



Jackson County

Board of Commissioners - Called Meeting

April 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Jackson County Administrative Auditorium

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tom Crow called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Chairman Tom Crow Commissioner Jim Hix, District 1 Commissioner Chas Hardy, District 2 Commissioner Marty Seagraves, District 4 Commissioner Cole Elrod, District 5
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Staff Present:	Kevin Poe, County Manager Chip Ferguson, County Attorney Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager Jamie Dove, Public Development Manager Alisha Gamble, Finance Director Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk
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Press:	Mike Buffington, Mainstreet News/Jackson Herald
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2. New Business

Kevin Poe, County Manager, provided a financial update. He shared that there were some callable bonds that allowed for them to be paid off early. He explained if a payment was made on one callable bond for \$6.75 million, it would provide a savings of \$1.7 million dollars in payments through 2028. This window of opportunity would close in nine (9) months. There was a consensus of the board to support.

Mr. Poe presented a proposal for an Employee General Leave buy-back. This would allow employees to get paid up to 40 hours of General Leave. The estimated cost was \$231,000 to implement. This was done previously and helped to give extra money to employees, and it lowered the cost of the county's leave liability. There was a consensus of the board to support.

It was reported that the Jackson County Board of Education had purchased 170 acres and planned to put in two (2) new schools. However, they did not need 70 acres and wanted to offer the acreage for possible use for a county park or for Parks & Recreation usage. The purchase price was \$32,500/acre or \$2.275 million dollars. Additionally, a discussion was held on the proposed new Fleet Maintenance facility. Mr. Poe said it was added to the Capital Project list at an estimated \$6 - \$8 million dollars. There was concern because the scope of the project was now at an estimated \$10 - \$12 million dollar range and had twenty (20) bays. There was a consensus of the board to

downsize the building in an effort to get the project back down to approximately \$8 million dollars. The group also reviewed a rendering of the proposed facility.

Mr. Poe reviewed several projects for on-demand engineering services. Proposals were received from various engineering firms: Keck & Wood, Precision Planning, and Atlas. There were three projects he proposed to move forward with. The first was the roundabout at Ridgeway Church Road/SK Boulevard/Steve Reynolds Boulevard. Economic Development Funds were allocated for the project in the amount \$125,600. Mr. Poe recommended to award this project to Keck & Wood. Next, he presented the Sam Freeman Road upgrade project from Hwy. 124 to Hwy. 332. This would take twelve months to engineer and right-of-way acquisition was involved. He recommended to award this project to Precision Planning, Inc. in the amount of \$371,800. Lasttly, he presented a request to replace the pedestrian bridge at Hurricane Shoals Park. The estimated cost for engineering was \$270,000 and he recommended awarding this to Atlas.

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, reported on the county-wide Transportation Plan. After five years, it was time for an update. The Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization would provide funding assistance. The project was currently out for bid and all bids were due on May 7, 2024. Jamie Dove, Public Development Director, reported on the Comprehensive Plan update. It was on schedule and due by October 2025. She noted a first review of the plan would be submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in April 2025. Staff will work with the Regional Commission on the update. However, a steering committee was needed as well as an elected official to serve on the committee. There was a consensus of the board to appoint Commissioner Jim Hix. Ms. Dove also advised Joel Logan will handle all mapping for the Comprehensive Plan.

There was a discussion on the T-SPLOST. Mr. Poe reported legislation had passed; however, it was waiting on the governor's signature. He reported it will take at least 50% of the cities support in order to get a TSPLOST. Additionally, he stated if you have 100% of support from the cities, you could get up to 6 years of TSPLOST. The group reviewed the official road miles for each jurisdiction. Mr. Poe reported for a 5-year TSPLOST, the estimated collection was \$160 million dollars. And, for a 6-year TSPLOST, the estimated collection was \$200 million dollars. He reviewed potential projects. There was a consensus of the board to move forward in support with the cities in order to get the TSPLOST on the ballot.

3. Adjournment

Chairman Crow declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Approved: May 6, 2024



Attest: Ericka Johnson
Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Tom Crow
Tom Crow, Chairman

Jim Hix
Jim Hix, District 1 Commissioner

Ch Hardy
Chas Hardy, District 2 Commissioner

Vacant, District 3 Commissioner

Marty Seagraves
Marty Seagraves, District 4 Commissioner

Cole Elrod
Cole Elrod, District 5 Commissioner