

May 2, 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 2nd day of May 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: Keith Davis, Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

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

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman Miller presented a proclamation of appreciation in memory of Mr. Ken Lewis Thomas, as Chairman I hereby offer this proclamation: "Whereas Ken Lewis Thomas has given 32 years of loyal service with no monetary compensation to the citizens of Walker County.

Whereas, Mr. Thomas has demonstrated servitude and friendship seasoned with loyalty and compassion.

Whereas, Mr. Thomas departed this life on April 19, 2022. Therefore, I hereby resolve that this Commission rise in honor on this day in recognition of Mr. Ken Lewis Thomas, a friend of the people.

He who hath friends must show himself friendly, Proverbs 18:24. I hereby salute a friend of the people Ken Lewis Thomas for service rendered in a job well done. (Everyone complied)"

We appreciate Mr. Thomas very much. Thank you.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Agenda, to Approve the Minutes of April 18, 2022 and to Approve the Claims Against the County for April, 2022.

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 Robbie Dickerson stated, "I've got just a couple of things; One is our quarterly federal filing is completed, which has to do with the federal funds received through, you know, the COVID. We've got a 3:00 p.m. meeting today for direct deposit, where if that meeting goes well, we will go live on this payroll, this upcoming payroll. We are in the process of fulfilling our questionnaire, completing it for the Workmen's Comp, which, of course, that bleeds into next year. Our wellness screening that we participated in last month was at 79 percent, but that was excluding Solid Waste, which will be done at a later date and that will put us

over what we need. And we had a meeting with C-Spire last week and we're six to eight weeks out on the new phone and internet service for the buildings downtown here."

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "Just to let the Commission know, the work at the Curry Storm Shelter is progressing, due to the volunteer work that the Drummond Company is giving to the County as far as the preparation of the building pad and parking area. We really appreciate that." He further stated that Charlie Watts told him this morning that he will be here during the month of May, that he didn't give him a specific date, but that they had been waiting for many, many months and he was glad to hear that.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Property Insurance Discussion and Approval.

After a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Borden and Davis (simultaneously) to postpone this to the next meeting.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of the Fairgrounds Lighting Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by Commissioner Borden and no action required at this time, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to end discussion.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Courthouse Elevator Discussion and Approval.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short, input from Chairman Miller, Commissioners Davis and Aderholt and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to fix the elevator after getting the numbers.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Curry Water Authority Board Appointment.

After explanation by Commissioner Davis, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Appointment of Mr. Steve Pruett to the Curry Water Board Authority.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Resolution for Sheriff Fund Raising Events Approval.

After Chairman Miller explained that the Commissioners have a Resolution in front of them, input from Commissioners Davis and Aderholt, explanation by Darrell Mote from the Sheriff's Office and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Resolution.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Copeland Ferry/Pumpkin Center Emergency Grant Approval.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short and input by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Borden to approve the Copeland Ferry/Pumpkin Center Emergency Grant Approval.

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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioners Davis and Aderholt (simultaneously) to open discussion of the WCHAC Hiring of Zackery Guthrie and Antoine Dukes.

After explanation by Walker County Humane and Adoption Center Director Kay Farley, input from Chairman Miller, County Administrator stating that this will be replacing one person and adding one part-time, input by Commissioner Burrough and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the WCHAC Hiring of Zackery Guthrie and Antoine Dukes.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Davis made a motion seconded by Commissioner Burrough to add for discussion changing the hours of operation at the

Walker County Humane and Adoption Center.

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 and Item 6, changing the hours of operation at the Walker County Health and Humane Adoption Center, was added to the agenda.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open for discussion Changing the hours of operation at the Walker County Health and Humane Adoption Center.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioners Burrough and Aderholt (simultaneously) to change the operational hours at the Walker County Humane Adoption Center to Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

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.

