



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

June 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Jury Assembly Room - County Courthouse

MINUTES

1. Call to Order - Chairman Tom Crow

Chairman Tom Crow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners
Present: Chairman Tom Crow
Commissioner Jim Hix, District 1
Commissioner Chas Hardy, District 2
Commissioner Chad Bingham, District 3
Commissioner Marty Seagraves, District 4
Commissioner Marty Clark, District 5

Staff Present: Kevin Poe, County Manager
Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager
Jamie Dove, Public Development Manager
Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Press: Mike Buffington, Mainstreet News/Jackson Herald

2. Invocation - Kevin Poe, County Manager

Kevin Poe, County Manager, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Jim Hix

Commissioner Jim Hix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes for May 15, 2023

To consider approval of the minutes for May 15, 2023

Commissioner Bingham moved to approve the minutes for May 15, 2023.
Commissioner Hix seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

5. Citizen Input

Each speaker is provided up to four (4) minutes to address the board on any item that is not listed on this agenda.

Ms. Beth Merciere, 351 Erie Point, Hoschton, GA addressed the board concerning senior citizens she believed were being taxed out of their homes. She told the board, they were the

only ones who could help and she hoped each member would find it in their soul to help these citizens.

6. Reports

From County Manager Kevin Poe: Reminded the board there will not be a commission meeting on June 19, 2023 because of the Juneteenth holiday. Also, there will not be a meeting on July 3, 2023 due to the July 4, 2023 holiday. The next regular meeting of the commission will be on July 17, 2023.

7. Recognitions, Appointments, and Special Items

A. Jackson County Department of Family & Children Services - 5 year Term:

To nominate an individual to serve as the District 4 representative to the Jackson County Department of Family & Children Services Board.

Commissioner Seagraves moved to reappoint Andy Goodman to the Jackson County Department of Family & Children Services for a five (5) year term.

Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

B. Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee - 3 Year Term

To nominate an individual to serve on the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Bingham moved to appoint Jim Souland to the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee for a three (3) year term. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

C. Jackson County Board of Library Trustees - 3 Year Term:

To nominate an individual to serve on the Jackson County Board of Library Trustees.

Commissioner Clark moved to reappoint Dr. Douglas Cleveland to the Jackson County Board of Library Trustees for a three (3) year term. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

D. Northeast Georgia Region 10 EMS Council

To nominate an individual to serve on the Northeast Georgia Region 10 EMS Council

Commissioner Seagraves moved to reappoint Jason Baker to the Northeast Georgia Region 10 EMS Council. Commissioner Hix seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

E. Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (Private Sector) - 1 Year Term:

To nominate an individual to serve as Private Sector member to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission for a one-year term

Commissioner Clark moved to reappoint Jim Shaw to the Northeast Georgia

Regional Commission as Private Sector representative for a one (1) year term. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 - 0)

F. Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority - 3 Year Term:

To nominate an individual to serve as the District 3 representative to the Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority

Chairman Crow said Mr. Tommy Benton had served on the board and he had expressed a desire to be reappointed. Commissioner Bingham said that he appreciated Mr. Benton's contributions; however, he made a motion nominating Bryan Allen to serve on the Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Hix then moved to reappoint Tommy Benton to the Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority to serve a three (3) year term.

Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. Chairman Crow called for discussion. Commissioner Bingham reminded members this was an appointment and opportunity for District 3 and Mr. Benton did not reside within the district. There was no other discussion. The vote was taken and the motion passed. Chairman Crow and Commissioners Clark, Hardy, Hix, and Seagraves voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Bingham voted nay. (Vote 5 – 1)

8. New Business

A. Acceptance of FY2024 Jackson County Drug Court State Grant & Piedmont Circuit Veterans Court State Grant and request for DATE funds

To request of the commission:

- (1) To accept and approve the grant award for FY2024 from CJCC to assist in the funding of our Jackson County Drug Court.**
- (2) To accept and approve the grant award for FY2024 from CJCC to assist in the funding of our Piedmont Circuit Veterans Court.**
- (3) To acknowledge use of the DATE Fund to assist in program operational expenses.**

Kevin Poe, County Manager, called on Richard Boston, Assistant Director and Coordinator for Jackson County Drug Court. Mr. Boston addressed the board and reviewed the programs offered in the community. He then asked for consideration to approve the FY2024 Jackson County Drug Court State Grant and Piedmont Circuit Veterans Court State Grant and approve the request for DATE Funds. Commissioner Hix made the motion for approval. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

