

AGENDA
WALKER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WALKER COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX III, 201 S MAIN STREET
LAFAYETTE, GEORGIA 30728

The following constitutes the agenda for the regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia to be held on August 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

- **Invocation**
Given by Chairman Shannon Whitfield
- **Pledge**
United States and Georgia Flag
- **Chairman Whitfield will Call to Order the Regular Meeting**
Clerk establishes a Quorum is present
- **Approve Agenda**
- **Public Hearing**
Ordinance No. O-01-21 Adopting and Enacting a New Code for Walker County, Georgia; Providing for the Repeal of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing a Penalty for the Violation Thereof; Providing for the Manner of Amending Such Code; and Providing When Such Code and this Ordinance Shall Become Effective
- **Close Public Hearing**
- **Minutes**
Approval of the minutes for the Regular Scheduled Meeting held July 22, 2021
- **Public Comment**
- **Informational**
John Logan, Director of Grants and Public Transit
- **New Business**
Ordinance No. O-01-21 Adopting and Enacting a New Code for Walker County, Georgia; Providing for the Repeal of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing a Penalty for the Violation Thereof; Providing for the Manner of Amending Such Code; and Providing When Such Code and this Ordinance Shall Become Effective

Resolution R-034-21 To Add Existing Miscellaneous Fees to the County Fee Schedule

Resolution R-035-21 To Establish Certain Policies Pertaining to the Walker County Public Transit System

Resolution R-036-21 To Support the Submission of a Pre-Application for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant to Benefit the Citizens of Walker County

Submission of proposed fiscal 2022 General Fund Budget for Walker County Government

Submission of proposed fiscal 2022 Enterprise Funds and Special Revenue Budget for Walker County Government

Purchase Order 2021-00001896 for Marion Environmental for Removal of Concrete from Coats American Property Totaling \$51,040.00

Purchase Order 2021-00001877 for Used 2015 Mack CXU613 Class 8 Truck from Worldwide Equipment for Walker County Landfill Totaling \$55,200.00 (Funding from 2020 SPLOST)

Departmental Statistics - July 2021

- **Commissioner Comments**
- **Executive Session**
- **Adjourn**



**Walker County Governmental Authority
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437**

**Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting
August 12, 2021**

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Whitfield called to order the Regular Scheduled Commissioner's Meeting held at Annex III, 201 S. Main Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 7:00 PM on August 12, 2021.

II. Attendees:

The following were present: Chairman Shannon Whitfield, Commissioner Robert Blakemore, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Robert Stultz, Public Relations Director Joe Legge, Legal and Policy Director David Gottlieb, Walker County Codes Enforcement Officer Gene Whitworth, Planning and Zoning Director David Brown, Landfill Manager Paine Gily, Chief Appraiser Terry Gilreath, Finance Officer Greg McConnell, Public Works Director Carlen Bowers, Director of Grants and Public Transit John Logan, Board Clerk Whitney Summey and County Clerk Rebecca Wooden. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Askew made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hart, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion was approved.

IV. Public Hearing:

Chairman Whitfield discussed Ordinance No. 0-01-21 Adopting and Enacting a New Code for Walker County. He asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

The public hearing was then closed.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Stultz, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion was approved.

VI. Public Comment:

Chairman Whitfield asked if there was anyone that would like to speak in the Public Comment section. Leslie Bruce came forward and stated she has spoken with Commissioner Blakemore and Chairman Whitfield about her concerns with

code violations in her neighborhood. She stated there are multiple body shops being operated out of homes, there are multiple dogs that frequently roam and are vicious, and there is a home that has overgrown grass and is out of code. She stated she has called animal control multiple times and sent letters to the Commissioner's Office and nothing has been done. She stated she cannot enjoy her home because of the problems and she would like for something to be done. Chairman Whitfield stated he had spoken with the Code Director and they had made an initial sweep through the area and had given notices out but they would look back into it. Commissioner Stultz asked if the home with the Rottweilers was fenced in. Mrs. Bruce stated they dogs are not fenced in but they have a white metal fence on two sides of the property shielding what they are doing with the body shops. Commissioner Blakemore stated he had talked with Code Director David Brown and he said they had gone out and talked with the owners but part of the problem is the body shop has been there for years but the owner stated they are building a shop and will be moving soon. Mrs. Bruce stated the property owner had built the building two years ago without a permit. Commissioner Askew stated we will look into the problems.

