



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

April 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Kevin C. Poe Meeting Room
County Administrative Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order - Chairman Marty Clark

Chairman Marty Clark called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Marty Clark
Commissioner Jim Hix, District 1
Commissioner Chas Hardy, District 2
Commissioner Ty Clack, District 3
Commissioner Marty Seagraves, District 4 – Via MS Teams
Commissioner Cole Elrod, District 5

Staff Present: Gina Roy, County Manager
Jamie Dove, Assistant County Manager
Kevin McCook, Sheriff
Alisha Gamble, Finance Director
Hannah Slater, Public Development Manager
Kelli McCarthy, EMA Director
Melissa Anderson, Radio Coordinator
Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Press: Mike Buffington, Mainstreet News/Jackson Herald

2. 2026 Important Dates

County Manager Gina Roy provided an overview of key dates for 2026, as outline in the material distributed to the board. She noted that the schedule included various county and community events, such as chamber activities, Keep Jackson County Beautiful initiatives, and election-related dates, and encouraged members to review the information for planning purposes.

3. Past Retreat Goals and Concerns

County Manager Gina Roy provided a review of past retreat goals and concerns dating back to 2018, offering a pre-COVID benchmark and highlighting progress made by the County. She noted several complete and ongoing initiatives, including implementation of TSPLOST for road funding, continued efforts in economic development, housing analysis, and enhancements to meeting technology. Ms. Roy also discussed ongoing priorities such as employee compensation adjustments, debt management, and infrastructure improvements, including roundabouts, emphasizing the County's overall progress and continued focus on long-term goals.

4. Capital Projects Update

County Manager Gina Roy provided an overview of ongoing capital projects, highlighting updates on various facility improvements, new construction, and infrastructure initiatives across the County. She noted progress on projects including parks, public safety facilities, airport improvements, and building renovations, with several nearing completion and others in design or bidding phases. Ms. Roy emphasized that multiple projects remain on schedule, with funding and coordination efforts in place, and that staff continue to actively manage a wide range of capital improvements.

5. Sheriff's Department and Jail

Sheriff Kevin McCook provided an update on the Sheriff's Office and Jail operations, expressing appreciation to the board for its support and highlighting improvements in personnel morale and departmental resources. He discussed recent technological upgrades, including enhanced tasers, body cameras with translation capabilities, in-car camera systems, and advanced evidence and data management tools, as well as new software to assist with investigations and crime-solving.

Sheriff McCook also noted completion of the new shooting range and its benefits for training. He concluded by outlining future needs for consideration, including additional space through a mobile classroom and the potential acquisition of a mobile command center vehicle to improve onsite coordination during emergency incidents.

6. Tax Year Millage Rate

County Manager Gina Roy provided an overview of tax year millage rates and related financial considerations, referencing materials included in the board's packet. She discussed recent trends in the County's tax digest, comparisons with surrounding jurisdictions, and the anticipated financial impact of a one mill rollback as previously committed by the board following passage of TSPLOST. Ms. Roy noted the projected reduction in revenue and emphasized the need for a conservative, need-based approach in the upcoming budget cycle, while also outlining ongoing discussion regarding state legislation and potential future funding options.

7. Infrastructure Improvements

County Manager Gina Roy provided an overview of ongoing and planned infrastructure improvements, focusing on road projects across the County. She highlighted current paving and resurfacing efforts, progress in reducing dirt roads, and projects funded through LMIG, LRA, and TSPLOST. Ms. Roy also discussed upcoming projects for board consideration, coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation on major roadway improvements, and the overall allocation of funds by district, noting continued progress in addressing transportation needs countywide.

8. EMA Radio Update

County Manager Gina Roy introduced newly appointed EMA Director Keilli McCarthy and Radio Coordinator Melissa Anderson, highlighting their experience and ongoing efforts to strengthen emergency management operations. An update was provided on longstanding radio coverage issues in South Jackson, with staff reporting recent field evaluations and collaboration with technical engineers to identify and address system deficiencies. Initial adjustments have already improved radio performance in problem areas, and further analysis and coordination are underway to ensure reliable communication coverage moving forward.

9. Parks and Recreation

County Manager Gina Roy discussed the organizational structure of Parks and Recreation, noting the continued growth of the County's park system and recreational services. She outlined a potential restructuring concept that would separate responsibilities between active recreation and park maintenance, with dedicated leadership for each area to improve efficiency and oversight. Ms. Roy emphasized that the concept is preliminary and intended for discussion as the County plans for future expansion and budgeting.

10. Planning Update

Public Development Manager Hannah Slater provided a planning update, highlighting ongoing and upcoming text amendments, including those related to car washes and application and concept plan requirements, which are expected to move through the Planning Commission and board in the coming months. She also discussed coordination with the Sheriff's Office on potential ordinance updates related to security camera requirements for new developments. Additionally, Ms. Slater reviewed development trends, noted increased activity in agricultural land splits, and introduced concepts such as berms and enhanced landscaping requirements for residential developments, seeking feedback from the board for potential future code inclusion.

Ms. Slater also shared departmental updates, including staffing efforts, the addition of an intern to support environmental initiatives, adjustments to code enforcement scheduling, and ongoing communication with local businesses to improve departmental customer service overall.

11. Impact Fees

Assistant County Manager Jamie Dove provided an update on impact fees, including current collection efforts and proposed revisions to the program. She explained that staff is evaluating a shift away from collecting impact fees for roads and bridges, due to the overlap with TSPLOST funding, and instead reallocating those fees toward public safety needs such as EMA/911 and a potential Emergency Operations Center. Ms. Dove noted that the County has engaged a consultant to assist with amending the Capital Improvements Element, with anticipated recommendations to be presented late in the year.

12. Departmental Recognition and Appreciation Week Acknowledgement

County Manager Gina Roy acknowledged Animal Control Appreciation Week and National Public Safety Communications (911) Week, recognizing the contributions of both departments. She commended their leadership, staffing progress, and use of technology, and encouraged the board to extend appreciation for their service to the community.

13. Adjournment

Chairman Clark declared the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Approved: May 4, 2026
Filed: Minute Book #33



Attest: Ericka Johnson
Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Marty Clark
Marty Clark, Chairman

Jim Hix
Commissioner Jim Hix, District 1

Chas Hardy
Commissioner Chas Hardy, District 2

Ty Clack
Commissioner Ty Clack, District 3

Marty Seagraves
Commissioner Marty Seagraves, District 4

Cole Elrod
Commissioner Cole Elrod, District 5