



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

October 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Jury Assembly Room - County Courthouse

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chip Ferguson, County Attorney, called the meeting to order and advised in the absence of the chairperson and vice-chairman, a motion was needed to appoint someone to chair the meeting. Commissioner Bingham moved to appoint Commissioner Chas Hardy to chair the meeting. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0) Mr. Ferguson reminded the board since there were only four members present, it would take all four (4) votes to pass any item.

2. **Invocation**

Commissioner Chad Bingham gave the invocation.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Chas Hardy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

A. **October 2, 2023 Draft Minutes**

To approve the minutes for October 2, 2023

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Bingham seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 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.

- **Tiffany Flock, Jefferson, GA** addressed the board concerning what she believed was false information printed in a recent article in The Jackson Herald. Ms. Flock said the current QR Coded voting system was unverifiable and had been found to be in violation of two Georgia laws.
- **Debbie Loveless, Commerce, GA** spoke regarding her concerns about the voting machines and how the local government was funding these machines. She believed the QR Code printed on ballots created a "spoiled ballot". She asked the board to investigate this matter because a lot of citizens were concerned.

- **Patricia Moravek, Braselton, GA** also spoke regarding the article printed in The Jackson Herald. She said that she was merely giving her opinion when she spoke at the previous commission meeting. She requested a correction to the article that was printed. Commissioner Chad Bingham told her the board was not responsible for any article printed by the press. Ms. Moravek said she just wanted to help make elections better.

6. Reports

From Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager:

- Advised two board members were absent due to illnesses. And, it would take a full vote of the board to pass any item. She also asked the board to consider amending the agenda to add to New Business - Item 8B regarding the Capital Improvement Element (CIE), a part of the Comprehensive Plan. Action was needed to adopt a resolution on the CIE.

Amendment of Agenda:

Commissioner Hardy moved to amend the agenda and add Item 8B regarding the Capital Improvement Element. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

7. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bingham seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

- A. Proclamation for Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. Day
To proclaim Saturday, November 4, 2023 as the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame, Inc. Day
- B. Resolution Urging Governor and General Assembly to Reform and Improve Mental Health Services
To approve a resolution urging the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve Mental Health Services for the citizens of Georgia
- C. Award bid for Solid Waste Department - Debris Grinding Services
To Award Bid for Solid Waste Department Tree and Debris Grinding Service
- D. Annual Airport Capital Improvement Plan Approval
Review and approve of the Airport Capital Improvement Plan
- E. Recovery Month 2023 Proclamation
To reaffirm the proclamation designating September 2023 as National Recovery Month in Jackson County

8. New Business

A. Award Contracts to On Call Engineering Firms

To award three-year contracts to on-call vendors for professional engineering and consulting services

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, advised bids were sent out and twelve (12) proposals were received. A committee comprised of the County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Capital Projects Manager, Public Development Director, and Public Works Director, worked to review and score the proposals for a 3-year contract to perform on-call professional engineering and consulting services. The committee approved the 4 highest scoring contracts based on experience and suitability to Precision Planning, Atlas, Keck & Wood, and Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung. After reviewing the proposals, staff recommended awarding the on-call contracts to the four highest scoring vendors.

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the award of contracts to Precision Planning, Atlas, Keck & Wood, and Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung for on-call engineering services. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

B. Annual Update to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Comprehensive Plan

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) have reviewed and approved the draft update to the Jackson County Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Comprehensive Plan. The final step is to sign the resolution that has been prepared to adopt the update.

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, called on Jamie Dove, Public Development, to present the staff report. Ms. Dove reminded members an annual update was needed on the Capital Improvement Element. Draft changes were made and the board had authorized the transmittal of the document to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, who would ultimately transmit it to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Ms. Dove was pleased to announce the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) had reviewed and approved the draft update to the Jackson County Capital Improvements Element (CIE). She added the final step was to sign the resolution that was prepared to adopt the update.

There were no questions from any members. Commissioner Bingham moved to approve the adoption of the Capital Improvement Element (CIE). Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

9. Zoning Related Business

A. New Business

1. MA-23-0123 : Todd McElroy, 6574 Jefferson Road, Commerce; 4.44 acres (Map 036/Parcel 023B)

Request to change the Future Land Use Map from "Commercial" and "Residential" to "Residential"

Jamie Dove, Public Development Director, presented the staff report for MA-23-0123. She explained this was a request for a map amendment to change the Future Land Use Map from residential and commercial to solely residential. The Planning Staff and Planning Commission recommended approval of the request.

Chip Ferguson, County Attorney, opened the public hearing for comment. The applicant did not have anything to add to the presentation. There was no opposition and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Hardy moved to approve MA-23-0123. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

2. MA-23-0124 : David Elder, Highway 124 West & Highway 60, Hoschton; 9.26 acres (Map 112/Parcel 028)

Request to change the Character Area Map from "Suburban" to "Urban" and change the Future Land Use Map from "Residential" to "Commercial"

Jamie Dove, Public Development Director, presented the staff report for MA-23-0124. She explained this was a request to change the Character Area Map from suburban to urban and the Future Land Use Map from residential to commercial in order to do commercial development. The property is currently zoned A-2 and water and public gravity sewer is available. The Planning Staff and Planning Commission recommended approval. Chip Ferguson, County Attorney, opened the public hearing for comment. David Elder, spoke in support of the application. There was no opposition to the request and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Clark moved to approve MA-23-0124. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Approved: November 6, 2023



Attest:

Ericka Johnson
Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Tom Crow
Tom Crow, Chairman

Jim Hix
Jim Hix, District 1 Commissioner

Chas Hardy
Chas Hardy, District 2 Commissioner

Chad Bingham
Chad Bingham, District 3 Commissioner

Marty Seagraves
Marty Seagraves, District 4 Commissioner

Marty Clark
Marty Clark, District 5 Commissioner

