

December 4, 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 4th day of December 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, Barbara Higgins called the roll and Commissioners present were Jeff Burrough, Jim Borden and Steven Aderholt.

Commissioner Burrough gave the invocation and Jail Administrator Justin White led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

Chairman Miller presented the annual appropriations to seven entities and a photo session followed.

Chairman Miller read and presented a bicentennial proclamation and asked that it be added as Item 15 to the Agenda.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to add Item 15 – Bicentennial Proclamation and Item 16 – ARPA Agreement with Walker County Commission District Two and Town of Nauvoo 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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Agenda as amended, Approve the Meeting Minutes of November 6 and November 17, 2023; Approve the New Vendor list and Approve the Claims Against the County for November 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 Engineer Glenn Peek stated that they currently have a couple of paving jobs in the works right now and will probably have two more starting during this week or next week. He gave an update on Smith Chapel Bridge.

Chairman Miller stated, "All right. At this time, we are going to back up and let

Mr. White in these reports give us the report about this monitoring system that he's got."

Jail Administrator Justin White provided a packet from Reassurance Solutions to each member of the Commission and gave an informative report on the Inmate Monitoring System. A brief discussion was held.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Cattlemen's Association Lease Agreement-Revised.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes that this agreement has a few minor changes that doesn't affect the terms of the lease and that he is good with it, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to Approve the Revised Cattlemen's Association Lease Agreement.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Walker County Franchise Agreement with Charter (Expires 4-21-2024).

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief statement by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to Approve the Walker County Franchise Agreement with Charter (Expires 4-21-2024).

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 Bid 801 – Arkadelphia Road 64-01-24.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek that the bids go to the low bidder, which was Wiregrass Construction, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Bid No. 801 – Arkadelphia Road 64-01-24.

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 explanation by Chairman Miller that this is for the Walker County Fire Association, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 802 – One Metal Building.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek that they approve the 60' by 60' by 12' building and go with the lowest bidder Northwest Bama Builders, Inc and after a brief statement by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve Bid No. 802-One Metal Building (60'x60'x12') to be awarded to Northwest Bama Builders, Inc.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Bid No. 803 – Community Safe Room and Installation Barney Fire Station & Safety Shelter.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Glenn Peek to go with the lowest bidder Aqua Marine, Inc., EMA Director Regina Myers recommending that they go with the 96-person capacity and the Engineer responding to the Chairman that the cost for the 96-person capacity is \$123,500 and input by Commissioner Borden, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Bid No. 803 – Community Safe Room and installation of 96-person capacity with a cost of \$123,500 Barney Fire Station & Safety Shelter to Aqua Marine, Inc.

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 Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of New Hangar Plan at the Walker County Airport.

After explanation by Mr. Keith Duncan, input by County Engineer Glenn Peek and County Attorney Richard Fikes, and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to table this item to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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 NAHSO – Grant Participation

– Sheriff.

After explanation by Sheriff Nick Smith and input by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve the NAHSO – Grant Participation – Sheriff.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval – Bid Proposals for Painting of Courthouse due to water damage.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the lowest bidder, which is Josh Montgomery for \$20,760.

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 of Memorandum of Agreement Walker County, Fresh Water Land Trust & Vulcan Trail Foundation.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, input by County Engineer Glenn Peek, and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Aderholt and seconded by Commissioner Borden to table this item until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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 Proposal for Harris' S&W Based Financials/FM Payroll System Software.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and input by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Harris' S&W Browser Based Financials/FM Payroll System Software.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of Simple Grant Application for Solid Waste.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and Acting Solid Waste Director James Dockins, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Simple Grant Application for Solid Waste.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to move Kim Whitehead to Road and Bridge Supervisor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt to approve to move Kim Whitehead to Road and Bridge Supervisor.

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 Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval to add and post for Common Laborer for Walker County Commission Office.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve to add and post for Common Laborer for Walker County Commission Office.

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 Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of ADEM Grant – Tubbs Hill Road.

After explanation by County Engineer Glenn Peek and input by Commissioner Borden and Chairman Miller, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the ADEM Grant – Tubbs Hill Road.

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 of JCI Performance Contract.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, input by Jail Administrator Justin White and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the JCI Performance Contract.

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 Borden to open discussion and approval of the Bicentennial Proclamation.

After Chairman Miller stated that Walker County will be two hundred years old and that they want to celebrate this the entire year, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Bicentennial Proclamation.

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.

There was a discussion concerning some ideas of activities and people that might be interested in implementing them to celebrate the bicentennial.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of Discussion and Approval of ARPA Agreement District Two – Town of Nauvoo.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the ARPA Agreement District Two-Town of Nauvoo and give Chairman Miller the authority to enter into that funding agreement and do all the signing for it.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Burrough thanked everyone for being here and stated that everybody in here has something to do with the county and attendance is always welcome. He gave an update on the projects going on in his district. He stated, "We've also got a lot of bridges that we're cleaning and getting ready for inspection." He gave

an update on the Coal Valley project they have going on. He said the main thing he wanted to talk about is, "I would like, if we can, I spoke with Ryan before the meeting. I think we had a group discussion, he did, with each of us before on this Opioid money. Maybe in the month of January, if possible, we can get sort of a committee together that can sort of put some ideas together, you know, I talked with Justin about it too, and invite people that has a human interest in providing critical information on how we can spend some of this Opioid money. I've got meetings tomorrow at the hospital, they have a new administrator. He seems really invested in this area and I know he would have some ideas. If it's possible in the month of January when we meet back if we could add that to the agenda and try to come up with a meeting." He said they might also reach out to the ACCA. He thanked everyone for attending and said there was a lot of work going on in District Two and he thanked everybody for their help.

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just want to thank everyone for being here today. The month of December generally gets a little slow, not for lack of work but lack of manpower. I just want to let the public know that in District Three we will still be out working but I have a lot of guys that use their vacation at the end of the year. So, we won't really be taking on a large project till after Christmas." He gave an update on Dixie Springs Road, Pleasantfield Road through SEGCO and a portion of the Old Tuscaloosa Road and stated that the contractor has begun repairs on that working toward a finished product and that some of the work will probably run into the spring, depending on the treatment that they will have to use on the road. He further stated, "Have a Very Merry Christmas and be safe."

Commissioner Aderholt thanked everybody for being here. He said he hopes everybody has a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Blessed New Year. He stated, "Spend time with your families, enjoy it and don't forget you've got neighbors, got to love your neighbors too."

Chairman Miller stated, "I'd like to add Merry Christmas. I appreciate everyone of you being here, all the elected officials, all the employees of the county. Without each and every one of you we could not continue this county. We are so thankful that we're able to provide this new building for the Fire Association, the storm shelter for Barney, these things that these commissioners work diligently on and hard on, we appreciate each and every one of them. We hope that we will be able to continue some of these grants and some of these fundings that are available. We will just have to go after them. And we appreciate each, and every one of you. With that we would entertain a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Aderholt 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.

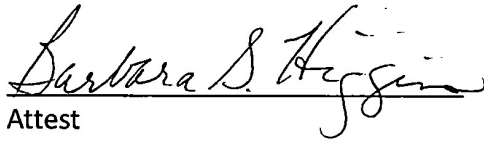
With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Read and Approved:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Miller", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara S. Higgins", is written over a horizontal line.

Attest