keeps this county going. I've been in office a little over a year now. I have employees that really do try to help the citizens of the county, in particularly District Three. Over the year I've met employees from other departments. I think all the employees do a good job. Also, with Mr. Short talking about the Brown Bridge being let with the State, big news to District Three. This project, I've been telling people the bridge is going to be built. It's just a matter now of – as the State lets the contracts, I'm sure – well, as Mr. Short says, it will go into a bidding process, they'll select contractors and all those steps will come in.

County Engineer Mike Short stated: "What they'll do, they'll make an estimate and then they will require our twenty percent match of that estimate and then it will be let at the State level and the lowest qualified bidder will be awarded and then if there is a difference between the estimate and the award, then we will have to make up that difference, but they get our twenty percent before they ever even put it out there.

Commissioner Borden said: "But the bridge is coming."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "The bridge is coming."

Chairman Miller stated: "I, too, would like to say thank you to all our employees. Without you this county would not move forward from day-to-day. I appreciate everything everyone of you do. The Curry Storm Shelter we look forward to that moving as quickly as possible. This is something great for that community. And I know Mr. Davis will be really proud of that and we're glad that the Commission was able to move that on in his absence today. With that, I need a motion for approval of this meeting to be adjourned and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman."

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.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest

