

August 20, 2023

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 21st day of August 2023, 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 Burrough introduced and expressed his appreciation for his Pastor, Reverend Scott McCullar, who gave the invocation. Commissioner Burrough also introduced and expressed his appreciation for Mr. David Edgil, who led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve the Agenda and to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2023.

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 Engineer Glenn Peek stated that they will have some paving jobs starting up in the next couple of weeks and gave an update on Brown's Bridge and Smith Chapel Bridge.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Approval-AI Dept Youth Service Contract.

After explanation by Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Shawn Roberson that this is something done yearly designating where they will be placing juveniles which must be housed for more than 72 hours, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve the AI Dept Youth Service Contract.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Discussion of Holiday Schedule (All Non-Essential Departments).

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to table this until the next Commission 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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval for Participation-Cybersecurity Grant.

After explanation and recommendation by Mr. Tim Peek, input by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to Approve Participation-Cybersecurity Grant.

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 Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to Set Date for Budget Work Session.

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 Davis to set the work session for August 31,2023 at 9:30 a.m.

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 Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval-bids 786, 787 and 789.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek that the bids be awarded to the lowest bidder and Commissioner Aderholt requesting that bids 787 and 789 be tabled until the next Commission meeting, motion was made by

Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Award bid 786 – Saragossa Road Resurfacing and Striping to the lowest bidder, which was Central Alabama Paving Company and to table bids 787 and 789 until the next Commission 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval-change name to Walker County Animal Services.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, input by Commissioner Davis and County Engineer Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioners Davis and Borden (simultaneously) to approve to change the name from Walker County Humane and Adoption Center to Walker County Animal Services.

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 Discussion and Approval-SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) guidelines for Walker County Animal Services.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough and input by County Attorney Richard Fikes and Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) guidelines for Walker County Animal Services.

After Commissioner Burrough recognized the Director Kay Farley and other individuals who are present and thanked the ones who worked on this, that has read the manual and went back through it and made a few changes; and there being 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 for Discussion and Approval-reclassify EMA Coordinator to EMA Director.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by EMA Coordinator Regina Myers and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the reclassification of EMA Coordinator Regina Myers to EMA Director.

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 Davis to open discussion of Discussion and Approval-Pressure Washing of Historic Courthouse.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, input by Commissioner Davis, Chairman Miller and County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve Pressure Washing of Historic Courthouse.

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 Borden to open discussion of Request to hire Armond McCulloch as Solid Waste driver/operator to replace James Alexander.

After explanation by Solid Waste Director John Dunagan, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve to hire Armond McCulloch as Solid Waste driver/operator to replace James Alexander.

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 Davis to open discussion to hire Lauren Lawrence to replace Deputy Coroner Danielle Calloway.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson that Lauren Lawrence will be hired as an Administrative Assistant to replace Deputy Coroner Danielle Calloway, which is the same classification, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to hire Lauren Lawrence as an Administrative Assistant.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open Discussion and Approval-Cattlemen's association lease of Old Fairground.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by Commissioners Borden and Davis, and County Attorney Richard Fikes and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to table this until the next Commission 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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion for Discussion and Approval-Vacate Townley Property Resolution.

County Attorney Richard Fikes inquired if anyone was present for the Public Hearing scheduled today for the Townley Road Vacation and no one acknowledged the same.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough and input by Mr. David Edgil and County Attorney Richard Fikes stating that he has prepared a Resolution, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Resolution to Vacate Townley Property.

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:

No one presented for the Public Hearing on vacating Townley Road.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Aderholt stated: "Lee Tucker, our Probate Judge, has requested that we add an item to the agenda, to add Section 188A, to the Alabama Business License Code."

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioners Davis and Burrough (simultaneously) to add to the Alabama Business License Code, Section 188A.

With no discussion, 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 the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open for discussion the addition of Section 188A to the Alabama Business License Code.

After Commissioner Aderholt stated that this is just an administrative correction and County Attorney Richard Fikes stating that he thinks it is in order, motion was made

by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Administrative Correction adding Section 188A to the Alabama Business License Codes, which reads:

“Lessors of Residential and Non-residential Buildings & Dwellings (except mini warehouses & self-storage).”

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 Aderholt continued: “It’s good to see everybody here today. I hope we have some road projects coming up before the next meeting. I have a question I need to resolve on bid pricing that we’re having, make sure we get the best bang for our bucks, so to speak. A lot of work has been going on in District Four this summer and I appreciate everybody’s patience. It’s been hot, really hot. One of the hottest summers I can remember. Of course, I say that every summer, so, I guess I’m just getting a little bit older now. Again, thank everybody for being here. That’s all I’ve got, Mr. Chairman.”

