

February 6, 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 6th day of February 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, and Jim Borden.

Chairman Miller stated, "And Mr. Fikes we have a quorum?"
County Attorney Richard Fikes stated, "Yes."

Walker County Coroner Joey Vick gave the invocation and Walker County Circuit Clerk Susie Odom led the pledge of allegiance.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to Approve the Agenda, Approve the Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2023, Approve the New Vendor list for January 2023, Approve the Claims against the County for January, 2023 and to Approve New Accounts for January, 2023.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF:

County Administrator Robbie Dickerson stated, "It's been an active little month for me and the staff as we have been busy, of course, some things catching up since I was out. But the main things I wanted to report today was that our warrants are paid for February. The reason I report those is we kind of struggled that first year to get them paid. So, it is a blessing that the county has come as far as it has. The Commissioners will also see there is a printout at their desk about the transfer that I made on January 30th for business license, the excess over budgeted and I personally would like to thank Probate for digging into that, because our elections for that first quarter were very

outstanding. Our WEX fuel cards are completely switched, and the Hagar cards only are closed. That does not affect what we do in bulk deliveries. We are working off the WEX fuel cards completely. The staff got the W-2s and 1099s out as always. And the quarterly report for ARPA is completed on time. That's the highlights."

County Engineer Mike Short stated that what he has will be covered in the old and new business and they will address that as they get to it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of BID No. 754 Discussion/Approval.

After explanation by County Engineer Mike Short and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to table this till a later date.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Discussion/Approval of District funding from Road and Bridge including budget amendment.

After explanation by Chairman Miller, County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and County Engineer Mike Short and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the transfer of \$800,000 from Road and Bridge to the Districts and to approve the \$800,000.00 budget amendment.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion/Approval for Keith Duncan to work out of classification for 120 days as Road and Bridge Supervisor pertaining to WC Justice Center.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Keith Duncan to work out of classification for 120 days as Road and Bridge Supervisor pertaining to WC Justice Center.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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/Approval for Marcus Owen to work at Justice Center and reimburse the district for labor.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input from Commissioner Davis, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve Marcus Owens to work at Justice Center and reimburse the district for labor.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 BID No. 766-Bituminous Plant Mix discussion and approval.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Mike Short, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis that the BID No. 766-Bituminous Plant Mix be approved and awarded to Wiregrass Construction.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open discussion of the BID No. 768 Granny Huche Culvert Repair.

After explanation and recommendation by County Engineer Mike Short and input from Commissioner Borden, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve and award BID 768 Granny Huche Culvert Repair to the low bidder Fitzpatrick Contractors, LLC.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 2023 PALS Contact/Coordinator.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden that the County participate in the PALS Program and that a committee be formed to decide what areas and how they will participate.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 the Discussion/Approval of the ACCA proposed social media Policy.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and upon the County Attorney Richard Fikes' recommendation that this motion be tabled since he and Al have not had an opportunity to review it and see if any tweaking is needed, motion was made by Commissioner Borden and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to end discussion and table the ACCA proposed social media Policy.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion/Approval of the Application for Use of the Airport.

After explanation by County Attorney Richard Fikes, motion was made Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Application for Use of the Airport, subject to verification of required insurance.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Borden to open discussion of the Curry Water Authority Board re-appointment of Mr. Greg Cordes.

After explanation by Commissioner Davis, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the reappointment of Mr. Greg Cordes to the Curry Water Authority Board.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Townley Water Authority Board Appointment of Rodney McGough.

After explanation by Commissioner Burrough, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the appointment of Randy McGough to the Townley Water Authority Board.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion/Approval to liquidate AT&T desk sets.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the liquidation of the AT&T Desk Sets.

With no discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion/Approval Sheriff's First Net Purchase Request.

After explanation by County Administrator Robbie Dickerson and input from Sheriff Nick Smith and much discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve the Sheriff's First Net Purchase Request.

With no further discussion, the vote taken resulted as follows: District One: Aye; District Two: Aye; District Three: 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 Discussion/Approval Inmate Telecommunication Bid No. 760 pending contract approval by legal.

After explanation by Nick Key of the Sheriff's Department, input by Sheriff Nick Smith and County Attorney Richard Fikes stating that he hasn't had a chance to review the contract and after a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to approve the Inmate Telecommunication Bid No. 760, pending the review of the contract by the County Attorney.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After the County Attorney Richard Fikes stated that they had some matters that met the requirement and needed to be handled in executive session, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Borden to adjourn to executive session and to reconvene.

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

With no opposition the Chairman declared the motion carried.

(Commission adjourned to executive session at 10:30 a.m.)

(Commission reconvened at 11:50)

Chairman Miller called the meeting back to order. Motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to reconvene from executive session.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After recommendation by County Attorney Richard Fikes that on the first matter taken up in executive session regarding the employee, that the Chairman and himself meet with the appropriate hiring authority to discuss appropriate policy and procedures and make sure all employees are aware of same, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve that recommendation.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

After recommendation by County Attorney Richard Fikes that on the second matter at issue taken up in executive session that the employee be given a verbal reprimand, motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Burrough to approve that recommendation.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Davis thanked everybody. He stated, "It's good to be back, recovering from neck surgery, so bear with me. I'm not feeling a hundred percent, but I'm getting there." He inquired about how well they could hear in the back and a brief

discussion was held about that. He asked that everyone keep praying for them, that there are a lot of positive things going on in the county, that there's a big event coming next week at the airport.

