

October 2, 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 2nd day of October 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 Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Aderholt gave the invocation and Commissioner Borden led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Chairman Miller read a proclamation into the record proclaiming October, 2023 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. (Proclamation attached hereto)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add Item 7 under New Business, Airport Hangar Lease, to the Agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was expanded to Approve the Agenda as amended, Approve the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2023, Approve the New Vendor list and Approve the Claims Against the County for September, 2023.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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, "We have begun the fiscal new year as of this morning we will start our regular process. New reports will be sent out today to all the department heads with the new figures on it. We will have one more wellness visit scheduled for this month. We're about 25 shy of getting the 80% that we need. And all contracts pertaining to the budget have either been emailed back to the appropriate vendor or will be today. That would be software, that type of things."

County Engineer Glenn Peek gave an update for Smith Chapel Bridge. He stated, "We are currently paving on Redmill-Saragossa and Russell Dairy Roads. We have plans for County Line Road, Fire Tower, Hall Burton, Liberty Hill, Coal Valley, Drummond Road and Arkadelphia. All of that is in the works."

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bids 791-Jail Intercom System.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, input by Chairman Miller, Jail Administrator Justin White and Sheriff Nick Smith and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve Bid 791 to be paid out of Fund 107.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 of AEMA Grant.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the AEMA Grant.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Discussion and Approval of Jail Freezer Unit.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve Jail Freezer Unit.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Discussion and Approval to hire Phillip Montgomery as Assistant Engineer, beginning November 1st.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and County Administrator Robbie Dickerson emphasizing that he has all the credentials and November 1st will be his starting date, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the hiring of Phillip Montgomery as Assistant Engineer, beginning November 1, 2023.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Discussion and Approval to hire Wyatt Sexton as Full Time Common Laborer Road and Bridge.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, input by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the hiring of Wyatt Sexton as Full Time Common Laborer for Road and Bridge.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 Discussion and Approval to create a Supervisor II Position for Road and Bridge.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to create a Supervisor II Position for Road and Bridge.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: 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 of Hangar Lease at the Airport.

There being no discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve Hangar Lease at the Airport pending the review and approval by the County Attorney.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After County Attorney Richard Fikes stated that the matters to be discussed meets the criteria for an executive session and a letter stating same was presented to the County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt that this Commission retire to Executive Session and to reconvene afterwards.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

County Attorney Richard Files wanted the record to reflect that he will not be attending the executive session; however, Eddie Jackson and Lindsey Smith, Attorneys in his law firm will be attending.

(COMMISSION RETIRES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION)

(COMMISSION RECONVENES)

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

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chairman Miller called the meeting back to order and asked the County Attorney Eddie Jackson to give his recommendation.

County Attorney Eddie Jackson stated, "I recommend that we enter into – I think it's the proper time to do it, the phase of the meeting of the Commissioner's Comments to amend the Agenda to add an item to the Agenda to consider the proposition of allowing the Greater Birmingham Humane Society to operate the animal shelter. And I'll formalize that when y'all get to that point and tell you.

Chairman Miller stated, "Okay. So, you heard Mr. Jackson's recommendation, so at this time we'll move on to public hearing. We have none..

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

Chairman Miller stated, "And we'll take up discussion items by Commissioners. And which ever one of you gentlemen would like to start first?"

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Aderholt made a motion to add item 8 to the agenda to –

Chairman Miller stated, “Mr. Jackson would you like to state that now?”

Attorney Jackson stated, “Yes, sir. There were bids sent out to operate the Walker County Humane Shelter. The only bid which was received back was the Greater Birmingham Humane Society. The bid was \$205,000 and some change. And it being the only bid was the low bid, it has some stipends in it that allow an upcharge in the event of additional dogs being taken in based on a certain level that they anticipate doing for \$205,000 and some change a year. It is a thirty-day contract. In other words, you can give thirty days’ notice and get out of the contract. My suggestion would be that the Commission pass a resolution authorizing the entry into that contract with the County and the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, contingent on full approval by the legal authorities to review the contract and make sure it doesn’t have any other problems or have any problems that we cannot overcome. But subject to the approval of the attorney, it would be approved today contingent on that.”

Chairman Miller stated, “Okay. Mr. Aderholt that is your motion?”

Commissioner Aderholt stated, “That’s my motion.”

Chairman Miller stated, “I entertain a second.”

Commissioner Borden seconded.

Chairman Miller stated, “Calling for a vote to add this to the agenda.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chairman Miller stated, “Now, I would entertain a motion for discussion, item 8, about the Greater Birmingham contract.”

Motion was made by Commissioners Borden and Burrough (simultaneously) and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of the contract with the Greater Birmingham Humane Society.

Motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the contract with the Greater Birmingham Humane Society contingent on approval of legal counsel.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chairman Miller stated, "Moving on. Back to discussion items by Commissioners and Mr. Aderholt, do you want to go first."

Commissioner Aderholt stated, "I appreciate everyone coming today. I'll have more discussion items for next meeting.:

Commissioner Borden stated, "Same here. I just thank everyone for showing up today. We do encourage everybody to come to the meetings. I think we get more awareness out the more people we have in these meetings. Other than that, that's all I have."

Commissioner Burrough thanked everyone for coming and mentioned all the county employees that were there and stated that he appreciates their hard work. He stated they are paving and have paved several roads and he hopes the weather stays good so they can continue that.

Chairman Miller stated, "I, too, would like to say thank you for everybody attending and we appreciate each, and every, one of you. I won't call you by name, but Jeff already did that, so everyone of you, I thank you. And it is the intent of the Commission to continue to make Walker County better and do better things for the citizens on a day-to-day basis. And with that said, I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

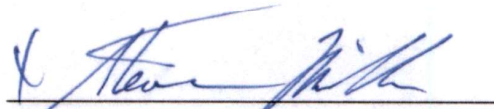
ADJOURN:

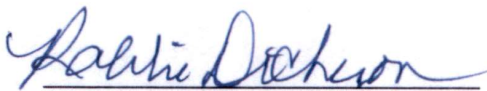
Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden, that this meeting be adjourned to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled meeting or at the call of the Chairman.

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

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:


Chairman


Attest