Commissioner Borden stated: “I just want to thank everyone for being here. We are continuing with our right-of-way mowing.” He said the addition of their second tractor a couple to three months ago has been a great asset to them. He stated he had some road projects coming up. He thanked everyone again for being here today.

Commissioner Burrough stated: “Also, I’d like to thank each of you for being here. I would like to thank my pastor for coming, again. It’s always welcoming when we have people from the community come in and support what we’re doing and just have a good crowd of people.” He said he had a few projects and gave an update. He stated that picking up trees for the last two or three weeks has put him behind on patching and grass cutting; that his workers are out everyday working in the heat and he thanked each of them; that they work hard in our county. He stated: “The other thing is anybody who loves football, this is the last weekend that we’re not going to have football, so here it comes.”

Commissioner Davis stated: “It’s good to see David Edgil again. A lot of folks know David was the County Engineer for what, 107 years, David, something like that?”

Mr. Edgil responded: “Close to that.”

Commissioner Davis continued: “You’re welcome back, David, any time. I know, you’re on the 9-1-1 Board. You do a fantastic job, still serving the County. Appreciate you. Also, Regina, I couldn’t probably brag on her enough in the job that she does and

the things that she oversees. And you know, we throw a storm shelter on her every once-in-a-while and that's her favorite thing to do, storm shelters. But Regina has been an extremely hard worker in the past ten years I've got to work with her. There's a lot in that position that goes on that folks don't realize. Every time a tanker truck spills or there's a chemical spill, she's on that site for hours and hours and hours. And she's 24/7. She is a one person show department. Her choice. We've offered to give her help and she's like, "I can do it." And she's done it and done a fantastic job. Regina, I appreciate you and have enjoyed working with you over these past ten years. It's been great to work with you. A lot of road paving going in District One. This is contracted work -- These contractors are out there in this heat. So, keep their safety in mind. Be patient with us. There's a lot of road miles being paved in District One over the next couple of months, right Glenn?"

County Engineer Glenn Peek responded: "Yes, sir."

Commissioner Davis continued: "And in the other districts too. Just be careful when you see them, be patient. There could be some dust, there could be some rock, there could be those things that we hate -- I hate riding through it, too, but the end product will be what we're looking for. So again, I just ask for patience on that."

"A lot of good positive things going on in the county, that's how I like to always end, is focus on the positive, not on the negative. And thank you so much and remember to continue to pray for each, and every one of us as we make decisions for y'all in the community."

Chairman Miller stated: "I, too, would like to say thank you for each, and every one of you here today. There's a lot of projects going on within our county. A lot of things that happen from day-to-day, just as this weekend our courthouse, a water line busted and, as you know, we're closed in the courthouse part for emergency because of the stairwells and the elevators not being able to get up and down and the safety of people going up and down the steps. So, we've got it shut down. And our maintenance, Mr. Shannon Whitehead, is working diligently to clean all of that up with thanks to the Sheriff's Department for providing some inmates to help him. This would not be possible without that help. Thanks to our EMA director, as Mr. Davis said, she does a wonderful job. She is a lady that really takes her job seriously and wants to help everybody in the county. The Sheriff Department, you know, again we appreciate y'all. Our AP department here. We have our ladies here that pays all the bills. And these ladies are really important. We appreciate Ms. Joyce and Ms. Kim. Our Animal Shelter, Ms. Kay. You now have a new name, Animal Services, Walker County Animal Services. So, we appreciate you for what you do. And I know that job is tough and dealing with those animals in these hot, hot days. And I think I see some hundred degrees days coming up. And to Mr. Edgil, I've known Mr. Edgil for several years. And he's always been a gentleman that you could go to and talk to him about the County and about the roads and things and always had done a good job. We appreciate him. Pastor McCullar,

we appreciate you for being here, for leading us in our prayer. And folks like you in the community is what we've got to look to to continue to make Walker County better. And that's what we're trying to do here also. The Mayor of Nauvoo, we appreciate you being here. Mr. Vick, our coroner. Thank you so much for being here and we appreciate what you do. Our Solid Waste Department continues to do a good job. Our Industrial Development Board, we appreciate y'all. We appreciate the Daily Mountain Eagle and the reporters that are here. And we appreciate every citizen. Without y'all this county would not move forward. We appreciate you being interested in what happens in our county. Mr. Fikes does a great job. These guys on the Commission, Ms. Robbie and this lady right here that really keeps us going, Ms. Barbara. We appreciate everybody.

With that said, gentlemen and ladies, I would 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



Attest