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I just want to make mention about a couple of things we did in the meeting. Nick, I hope that your equipment comes in handy, and I hope it's something that – I know y'all have been needing it and I'm proud we're getting it for you."

Sheriff Nick Smith stated, "I want to say this to you Jeff. I appreciate you coming down to the Sheriff's Office and seeing what those jailers and staff do day in and day out. And understand they need that equipment."

Commissioner Burrough continued, "I actually went down and worked for a couple of hours. I was out of my environment, and it made me watch around everywhere you're at, you know, you're sort of uneasy. Like I said, we've got to work on this pay structure by the end of the time that the COVID funding goes out. I think Nick is running 4 to 6 jailers on a shift and then I see that there's need for more. But anyway I was glad to come down and experience that. And thank you for taking care of me. The other thing about the funding, the 1.2 million that we're doing the budget amendment with is an extra two hundred thousand apiece, I think. You know, I've had several roads, Nauvoo Road, Fish Hatchery, Pleasant Grove, Wolfe Creek, fixing to start Dogtown Road, I think, this week, that money will come in handy to pay those bills. Like I said, the skyrocketing prices of asphalt, sometimes it's just – you plan on paving two miles, and you can only do one, because of the funding. So, I'm very appreciative and I appreciate the Chairman working through it and making that available to us. Other than that, I'll pass it on to Jim.

Commissioner Borden stated, "I just want to thank everyone for being here today. Also, again, I want to commend and thank our first responders, all, our deputies, our EMTs, Volunteer Fire Departments. I see them out after dark, storms, these volunteer guys get up, they go out, they help with tree removal. They're unsung heroes. The same as the county deputies. You may not see them, but they're out there protecting the citizens. The other two commissioners covered everything pretty much on the money, but I do want to mention this: Our Walker County Community Action Agency, Mrs. Deidre Tatum, she got me some information, I serve on the board there, and they have received a CARES Grant and they will be, today, receiving two mini-vans, I guess we'll call them, that are going to be wheelchair accessible. I think that will be big for the county for the services that they provide. Also, she's mentioned that every year you have more clients coming in that take advantage of the services that they offer. So, on that part she does a tremendous job. They're to be commended also for – her employees and the job she does. Also along those lines, on February 25th, this will just be for a public announcement for them, they have a fundraiser and it is \$250 a team, they get together bowling teams, so if a business, an individual wants to sponsor a team,

this is a fundraiser for the Walker County Community Action. I'll get with my fellow commissioners and – last year, I think, everybody wanted to participate, you can just sponsor a team. This is disadvantaged people, give them a chance to go bowling, is what it's about. Or you can sponsor a team yourself. And she's encouraged me to encourage the guys up here to come and show how good of bowlers they are in front of the kids. With that being said, I just want, again, to thank everyone for being here today. Thank y'all."

Chairman Miller stated, "Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate each and every one of you being here. I appreciate the attendance we've had today and concern for the county. Sheriff, we'd like to say that we're glad that these radios, hopefully, will do you some good in the safety of the officers. I hope that works well. We've also been doing a few things in the jail. I know, Mr. White, he's up in Utah in a training class and it's something that helps with the jail. And we appreciate him taking his time to do that also. And I think he got a couple of vests coming for some of the jailers, about puncture resistance, and there's a difference between that and the bullet-proof vest. And we appreciate what he's doing there to try to keep safety. And our EMA, I know Ms. Regina works hard. We've got a couple of things that we need to work on for her. And one is a boat. And she and I have been looking at those. And then – flat bottom, that is – and then the Solid Waste, John is doing a great job there. And we appreciate him. I know he's had a truck this morning that has caught on fire. And he's dealing with something else there. And so that's something that we're going to have to deal with the next day or two. And just pretty much overall, everybody, the Probate, the Revenue, Susie, just everybody here is really doing a good job. The employees of the county, it takes every one of you to make this go, ladies and gentlemen, and we appreciate that. I really appreciate these gentlemen working on the amendment to the budget and approving that additional eight hundred thousand and that four hundred thousand that was already approved in the budget, giving them that 1.2 million, another three hundred thousand apiece per district. Again, bringing that total to over ten million dollars that's been put on roads since this commission convened it's first day. We appreciate every one of you. With that, ladies and gentlemen, I would entertain a motion to adjourn."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "One more question. That bid on some of our striping, is it this week?"

County Engineer Mike Short stated, "15th."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "15th? So when do we meet again?" Brief discussion.

Chairman Miller stated, "Before I entertain a motion, there's one other thing, that you might want to bring up. The air conditioner at the Auburn Extension Office has went out and we do have a price to replace that unit. And it is out completely."

Commissioner Burrough stated, "I'd like to make a motion that we add to the agenda the discussion item of the air conditioner being out at the Auburn Extension." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to open for discussion replacing the Air Conditioner at the Auburn Extension.

After explanation by Chairman Miller and a brief discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Burrough and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve Southern Heating and Air to replace Unit at the Auburn Extension by Southern Heating and Air for \$7900 and to approve amending the budget for maintenance out of the general fund.

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

With no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

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