Jenny Rinehart came forward and stated she lives next door to Lesslie Bruce. She said she is retired and at home a majority of the time. She expressed her concerns with the neighborhood and the code violations. She stated she would like for the Board to address these issues and make the owners come into compliance with the County Code and Zoning requirements.

Janice Williams came forward and stated she had a list of questions. She said that during a recent training that Walker County was not able to attend and addressed David Gottlieb she stated she received his email but there were not any attachments so she still has not received an answer. During the training they used an example that was similar to an event that happened in Walker County last year where dogs were eating other dogs and they gave the law violations and stated it was a felony not a misdemeanor. Ms. Williams stated Chairman Whitfield came to the home and you stated there was nothing that you could do because there was water there for the dogs and that was all you could do. She asked Chairman Whitfield if there is an ordinance that is different from state law if he would provide the information to the public. There are still dogs at this location that the neighbor is feeding and it has been over a year now. Ms. Williams asked again if there was an ordinance contrary to Georgia law. Chairman Whitfield stated there can not be any ordinance that goes against the law. She asked why he was not upholding the law. Chairman Whitfield asked what incident she was referring to, Ms. Williams stated the one where she was bitten and asked if there was more information that could be provided so everyone could work together because this was a felony. Ms. Williams stated that

she hoped with Mr. Gottlieb, County Attorney sitting in on these meetings that when Chairman Whitfield says somethings incorrect and is a felony that Mr. Gottlieb could give him the proper legal advice. Chairman Whitfield stated when felonies are involved then the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office would need to be involved. Ms. Williams stated to Chairman Whitfield that he saw this and dismissed it which caused Animal Control to dismiss it and law enforcement did not know prior to the training that they were supposed to pick it up. Ms. Williams explained to dismiss someone when the issue is a felony is not appropriate. Chairman Whitfield explained the issue Ms. Williams is referring too, he and Animal Control where on site and collectively worked together to pick up every animal the owner was willing to surrender. He stated there was nothing that he or Animal Control saw that they could go any further with legally. Ms. Williams stated clearly they had not read what the actual law says. Ms. Williams asked if they could continue this conversation at another time and Chairman Whitfield stated he had responded to her emails this week trying to get a meeting time set up.

VII. Informational:

Chairman Whitfield asked John Logan, Director of Grants and Public Transit to speak. John Logan gave information on the public transit department and stated one of the most important services they provide is transporting citizens to dialysis. He said public transit also partners with Roper to get citizens from all over the county to work. He stated they are looking into expanding the hours and possibly adding Saturdays to help better assist and give more opportunities to the public. He stated there are some improvements with their internal paperwork and grant procedures and they have just finished some of the training for this new information. He said the policies the Board is reviewing tonight will bring them into compliance with GDOT regulations and help with future grants the County will apply for. He gave information on parks in the area and stated there will be similar to park at the Civic Center if the County receives the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant. He added the County is in the final stages of a grant for an expansion of the records department. Commissioner Askew asked how much the grant will be for the park. John Logan stated the minimum the grant will be is \$500,000.00 and that is the reason for the additions from last year's application. Chairman Whitfield stated he wanted to brag on the transit staff and their dedication during all of the Covid19 obstacles. Commissioner Hart asked if Roper paid for the Roper routes. John Logan stated Roper pays the fair for the first ninety days of employment and then after that they do a payroll deduction from the employee. Commissioner Hart asked if Roper was the only mill transit is providing transportation to and how many employees are they hauling per day. John Logan stated there are a few companies that have reached

out and he is looking into expanding this service. He said there are five to seven Roper employees per day which almost fills up a bus. Commissioner Askew asked how many people can a bus haul. John Logan stated ten.

Commissioner Askew asked John Logan if he could look into some grants on blue lay stuff. He said he has been talking to different people about this type of stuff and will keep looking into it. Chairman Whitfield thanked John Logan for sharing about his work in the County.