Commissioner Davis thanked everybody again for their attendance. He stated, "I say this almost every County Commission meeting, we work for you. You hire and you fire us. So, hopefully, we'll continue to do the best we can for you with what we have available. Thank you so much for coming out. I know that we may laugh a little bit up here on some procedural issues when we're trying to get things exactly right so we won't have to go back and re-amend or change things in future dates. I want to thank Captain Mote for the great job the Sheriff's Department is doing. Hopefully these funds will go through local law and then they'll be available for them to have fundraising capability that they need. Mike, Glenn and Regina, we're all working on the Curry Storm shelter. It is progressing at a snail's pace, in my opinion, but it's starting to speed up. You know things take time when you're dealing with government grants and paperwork and different things. Glenn and Regina have been doing a good job of navigating that and hopefully we will see some more progress. I know the parking lot and the pads are being provided right now. I thank the Drummond Company for their help and assistance in this. So, that's moving forward. And like Mike stated earlier, we've got a lot of roads that are getting paved, some added to the list and some is repaving." He said they are still waiting on striping on Smith Lake Dam Road and once that is complete Glenn is working on coming up with a plan to repave the additional mileage of Smith Lake Dam Road. He hopes it will be completed this summer or early fall. He said he was hoping the striping company is coming in because they have an additional ton of mileage in District One that's waiting on striping also. He asked that they remember them in their prayers as they continue to serve this great community.

Commissioner Burrough thanked each one for being here today and all the jobs that they do out in the county, that he knows each has a special job in making our county great. He said he appreciated all the elected officials, Mr. Mote and the job they do, that he is anxious to see what kind of entertainment they will come up with, with that fundraising. He said Ozark was here this week and that they got the

rest of the Nauvoo Road and Fish Hatchery Road. He said they have projects that are completed, that the shoulder is all that's left on the Fish Hatchery Road to be finished up, that they've got the tar and gravel down on Baker Road, that they will seal and finish it this week. He stated that Marc has done a good job putting pressure on Ozark and getting them in. He said Glenn is working on getting plans for Dogtown Road. He thanked everyone again for coming.

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here today. He thanked the county employees and stated, "Without the county employees we would have no county, operation would cease. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes. Me coming in as a new commissioner, I realize now that there is a lot more behind the scenes than what I had originally thought, just being a citizen from day-to-day operations. I want to let the people know down in the Barney Community we have went out and were surveying a couple of sites. We have one promised site for the storm shelter that we're pursuing. As soon as we get the work completed on that, hopefully, that project will take off and bear fruit in the near future. Again, for the weather for my roads, I just want all the citizens in District Three to know the weather is really starting to turn. We've got good springtime now. As the weather warms up, it rains a little bit less, we're able to get out and do a lot more road repairs that we need to be doing. I also want to thank the District Three employees. The guys are really doing an excellent job. There has been a 180 degree turn-around just in the last year and a half." He said they are working on the roads for the citizens and things are going to get better. He stated that the Brown's Bridge project is moving ahead.

County Engineer Mike Short confirmed that they should be getting ready for a preconstruction conference in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Aderholt stated that he has recently purchased a piece of equipment in District Four that may be the only purple dump truck in the county. If anyone sees it, they will know it is a piece of county equipment doing a fantastic job for the citizens of District Four and Walker County. He said the logo is already on it and he's proud to have it. He said there's a lot of work going on in District Four, that they're clipping the roads right now on Empire Road. He said he has some paving work that's coming up, hopefully, this year on Empire Road and a few other roads in District Four, that everybody should be mindful, if they see county equipment, it may be purple, of workers out on the roads and to drive safely.

Commissioner Davis added that he just got notification that Smith Lake Dam Road has just been striped.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say I'm appreciative of all of the county employees. I know we've got a lot of folks working hard and its springtime and there will be a lot of work going on. I also want to commend our Solid Waste. John has done a fantastic job out there, continues to do that. We're seeing the Solid Waste moving leaps and bounds and we really appreciate this. We want to commend him there and Ms. Kay out at the Humane Shelter. We just

appreciate what you do and Mr. Mote I appreciate all that y'all do and all these elected officials up here, we thank you for being here and thank you for what you do and anything we can do to help, we're here to do that. At this time, I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:


Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt 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; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:


Chairman


Attest