



## RESOLUTION R-006-20

### A RESOLUTION OF THE SOLE COMMISSIONER OF WALKER COUNTY TO CREATE A STUDY COMMITTEE ON BEST PRACTICES FOR POULTRY HOUSES

**WHEREAS**, the University of Georgia Extension finds poultry production to be the number one agriculture enterprise in Georgia, accounting for approximately 50 percent of the value of farm products produced; and

**WHEREAS**, poultry is the largest commodity produced in Walker County, with roughly 200 poultry houses generating a 2018 farm gate value of \$56.7 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Walker County ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the state of Georgia in number of farms, with 79,706 acres of farmland covering nearly 25 percent of the geographic area of the county; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses and individuals working in other sectors, such as banking, real estate, accounting and transportation depend on the poultry industry for their livelihood; and

**WHEREAS**, a study needs to be undertaken to review existing land use regulations and restrictions to provide for the continued success of local farms, while simultaneously providing protection for all citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, considerations for issues affecting property values, public nuisances, property rights and future development should be part of this review.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Sole Commissioner of Walker County:

(1) **Creation of a study committee.** There is created the Study Committee on Best Practices for Poultry Houses.

(2) **Members.** The committee shall consist of the following members:

- Mike Bunn, chairperson
- Betts Berry
- John Howard
- Eugene Ridley
- Cindy Askew
- Wade Hutcheson
- Phillip Cantrell
- Sam Bowman

(3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or amendments to existing zoning ordinances the committee deems necessary or appropriate.



(4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to fully and effectively perform its duties and accomplish the objectives and purposed of this resolution.

(5) **Report.**

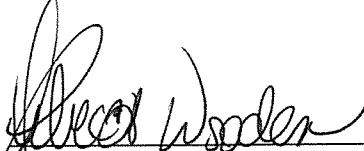
(A) In the event this committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that include suggestions for proposed amendments to existing ordinances or the creation of new ordinances, the chairperson shall file a report of the same to the Secretary of the Walker County Planning Commission and the Clerk of the Governing Authority of Walker County.

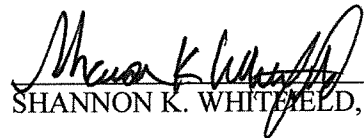
(B) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary of the Walker County Planning Commissioner a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.

**SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** this 13th day of February, 2020.

**ATTEST:**

**WALKER COUNTY, GEORGIA**

  
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REBECCA WOODEN, County Clerk

  
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SHANNON K. WHITEFIELD, Sole Commissioner