VIII. New Business:

- I. Chairman Whitfield read Ordinance No. O-01-21 adopting and enacting a new code for Walker County, Georgia. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Askew, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- II. Chairman Whitfield read Resolution R-034-21 to add existing miscellaneous fees to the County Fee Schedule. He said this is a readopting of the old fee schedule with the adoption of the new code book. Commissioner Stultz made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Blakemore, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- III. Chairman Whitfield read Resolution R-035-21 to establish certain policies pertaining to the Walker County Public Transit System. He said there is a standard County Drug and Alcohol Policy but the structure was not suitable for the regulations the Transit Department has to follow. Commissioner Askew asked if this policy was parallel with the standard County policy. Director of Grants and Public Transit John Logan stated the only difference is the drug screens are five panels in order to be in compliance with GDOT regulations. Commissioner Stultz asked if there are initial and random drug and breath alcohol tests. John Logan stated yes. Commissioner Stultz made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hart, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- IV. Chairman Whitfield read Resolution R-036-21 to support the submission of a pre-application for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant to benefit the Citizens of Walker County. He added this was an approved SPLOST project with fifty percent matching funds coming from the County. The grant and matching funds would total \$750,000.00. He stated they had gotten feedback from last year's submission and had made the necessary changes. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Stultz, 4 ayes and 0 nays, motion carried.
- V. Chairman Whitfield submitted the FY 2022 budget for Walker County Government to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Blakemore said he appreciated everyone for coming out and being involved with the County Government and encouraged people to feel free to reach out to him.

Commissioner Askew said he appreciates everyone's involvement and to feel free to reach out to any of the Commissioner's with any concerns.

Commissioner Hart stated that all schools in the County are back and he knows there will be challenges with Covid cases rising again. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated to help stop the spread of Covid. He asked John Logan, Director of Grants and Public Transit, if transit was operating at five days a week currently. John Logan stated yes.

Commissioner Stultz thanked everyone for coming out and being involved. He said he is proud of all of the students starting back this school year and thanked all of the educators for their hard work. He informed everyone of the upcoming vaccination station at the Rossville Recreation and thanked Commissioner Blakemore for his work on getting this event set up. He encouraged everyone to come out and get vaccinated.

X. Executive Session:

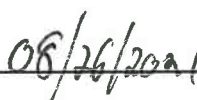
Chairman Whitfield stated there was no reason for an executive session today.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11PM.



Shannon K. Whitfield
Chairman/CEO
Walker County Georgia



Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County Board Clerk, Whitney Summey

Walker County Regular Scheduled Commissioners Meeting

Walker County Annex III 7:00 PM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>08/12/2021</u>	<u>Present/Not Present</u>
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Commissioner Blakemore	Present
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Commissioner Askew	Present
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Chairman Whitfield	Present
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Commissioner Hart	Present
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Commissioner Stultz	Present
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COUNTY OF WALKER
STATE OF GEORGIA
ORDINANCE NO. O-01-21



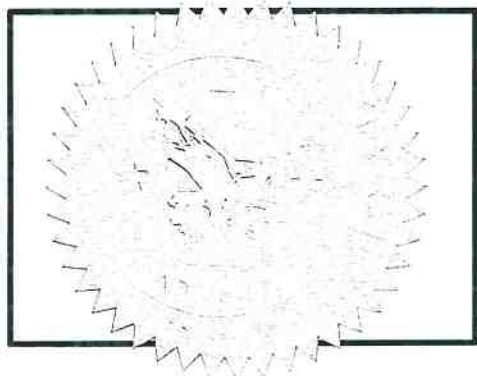
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2021.

ATTEST:

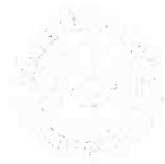
WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA

REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk

SHANNON K. WHITFIELD, Chairman



The foregoing Ordinance received a motion for
passage from Commissioner Hart,
second by Commissioner Asken,
and upon the question the vote is 4 ayes,
0 nays to adopt the Ordinance.



CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the ordinance passed at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, held on the day of August 12, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Wooden", is written over a horizontal line.

REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk

EXHIBIT A
ADDENDEUM TO WALKER COUNTY FEE SCHEDULE

Code Section	Description	Fee	Rate
10-209(b)	Pawnbroker permit	\$250.00	Annual
16-560(b)(3)	Larger common plans of development	\$25.00	0-20 lots
16-560(b)(3)	Larger common plans of development	\$50.00	21-100 lots
16-560(b)(3)	Larger common plans of development	\$75.00	100+ lots
22-288(b)	Class 1 special use permit (additional fee)	\$5.00	Per ton
22-327(k)(1)	Adult entertainment permit	\$250.00	Annual
28-1	Late fee for outstanding balance at the Walker County Landfill	1.5%	Per month

