



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

May 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Jury Assembly Room - County Courthouse

MINUTES

1. Call to Order - Commissioner Hardy

Vice-Chairman Hardy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Vice-Chairman Chas Hardy, District 2
Commissioner Jim Hix, District 1
Commissioner Marty Seagraves, District 4
Commissioner Cole Elrod, District 5

Staff Present: Kevin Poe, County Manager
Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager
Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Press:

2. Invocation - Kevin Poe

Kevin Poe, County Manager, gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Hix

Commissioner Jim Hix led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. April 15, 2024 Draft Minutes - Regular Meeting

To approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on April 15, 2024

Commissioner Hix moved to approve the minutes for the April 15, 2024 regular board meeting. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

B. April 15, 2024 Draft Minutes - Planning Session

To approve the minutes of the planning session held on April 15, 2024.

Commissioner Hix moved to approve the minutes for the April 15, 2024 Planning Session. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

C. April 29, 2024 Draft Minutes - Called Board Meeting

To approve the minutes for the called board meeting held on April 29, 2024.

Commissioner Hix moved to approve the minutes for April 29, 2024.
Commissioner Seagraves 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.

There were no comments.

6. Reports

There were no reports.

7. Recognitions, Appointments, and Special Items

A. Greg Pittman - Named 2023 County Agent of the Year for Georgia Cattlemen's Association

To recognize Greg Pittman as 2023 County Agent of the Year

Commissioner Elrod recognized Greg Pittman, Jackson County Agent, on being named 2023 County Agent of the Year by the Georgia Cattlemen's Association. A group photograph was taken to include the commissioners, Mr. Pittman, and various members of the agricultural community.

B. Senator Frank Ginn - ACCG 2024 Legislative Service Award

Todd Edwards, Deputy Director with ACCG Governmental Affairs, will present Senator Frank Ginn with the ACCG 2024 Leadership Service Award

Todd Edwards, with ACCG, presented the 2024 Legislative Service Award to Senator Frank Ginn for his work and effort on revising the Service Delivery Act.

Senator Frank Ginn co-sponsored HB 1407, which was passed. A group photograph was taken to include the commissioners, staff, Senator Ginn and Mr. Edwards.

8. Unfinished Business

None.

9. New Business

A. Early Payoff of Series 2014-A Callable Bonds

To request approval to pay off \$6,775,000 in Series 2014-A Callable Bonds (Jail, Courthouse, and Fire Training).

Kevin Poe, County Manager, advised there was an opportunity to pay off \$6.775

million dollars in callable bonds. The bonds were used to finance the jail, Fire Training Center, and Courthouse. This was a rarity. However, paying the bonds off early would save \$666,000 in interest and free up \$1.6 million in debt payments for the first four years. It will also save approximately \$800,000 in the last year. If approved, the transaction will close in approximately forty-five (45) days. Mr. Poe stated the county will maintain its 25% reserve requirement per the fund balance policy. There were no questions from the board.

B. Intergovernmental Agreement with Barrow County regarding repairs to bridge on Hancock Bridge Road

To consider approving IGA with Barrow County to repair bridge over the Mulberry River on Hancock Bridge Road.

Mr. Poe presented a request for approval of an intergovernmental agreement with Barrow County to repair the bridge over the Mulberry River. He said based on inspection reports from the Georgia Department of Transportation, repairs were needed in the amount of \$500,000. Barrow County will bid and manage the project. However, the two counties will share the cost to complete the work. Jackson County will reimburse Barrow County 50% of the amount to be paid.

C. Consider proposal to buy back employee general leave time

To consider approval of a plan to buy back employee's general leave time

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented a proposal to buy back general leave time from county employees. This item was previously discussed at a planning session. He explained employees could buy back up to 40 hours of general leave if they had 80 or more hours of accrued leave. Mr. Poe further explained this would reduce the overall accrued general leave time. The cost to implement was \$232,000 and would require a budget adjustment. He further explained participation would be voluntary. Payments will be made at the end of May. There were no questions from the board.

10. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Hardy declared this portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Work Session Meeting

This portion of the meeting is to facilitate a discussion on matters requiring a more in-depth review, explanation, and analysis. No formal action will be taken on any of the items listed below.

11. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Hardy called the work session meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

12. New Business

A. Jackson County Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy Update

To update the Zero Tolerance Drug & Alcohol Policy for Jackson County Transit.

This update is required to reflect the most recent updates to 49 CFR Part 40 made by USDOT effective 6/1/2023

Kevin Poe, County Manager, explained this was a request to update the Zero Tolerance Drug & Alcohol Policy for the Jackson County Transit. This update was required to reflect the most recent updates for the Section 5311 grant funding. There were no questions from the board.

B. Contract with Jackson County Board of Education for Jackson County School Resource Officers

To approve a contract between the Jackson County Board of Education and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the Jackson County Sheriff to provide school resource officers.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented a request to approve a contract to provide school resource officers to the Jackson County Board of Education (BOE). This agreement was between the Jackson County BOE, Jackson County Board of Commissioners, and the Jackson County Sheriff. The current agreement, which will expire soon, was a 5-year agreement. However, if approved, it will be a one-year agreement, which could automatically be renewed. After every 2 years, the agreement will be reviewed to determine if changes are needed based on the opening of new schools. The initial term of agreement specified the BOE will pay a monthly amount of \$29,166.66 or 350,000 per year. The contract details the number of deputies to be provided, the scope of services, and the responsibilities of each party. Mr. Poe confirmed the BOE had approved the contract. There were no questions.

C. Resolution to declare certain real property surplus
To request that the BOC approve a resolution declaring certain real property surplus and authorize sale of property

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported the County had approximately 1/4 acre of property the County owned in the Center community. He confirmed the property was no longer utilized by the county, and he recommended the approval of a resolution to declare the property surplus. It was noted the property previously served as a voting precinct.

D. Approve Agreement with Keck & Wood, Inc. for Professional Engineering and Consulting Services
To approve agreement with Keck & Wood, Inc. to provide engineering and consulting services

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented a request to approve an agreement with Keck & Wood to provide engineering and consulting services for a new roundabout at Ridgeway Church Road, SK Boulevard, and Steve Reynolds Industrial Parkway intersection. Proposals were received and reviewed. It was determined Keck & Wood had the best proposal in the amount of \$125,600. It was estimated it would take approximately 10 months to complete the design and to prepare construction documents.

E. Approve Agreement with Precision Planning, Inc for Professional Engineering and Consulting Services

To approve agreement with Precision Planning, Inc to provide engineering and consulting services.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported staff had recently took proposals to provide engineering services for improvements to Sam Freeman Road. Several proposals were received. However, staff recommended awarding the project to Precision Planning, Inc. in the amount of \$371,800. It was estimated to be a 12 month process for completion. Mr. Poe added funding for this project would come from SPLOST 7.

F. Purchase of property from Jackson County Board of Education
To consider purchasing property from the Jackson County Board of Education

Kevin Poe, County Manager, advised the Jackson County Board of Education had offered to sell 70 acres from a 170 acre tract they recently purchased in the West Jackson area for the site of two new schools. He explained the BOE was willing to sell the property for the same amount they originally paid for it, in the amount of \$32,500 per acre. The BOE had no plans for the 70 acres, but had to purchase the entire tract. Mr. Poe reported this property could be used for green space, recreation ball-fields or for a passive park. He advised the county will need to purchase the entire tract. He also reminded board members the county had allocated \$2 million dollars in the FY2025 Capital Projects budget to purchase green space. If the board desired to purchase the property, the county would need to amend the Capital Projects budget by \$275,000 to provide the funding to complete the transaction.

G. Select engineering firm to provide professional engineering and consulting services for new pedestrian bridge at Hurricane Shoals Park

To select an engineering firm to provide engineering services for a new pedestrian bridge at Hurricane Shoals Park.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported staff had solicited proposals for engineering and consulting services related to the replacement of the pedestrian bridge at Hurricane Shoals Park. Two proposals were received. Staff recommended awarding the project to Atlas in the amount of \$270,915. It was anticipated it would take twelve (12) months to complete the plans for the new bridge. Funds will come from the Capital Projects Fund.

H. Request for Jackson County to be fiscal agent for Family Connection
To consider agreeing to be the fiscal agent for Jackson County Family Connection.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported Family Connection was looking for a new fiscal agent to handle funds received by the Georgia Department of Human Services to cover the salary of its executive director. The Jackson County

Chamber of Commerce was its fiscal agent, but due to new requirements and the complexities of a non-profit agency being a fiscal agent, Family Connection was looking for a new fiscal agent. Mr. Poe shared that numerous counties throughout the State of Georgia were the fiscal agents for their local Family Connection agency. He added that since Jackson County had a very robust finance and accounting system and the proper personnel to handle this, it would make sense that the County agreed to be the fiscal agent. Representatives from Family Connection were present; although, there were no questions.

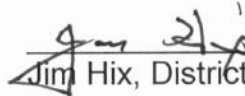
13. Adjournment

There was no other business to discuss. Vice-Chairman Hardy declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Approved: May 20, 2024



Tom Crow, Chairman



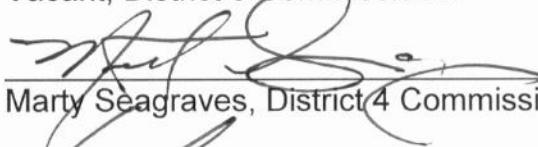
Jim Hix, District 1 Commissioner



Chas Hardy, District 2 Commissioner



Vacant, District 3 Commissioner



Marty Seagraves, District 4 Commissioner



Cole Elrod, District 5 Commissioner



Attest:



Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk