

February 20, 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 20th day of February 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, Barbara Higgins called the roll and Commissioners present were Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough and Jim Borden.

Commissioner Borden gave the invocation and County Attorney Richard Fikes led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2024 and to Approve the Claims Against the County for January 2024.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Engineer Glenn Peek stated that they have several paving projects ongoing. He gave an update on Smith Chapel Bridge Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 811 – Slag and Stone.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, input by Mike Short and County Attorney Richard Fikes and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to accept the low bid from Wiregrass for District One.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

A further motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to accept the low bid for General Purpose Stone to be awarded

to Wade Sand and Gravel for General Use for District Two, District Three and District Four.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 813 – Emulsified Asphalt.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Award Bid No. 813 – Emulsified Asphalt to Vulcan Asphalt.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 814 - Corrugated Metal Pipe.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to award Bid No. 814 – Corrugated Metal Pipe to J & G Culvert.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 815 – HDPE Double Wall Pipe.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Award Bid No. 815 – HDPE Double Wall Pipe to J & G Culvert.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Contract with Alabama Power to upgrade lighting to 3 LED Fixtures for Justice Center.

After explanation by District Attorney Bill Adair, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Contract with Alabama Power Company to upgrade lighting to 3 LED Fixtures for Justice Center.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion and Approval to use \$100,000 of Opioid monies by the District Attorney's Office to implement an Enhanced Electronic Rehabilitation Program.

After a presentation and explanation by District Attorney Bill Adair, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the use of \$100,000 of Opioid monies by the District Attorney's Office to implement an Enhanced Electronic Rehabilitation Program.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to hire Dave Sexton as a part time Common Laborer in the Road and Bridge Department.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve to hire Dave Sexton as a part time Common Laborer in the Road and Bridge Department.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Discussion and Approval to hire Joseph Cox as temporary Driver/Operator for 120 days at Solid Waste Department.

After explanation by Acting Director James Dockins, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to hire Joseph Cox as temporary Driver/Operator for 120 days at Solid Waste Department.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion and Approval to accept \$7,500 from Advance Greater Birmingham Economic Development Grant and add \$5,000 to purchase panels for outdoor riding arena at Agricultural Event Center.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Grant of \$7,500 from Greater Birmingham Economic Development and add \$5,000 to purchase panels for outdoor riding arena at Agricultural Event Center from Fund 107.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Repair Cameras at the Jail, at a cost of \$27,673 to be taken out of Fund 107.

After explanation by Jail Captain Arcelia (Jottie) Tidwell of the Walker County Jail, question from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson on behalf of Sheriff Nick Smith and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve to Repair Cameras at the Jail, at a cost of \$27,673 to be taken out of Fund 107.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to replace coils in AHU-1 – Walker County Annex Building.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve to replace coils in AHU-1 Walker County Annex Building.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Access Point Highway 69 for canoes and Kayaks.

After explanation by Mike Short that this will be pass through money with no cost to the County, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by

Commissioner Burrough to Approve \$50,000 for Access Point Highway.69 for canoes and kayaks.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; 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 Discussion and Approval to cancel the March 4, 2024 Commission Meeting.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by Probate Judge Lee Tucker and Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to cancel the March 4, 2024, Commission Meeting.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Davis stated, "Thank everybody for their attendance and it's good to see everybody this morning. I thank our Sheriff Deputies for everything they do to keep us safe. They have had a busy couple of weeks reading about the drug busts and things that y'all have going on and things that y'all do. We really, really appreciate that. I appreciate Bill and his department and DA's Office and the things that they're doing also. Remember to pray for us that we continue to make decisions the best we can. We covet your prayers, we need your prayers."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I, too, would like to thank everybody for being here. I appreciate each employee we have in the county and all the work that you do for us. I hope that as spring weather starts coming along we can get a lot of things accomplished in every department and try to make Walker County accessible and a good county to work for. And we've got several road projects ongoing. Of course, we're getting close to the spraying season as far as killing certain weeds and stuff on the sides of the roads, just be aware when you're out and driving, I ask the public to be aware of our workers. They work hard and like I say it's a tough job out there when you've got traffic going real, real fast. Keep up prayers for us and just hope that we continue to do what's best for Walker County."

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here.

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I would add one more thing, like Mike talked about, people need to sort of get out and visit these access points. I mean, they're really a big benefit to people who likes to do that, kayaking, canoeing and stuff like that. It's really impressive. I think I've been to the 69 more than any of them, but I thank those people that did all the efforts to doing that. That is a real plus to this county. And I appreciate y'all doing that."

Commissioner Borden stated, "Can I add something. Along those lines, it just now occurred to me, a lot of the grants that are coming out from the Greater Birmingham, a lot of our towns are applying for the grants through these and it entails with outdoor activities, walking trails, our canoe launches, again, a lot of the towns, I've been to some of the meetings, Nauvoo, Cordova, possible Carbon Hill, I think, is in that where they do their five year plans for development to improve the communities in these areas. As Commissioner Burrough stated, they're out there and the citizens really need to take part in this. On the Saturday, these are some nice places to go, you know, go enjoy the outdoors and some fresh air."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to thank everyone for coming to our meeting and it is with great respect we understand each and every one of you puts in a lot of work for the county, those that are employed we appreciate your service. We appreciate you citizens for showing up and being concerned. We appreciate just in general how this county is beginning to move forward and enjoy some better financial stability and changes. We certainly stand behind our Sheriff's Department. And with that I pulled some numbers just to kind of give us a little bit of perspective on how this Commission totally stands behind their Sheriff Department. Since I came into office in November of 2020 through February 16th, our Sheriff's Department and Jail, our Fund 107 total law enforcement expenditures through February 16th, \$25,216,725.46. I think that tells you that this Commission is behind their Sheriff's Department. This Commission is behind all employees of this county. We appreciate each, and every one. It is our job to be behind these folks and run this county in such a way that it moves forward every day. Thank each, and every one of you for that. I would ask for a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled

meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

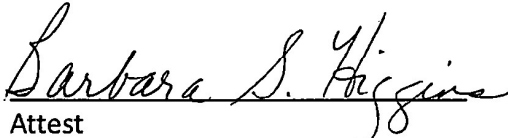
With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest