

June 7, 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 7th day of June 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.

Al Blanton gave the invocation and Commissioner Borden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Renee Sides, Chairman of the Economic and Industrial Development Authority, made a presentation to introduce the America 250 Initiative to the Walker County Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda and to Approve the Minutes of May 16, 2022, meeting.

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, that next Monday on the 13th, they will be having their wellness screening at Solid Waste and anyone who missed can go out there to participate also. She said she will be off the 14th and 15th unless something comes up and asked that they keep Little Nate in their prayers, that they are having tests run.

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "I just wanted to let the Commission know that we began the process to advertise our Rebuild Alabama Projects for letting and some of the rules have changed. And we're going to receive bids in June, but there is a new requirement with specified advertisement dates for contractors and we missed the first one which was May the 25th for the June letting." He said they weren't ready on the 25th. He said they will have to move that to July and that they will receive bids on July the 20th and that's just a requirement to allow the State Licensed Contractors to have a specific day. He stated, "In the past we've been able to post it on the website and pick our own letting dates, but evidently there were contractors that were missing some of the projects and so they changed the rules. And we are bound to stick by these advertisement dates and specific letting dates to be able to spend the money legally. I just wanted you guys to know that."

Conversation was held between Commissioner Davis and County Engineer Mike Short regarding pipe for the Mill Creek Project and the Smith Lake Dam Road being part of Rebuild Alabama and Commissioner Davis noting and County Engineer Mike Short agreeing that it would be let on July 20th.

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "Each Commissioner has their own project and that's what we've aimed at and that's what we're going to advertise."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the Approval of new bank account and Resolution for Copeland Ferry/Pumpkin Center Water Project Grant.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input by County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the new bank account and Bid Approval for Copeland Ferry/Pumpkin Center Water Project Grant.

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 Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Appointment of the Regional Planning Commission Board Member.

After explanation by Chairman Miller that they have a letter before them from the Planning Commission asking for the appointment, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the Appointment of Commissioner Borden to the Regional Planning Commission 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, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the Approval of the Appraisal Budget Amendment.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that this is a line-item transfer from Fund 550 to 199 for \$100, which has already been approved by the State, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Appraisal Budget Amendment.

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 Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of the Approval of the Revenue Budget Amendment regarding Tax Auction.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve the Revenue Budget Agreement regarding Tax Auction.

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 to open discussion of the Budget Amendment and Approval to Transfer Funds from Fund 112 to the districts.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input from County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to increase that Budget by \$50,000 and move that money into the Districts. Chairman Miller stated that that would make Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) to be used for the roads this cycle.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open for discussion the approval to hire John Wilson III as full-time driver/operator for Solid Waste.

After explanation by Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the hiring of John Wilson III.

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 Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the approval of the Juneteenth holiday for County Employees.

After County Administrator Robbie Dickerson made it known that each of them had the Governor's declaration before them and County Attorney Richard Fikes stating that the Governor issued a memorandum authorizing it as a State Holiday and Judge Lee Tucker making known that the 21st is the run-off election, input by Commissioner Davis and Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, motion was made by

Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve Juneteenth holiday for County Employees.

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 WCHAC proposals.

After a presentation by Kara Jones of RUFF, input from Director of the WCHAC Kay Farley and County Attorney Richard Fikes and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Proposals of the WCHAC.

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 Jail Offices HVAC system quotes discussion and approval.

After Chairman Miller made the Commissioners aware that they have information before them concerning this, input from Sheriff Nick Smith, Chairman Miller, Mike Short and County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to check on the prices and call a special meeting to get 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, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Aderholt said listening to James Spann

that it's going to be hot and possibly muggy. They're long days and a lot of work being done in District Four. He thanked everybody for being here today. He said they're going to be a lot of work going on in the district and if you see employees, county trucks and flaggers to please be mindful and as safe as possible, that he doesn't want anybody hurt. He said he looks forward to the summer.

Commissioner Borden thanked everyone for being here today. He thanked all the speakers. He said, "Humane Society and RUFF hats off to you. Y'all do a great job." He stated District Three employees are out working every day, weather permitting. He gave an update on the roads in the Aldridge Community. He said he has plans for other areas of the district, that he has talked to people in those areas and a lot of the roads will have to be milled up and try to start from scratch, but they are out working daily. He said the gas prices are going to directly affect their costs, but that they are managing every dollar of the taxpayer dollars to get the maximum benefit out of that dollar. He asked that the people in his district be patient with them. He said he thinks they've made good progress in the year and half he's been there and he sees bigger and better things coming for them in the future.

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I want to thank the gentleman that came and talked about the job you're doing with the Retirement for all our retirees. When it makes it to the Agenda, I'm sure we'll address that issue. But I want to thank you for coming. Where did you come from?"

The gentleman stated that he worked for the City of Jasper, as a Policeman.

Commissioner Burrough thanked Kara and Kay for all the work they do, and he hopes this helps their journey through taking care of all our animals. He said his portion of Rebuild Alabama money is going towards the Dogtown Road and it will be bid and let on July 20th. He stated, "Like Jim said the gas prices are going up and maybe the public will bear with them on some of the grass cutting and spraying." He asked that the public be careful when the workers are out. He thanked everyone for coming and stated, "Stay safe."

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by

Commissioner Burrough to amend the Agenda to add the discussion for canceling the June 21st meeting.

The vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three Aye; District Four: Aye; Chairman Miller: Aye.

With no opposition, the Chairman declared to motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to cancel the June 21st meeting.

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.

Commissioner Davis thanked Renee and the Mayor of Cordova, RUFF and Kay for what they do. He thanked Kara for the time she put in for the animals. He said that they are still looking for a name for the no-name puppy that his daughter has. He stated, "We've finally got Watts coming in. I talked to him, Mike, last week. They're doing some work on 69. They're going to repave and get some new pavement down in District One. We've just had a lot of roads restriped, waiting on the reflectors to be put down in District One. We've got the Mill Creek Project coming up and also the remainder paving of Smith Lake Dam Road. So, a lot of work going on. Commissioner Aderholt said, and I want to make mention, too, you know, if you see work ahead signs please slow down. These men have families and things and I've been out there and folks just fly right by you. And it's dangerous and we try to put up as many signs as we can and flashing lights and such and have flaggers, but we're all short staffed. You know, we're working on roads, sometimes maybe we don't have enough flaggers that we need due to being short staffed. So, just slow down a little bit when you see that going on. It's summer and we've got a lot of projects and a lot of work going on throughout the county. The additional funding that was allocated in the budget back in October is now issued and will come very handy on these projects we've got coming up this summer. So, commend these guys on their hard work and what they're doing for their districts. And again, thank everybody for their attendance and I appreciate you so much. Remember to pray for us. Always

pray for us and the decisions that we make and the things that we have to do from day-to-day. Thank you so much."

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say thank you to everyone that has attended, for all the comments. Ms. Sides we appreciate you being here. Ms. Robbie and Mr. Short for their hard work. You gentlemen up here on the Commission, thank each and every one of you. We've got a lot that will be going on this summer. We would like to say thank you to our Sheriff. He does a great job with his hands tied occasionally, like on these units, but we're working on those and hopefully we will get some of these things worked out. There's a lot in these old buildings that we have to work on occasionally, but I know Ms. Odom has had problems with bugs, but we continue to work on those and try to stay ahead of these things, but historically speaking nine million dollars is not a lot for those, but it is a lot in one Commission cycle. It has been a long time since you've seen any of this. These gentlemen work hard with the funds that are available each year, but this gets them ahead a little bit and moving to help the folks of Walker County. As they say each and every time that you see some folks working on roads, please be aware, be careful and slow down most of all. We thank each and every one of you. If I didn't call you by name, I still thank you for being here. At this time, we'll entertain a motion to adjourn."

ADJOURN:

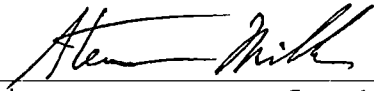
Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows:

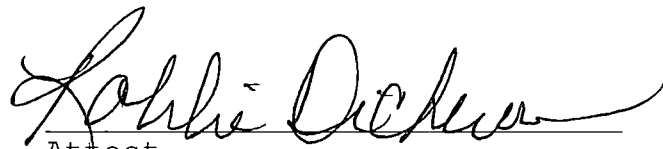
District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: Aye; District Four: Aye.

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



Chairman 07-18-2022



Attest