

March 18 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 18th day of March 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 Jeff Burrough and Jim Borden.

Chairman Miller inquired of the County Attorney, Richard Fikes, if there was a quorum and Attorney Fikes responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Al Blanton gave the invocation and Mr. David Knight led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024, to Approve the New Vendor List, and to Approve the Claims Against the County for February 2024.

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 Engineer Glenn Peek gave a report on the ARPA Funding. He said that they have used 4.6 Million Dollars on various projects and they have 3.6 Million Dollars allocated already, which money has to be contracted by the end of this year and projects finished by the end of 2025. He stated, "Also, Smith Chapel Bridge is basically finished. We are waiting for the paving contractor, which will have some seasonal limitations, especially with temperatures falling again like they have. So we have to have a certain air temperature and rising before they can do the resurfacing on that project. That's all I have."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Board Property Acquisition monies – David Knight.

After explanation by David Knight, who provided a packet to the Commission with information on the SEEDS Funding that was allocated, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the \$300,000 for the land acquisition to the Industrial Development Board.

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 Discussion and Approval of Work Plan from Simple Grants.

After explanation by Chairman Miller that it would cost between \$7,425 up to \$9,900 and will take between 45 and 60 hours, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Work Plan from Simple Grants.

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 Discussion and Approval of EMA Performance Grant.

After explanation by EMA Director Regina Myers that this is an allotted State reimbursement back to the county for costs, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the EMA Performance 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 Discussion and Approval of Lease Agreement to Donald and Nancy Cagle for Lots 2 & 4 of Block 244, Jasper, Alabama, property behind the jail.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input by Sheriff Nick Smith and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Lease Agreement.

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 Discussion and Approval to Appoint Tommy Burgett to the Townley Water Authority Board.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough that they had received a letter from the Townley Water Authority Board stating that Mr. Willie Guthrie will be resigning in April and recommended that Mr. Burgett be appointed to fill that position, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to appoint Mr. Tommy Burgett to the Townley Water Authority Board.

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 combine items 6 and 7 on the agenda as they concern the same matter and to open for discussion.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek on the Road & Bridge Fund and Chairman Miller explaining about the General Reserve Fund, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to transfer \$100,000 to each District from Road & Bridge and \$100,000 to each District from the General Reserve Fund.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to hire Dave Sexton as a part time Heavy Equipment Operator for Road & Bridge with a start date of March 4, 2024.

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 Heavy Equipment Operator for Road & Bridge with a start date of March 4, 2024.

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 Discussion and Approval of RALG064-2023-064 Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements on CR-22 (Empire Road).

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek that this project be awarded to Gillespie Construction as low bidder and that EEFS be approved as the consultant to manage this job and that Commissioner Aderholt is in agreement,

motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve RALG064-2023-064 Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements on CR-22(Empire Road), with the award going to Gillespie Construction and EEFS being approved to manage the job.

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 Discussion and Approval of License Agreement for Old Airport Property for Bevill State to conduct CDL Truck Driving Training.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, input by EMA Director Regina Myers and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to table this item and to give the Chairman the authority to conduct an investigation as to the exact terms of the agreement.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to hire five (5) Driver/Operators for Solid Waste Department.

After explanation by Acting Director James Dockins, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to hire five (5) Driver/Operators for Solid Waste Department.

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 Discussion and Approval to post for Solid Waste Director.

After explanation by Acting Director James Dockins and input by John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to post for Solid Waste Director.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to work Rodney Cain as Director

of Solid Waste for 120 days.

After Commissioner Burrough stated that he didn't have anything to add, that obviously they've got to have people in line to take over, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve to work Rodney Cain as Director of Solid Waste for 120 days.

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 Discussion and Approval to pay Axon Enterprise, Inc out of Sheriff's Department Budget and to look for further funding.

After explanation by Captain Ralph Williams and input by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve to pay Axon Enterprise, Inc out of the Sheriff's Department Budget and to look for further funding.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After County Attorney Richard Fikes provided a letter stating that the matters to be discussed meets the criteria for an executive session, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to retire to executive session and resume.

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)

(Chairman and Commissioners return)

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough that the Commission Meeting Reconvene.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chairman Miller called the meeting back to order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Burrough stated, "First off, I'd like to thank each of you for coming and showing interest in our county government. We try to make decisions that are best for the county. There are a lot of things and a lot of moving parts that gets going when we're moving from winter to spring in the Districts. We have a lot of road projects that are being planned, being finished up waiting on asphalt for warmer temperatures. I know we have several projects in District Two." He said he appreciated the little extra money, that it will be very helpful in trying to figure out how to pave some of the rough roads. He thanked everybody for coming. He said he appreciated the work that Nick and his fellows do, and all the employees, that they have a lot of good employees in the county and he appreciates all of them.

Commissioner Borden stated he just wanted to thank everyone for being here. He said he didn't have any other comments other than he was a little under the weather.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say thank you for everybody attending today. And we do appreciate Mr. Peek working with us to figure out that we could move the money from the Road and Bridge to help these guys and then out of the General Fund Reserves the additional Four Hundred Thousand (\$400,000) for a total of Eight Hundred Thousand (\$800,000) to move and continuing to work on these roads and do things for the citizens of Walker County. It is our desire to pave every road in this county. Unfortunately, we only have so much money to do that. But we're moving forward. Now, we do appreciate Captain Williams for being here, for working on the grants and helping to acquire money for these cameras. This is going to be awesome. And we're going to work together to continue every effort we can there. We appreciate all the employees of the county. Without you, we would not continue to run this county and move it forward. I have great respect of the law enforcement because of having some background in that law enforcement area, that's a hard job. Today, just giving everybody a little thought here, we're running good in all of the accounts. We look at it daily sheets on the accounts for the county, continue to keep up with those, and all of the accounts are in the positive. There's nothing in the negative. It's always good to see a little bit of funding coming in. We have a lot of buildings that we maintain and that we do. Those buildings have to be maintained, so we have a good maintenance department and I would like to commend Mr. Whitehead. He does a good job. We appreciate each, and every one of you. I hope your week is great, the weather is great. And at this time we'd entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

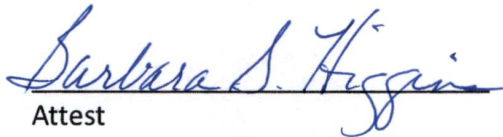
With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman



Attest