B. New Lease Agreement with The Tree House, Inc.

To enter into a new Lease Agreement with The Tree House, Inc.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report for the consideration of a new lease agreement with The Tree House. The Tree House, Inc., is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to strengthen communities by reducing the occurrence and impact of child abuse through counseling, educating, supporting, and nurturing children and families in Northeast Georgia. The Tree House works

closely with the Piedmont Judicial Circuit. He reviewed the new agreement, which was for another 10 year period. The monthly rent will increase from \$100/month to \$200/month. All other terms of the agreement will remain the same as the current lease agreement. Mr. Poe reminded members, the County provided a funding allocation to The Tree House on an annual basis.

Commissioner Bingham moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the new lease agreement with The Tree House, Inc.. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

C. Approve purchase of computer networking equipment from MDSI

To approve the purchase of computer networking equipment from MDSI

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report for a request to approve the purchase of computer networking equipment from MDSI. Along with upgrades to the networking equipment, staff has planned to make the Data Center in the new administration building an operational Disaster Recovery Center in case of a catastrophic failure to the main Data Center at the Courthouse. Since county operations are IT based and all operations run through the computer network, such as Public Safety operations (911, Sheriff, Jail, EMS, EMA, radio system, etc.), the staff recommended purchasing additional equipment for the new Administration Building's data center.

In addition to purchasing the new equipment for the Administration Building, the computer networking equipment at the new Courthouse was also about to reach its useful life and plans were being made to recommend upgrading the equipment next year. Mr. Poe said because of this, it was being recommended to go ahead and move forward with purchasing the necessary networking equipment to upgrade the main Data Center at the Courthouse and purchase the equipment to build the Data Center in the new Administration Building. Purchasing all of the equipment at the same time will save money because the County can get a better price due to the volume of equipment to be purchased.

The request is being made at this time because it could take up to six to nine months to get some of the equipment delivered. The equipment should be installed by the time the new Administration Building is ready to be occupied.

Finally, if the data center in the new Administration Building will serve as a backup center, it's important that the equipment in both the courthouse and the administration building is compatible and engineered as one project. The new Courthouse equipment would have to be installed before the equipment in the new administration building.

The County primarily uses Cisco networking equipment and MDSI provides the primary engineering for our data systems. The Cisco equipment has to be purchased through a Cisco partner such as MDSI. Because of security and liability concerns, it is being recommended to utilize MDSI and purchase the necessary Cisco equipment through a contract with MDSI. The quotes from MDSI totaled \$669,715 (\$274,587 for the Courthouse; \$395,128 for the Administration building). The funding for this would come from both the Capital Projects fund and SPLOST 7 funds.

Commissioner Hix moved to approve funding and approve the purchase of computer networking equipment from MDSI. Commissioner Bingham seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

D. North Oconee Heritage Stone Mounds Park-Design Services Proposal

This is a proposal for a professional design services for the North Oconee Heritage Stone Mounds Park located off of Cabin Creek Road.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented a proposal from Red Rock Design Services for the new North Oconee Heritage Stone Mounds Park, located off of Cabin Creek Park. The County purchased the property last year and planned it as a passive historical park. The design process will be the first step in getting ready for construction and a possible opening in 2024. Mr. Poe advised the design work listed in the contract was not to exceed \$193,000.

Joel Logan, GIS Manager, advised he had contacted the Office of the State Archaeologist to obtain guidance about the historical preservation of the area.

Mr. Poe also shared public input will be received from the community.

Commissioner Bingham moved to approve a contract with Red Rock Design for Design Services for the North Oconee Heritage Stone Mounds Park.

Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 6 – 0)

Mr. Poe advised the next largest park project would be the New Kings Bridge Road site. This site will include active recreation as well as a passive park on a 100-acre site. The project was submitted to the University of Georgia School of Engineering as a capstone project. Students take on various parts of the project each semester. Mr. Poe said this could potentially save several hundred thousand dollars.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved: Monday, July 17, 2023

Jackson County Board of Commissioners



Tom Crow

Tom Crow, Chairman

Jim Hix

Jim Hix, Commissioner District 1

Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2

Chad Bingham

Chad Bingham, Commissioner District 3

Marty Seagraves

Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

Marty Clark

Marty Clark, Commissioner

Attest:

Ericka Johnson

Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk