



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

October 7, 2024 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: Tom Crow, Chairman

Jim Hix, Commissioner District 1

Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2

Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

Staff Present:

Kevin Poe, County Manager

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager

Jamie Dove, Public Development Manager

Press:

Mike Buffington, Mainstreet News/Jackson Herald

2. **Invocation - County Manager Kevin Poe**

County Manager Kevin Poe gave the invocation.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Chas Hardy**

Commissioner Chas Hardy led The Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

A. **September 16, 2024 Draft Minutes**

Approve the meeting minutes for September 16, 2024

Commissioner Hix moved to approve the minutes for September 16, 2024.

Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

(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.

None

6. **Reports**

None

A. **Proclamation to Recognize October 6th-12th as National 4-H Week**

To recognize the contributions of 4-H and its members in Jackson County

Kevin Poe, County Manager, read the proclamation to declare October 6th - 12th as National 4-H Week in Jackson County. Jonathan Page and April Edwards accepted the proclamation on behalf of the department. Several students, who participated in various

competitions, were recognized. A group photograph of the board and students was taken. Commissioner Hix moved to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

8. New Business

A. Jackson County Airport Addressing & Road Corrections & Changes

As the Jackson County Airport embarks on a new terminal expansion project it is the recommendation of Jackson County GIS Addressing staff to correct and cleanup some existing addressing issues at the airport to help improve public safety response and have a better road network in place for future growth and expansion. Staff recommends the following 5 actions:

- 1. Abandoning Sky Harbor Dr which no longer exists.**
- 2. Extend Airport Rd as a private drive into the airport for use by the new terminal expansion project**
- 3. Rename Lauren Dr to Aviation Way**
- 4. Rename Airport Hanger Rd to Airport Hangar Rd**
- 5. Create a new private drive at the end of the airport called Pilots Path**

Joel Logan, GIS Manager, advised that the Jackson County Airport was embarking on a new terminal expansion project, and he wanted to clean up and to correct a few issues prior to the permitting process. He said this would help to improve public safety response and have a better road network in place for future growth and expansion. Mr. Logan recommended the board approve five items: 1) Abandoning Sky Harbor Dr which no longer existed, 2) Extend Airport Road as a private drive into the airport for use by the new terminal expansion project, 3) Rename Lauren Dr to Aviation Way, 4) Rename Airport Hanger Rd to Airport Hangar Road, to correct the spelling, and 5) Create a new private drive at the end of the airport called Pilots Path. There was a brief discussion regarding the changes.

9. Adjournment

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.

10. Call to Order - Chairman Tom Crow

11. New Business

A. FY 2025 Contract with the Georgia Public Defender Council

To approve the annual contract with the Georgia Public Defender Council for indigent defense services

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report for the request. This contract covered operations of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit for Barrow and Jackson Counties. The term of the contract was from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. The Jackson County portion of the cost to operate the Public Defender's Office is \$727,871 (48% of the total cost). This was the same amount as in FY 2024. Mr. Poe advised Barrow County had already approved the contract and their financial share of the operating cost.

B. Annual Jackson County Airport Capital Improvement Plan Approval

To request of the Commission: Approval of Annual Capital Improvement Plan submittal for the Jackson County Airport

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report on the request. He said each year, every public-use airport in Georgia was required to update and submit a 5-year plan for capital improvements (CIP) to the Georgia Department of Transportation. The projects requested compete for funding as they are scored by GDOT using factors such as federal and state aviation system priorities, safety improvements, economic impact or availability of funds. These plans are also used by GDOT to request additional state and federal funding on our behalf. Although airports are required to plan in five-year increments, we also do not expect funding for anything past FY 25. The FY 25 request includes a federal and state reimbursement for the new terminal project which may free up some SPLOST funding for other airport development should it be approved. The plan also includes a reimbursement for the airfield runway and taxiway lighting rehab design which was previously included for FY24 but not yet funded. He added, FY25 included the associated construction phase for the lighting rehab project.

Mr. Poe also shared that there had been some interest in extending the runway which is shown in the attached plan as it was last year. He told members once political support has been attained, it was likely that this program will be a state and locally funded effort as it does not meet FAA criteria for funding. The amounts shown are estimates and could vary depending on several factors that will be investigated during the design phase. Contracts for individual projects will be submitted to the BOC once they are approved for funding by GDOT and/or the FAA.

C. Pay out of Essential Leave Time

To request approval to pay out unused Essential Leave Time

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported that in 2020 during the COVID outbreak, all businesses, governments, etc. were required to shut down for a period of time. However, "Essential Employees" were required to continue to work to provide essential County services. The policy that the BOC adopted during this time was if an employee had to work during the "COVID Shutdown" then they not only got paid for the time worked, but they also earned "essential leave time" (an hour of leave time earned for every hour worked). The leave time that was earned can be used the same as vacation or sick leave time. Mr. Poe noted there was currently about \$170,000 worth of essential leave time still on the County's books. In order to eliminate this future liability, he recommended that all essential leave-time be paid out and end the program.

D. 2025 GDOT Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG)

To approve the list of roads to be resurfaced under the GaDOT LMIG program

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report for the 2025 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant. He reported the County's share was \$1,037,991 and there was 30% local funds match requirement. The local match was \$311,397 and will be covered by SPLOST 7 funds classified for Roads & Bridges. Mr. Poe added that staff proposed to use these funds to resurface 7.9 miles of Jackson Trail from the Hoschton city limits to Hwy 11 and 2.54 miles of Savage Road from Hwy 330 to the county line. He asked the board to approve the list of roads to be resurfaced and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents related to the 2025 LMIG application and grant.

12. Adjournment

Chairman Tom Crow adjourned the meeting by acclimation.

Approved: October 21, 2024

Jim Hix, District 1 Commissioner

Vacant, District 3 Commissioner

Cole Elrod, District 5 Commissioner

