



Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 4, 2021 • 6:00 P.M.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Jackson County Courthouse, 5000 Jackson Parkway, Jefferson, Georgia.

Commissioners Present: Jim Hix, Commissioner District 1
Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2
Ralph Richardson, Jr., Commissioner District 3
Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

Commissioners Absent: Tom Crow, Chairman

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

Press: Mike Buffington, Mainstreet News/Jackson Herald

A. CALL TO ORDER:

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

B. INVOCATION:

Kevin Poe, County Manager, gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Ralph Richardson, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Seagraves moved to approve the minutes for December 21, 2020. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

2) Selection of a Vice-Chairman for 2021:

Appoint a Vice-Chairman for 2021 to perform the duties and to exercise the authority of the Chairman in his absence.

Commissioner Richardson nominated Commissioner Chas Hardy to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2021. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the vote passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

Commissioner Hix turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Hardy.

E. CITIZEN INPUT:

- Gina McKinney, 185 McBar Acres Road, Athens, GA addressed the board regarding a proposed rezoning for property to be located at 2567 Brock Road.
- Babs McDonald, 1119 Hwy. 330, spoke on behalf of Citizens for South Jackson, an advocacy group, who were opposed to the rezoning of eight (8) acres on Brock Road and Hwy. 129. Ms. McDonald told the board of attempts to contact the applicant and discuss the plans for the project, but the applicant did not respond.
- Justin Swafford, 2473 Brock Road, also spoke concerning the rezoning request on Brock Road. Mr. Swafford was the adjacent land owner and he believed the development would destroy the rural characteristic of his property. He asked the board to deny the rezoning request for the eight (8) acres. He also reserved his constitutional rights to challenge the Jackson County Board of Commissioners' decision for the rezoning of the land adjacent to his property.

F. REPORTS:

None

G. RECOGNITIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND SPECIAL ITEMS:

- 1) **2021 Calendar of Meetings for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners:**
Approve the 2021 Calendar of Meetings for the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. All meetings are scheduled and will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Jackson County Courthouse, 5000 Jackson Parkway, Jefferson, GA on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month unless the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled due to a legal holiday or other conflict.

Commissioner Hix moved to approve the Calendar for 2021. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

- 3) **Jackson County Board of Assessors – 3 Year Term:**
 - **Hubert Edwards – (District 5 – Term Expired December 31, 2020)**

Commissioner Hix moved to approve the reappointment of Hubert Edwards to serve a three (3) year term on the Jackson County Board of Assessors. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

- 4) **Jackson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – 1 Year Term:**
• **Bucky Sorrow – (District 5 – Term Expired December 31, 2020)**

The appointment was deferred.

H. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

None

I. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

J. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 5) **Resolution to Support and Apply for the FY2021 CDBG Funds for the Expansion of the Senior Center:** (Gina Roy)
Approve the Chairman to sign a resolution to support and apply for the FY2021 CDBG funds for the expansion of the Senior Center.

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, presented a resolution to support and apply for a CDBG for the expansion of the Senior Center. She reported the application was due in February 2021. Commissioner Hix moved to approve the resolution to support and apply for the FY 2021 CDBG funds for the expansion project. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

- 6) **Amend the Animal Control Ordinance Regarding the Dangerous Dog Committee:** (Gina Roy)
To adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 8, Articles I & II to remove reference to the Dangerous Dog Committee; amend certain provisions regarding dangerous or vicious dogs; and entitle these duties to the Magistrate Court.

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, presented a recommendation from staff to forego the Dangerous Dog Committee. She reported the Committee had not met in fifteen (15) years and further stated all cases could be processed through Magistrate Court. Judge Ben Green had agreed to take the cases and make the judgement calls. Commissioner Richardson made the motion to amend the Animal Control Ordinance regarding the Dangerous Dog Committee as requested by the County Manager. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

- 7) **Adopt an Ordinance to Add the Regulation of Vehicle Immobilization Devices:** (Gina Roy)
To adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 36 (Traffic & Vehicles), Article I (In General) and add a section addressing vehicle immobilization devices.

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, said this was a request from Magistrate Court. She told the board of a problem with companies, from the Atlanta area, going onto private property and utilizing vehicle immobilization devices (boots), and demand individuals pay them to remove the boot. Approval of this ordinance gives Magistrate Court, along with local law

enforcement, local legislation in place for enforcement. Commissioner Hix moved to approve the ordinance to add the Regulation of Vehicle Immobilization Devices. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

8) Ordinance to Approve a New Timber Harvesting Ordinance Created by HB897:

(Gina Roy)

Approve an ordinance defining the regulations for timber harvesting set forth by HB897.

Gina Roy, Assistant County Manager, presented the staff report to approve an ordinance to change the Timber Harvesting Ordinance in two (2) major ways. One was a change in the surety bond and letter of credit requirements. The other change required timber harvesters to register online and identify their timbering location. Commissioner Seagraves moved to approve the new Timber Harvesting Ordinance. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

9) Lease Agreement for Buildings Located at 102 Cloverleaf Circle:

(Kevin Poe)

To approve a lease agreement with Reboot Jackson for the lease of the buildings located at 102 Cloverleaf Circle (Former 4-H Office and Clubhouse)

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented a proposed lease agreement between Jackson County and Reboot Jackson for the lease of the building located at 102 Cloverleaf Circle. He explained Reboot Jackson was a non-profit Recovery Community Organization and they were searching for a facility to relocate its operations. Mr. Poe further explained Reboot Jackson believed this facility would suit their needs because of its close proximity to the Jackson County Mental Health and the Accountability Court, located at the Jackson County Courthouse. This will be a 2-year lease agreement beginning in March 2021 and ending December 31, 2022. There will also be three (3) one-year options. The rent will be \$500 per month. Mr. Poe asked the board to approve the lease agreement as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign the document. It was confirmed Reboot Jackson was required to have general liability insurance. Mr. Poe said Chairman Crow suggested changing the name of Cloverleaf Circle considering the use of the facility. Cloverleaf Circle was a private, county-maintained road. Commissioner Hix made the motion to approve the lease agreement with Reboot Jackson. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

10) Gum Springs Park Sports Lighting:

(Kevin Poe)

To approve a contract with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC for the purchase and installation of sports field lighting at Gum Springs Park.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported the County was moving forward with the development for Gum Springs Park. Phase 1 was underway and included grading activities. He asked the board to consider approval of a contract with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC for the purchase and installation of the sports field lighting at Gum Springs Park to be completed through a cooperative purchasing agreement, which included sealed bids. The total project cost was \$583,400. Commissioner Seagraves moved to approve the Gum Springs Park Sports Lighting. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

11) FY 2021 Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG):**(Kevin Poe)**

To request that the Commission approve the list of roads being submitted for LMIG funding and authorize the Chairman to execute all documents related to this grant application and subsequent grant award.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, advised for SFY 2021, the Georgia Department of Transportation through their Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) had made \$819,114 available to Jackson County for road improvement projects. There was a 30% percent match was required in the amount of \$245,734. Mr. Poe said the funds were from SPLOST VI. The total amount was \$1,064,848 and staff had outlined a plan to pave 12.04 miles. The roads, which varied in length, were Lebanon Church Road, Old Sate Road, Wheeler Road, Boone Road, Bear Creek Lane, Brennan Drive, Walnut Ridge Drive, Wood Crest Drive, and Old Wick Trail. The road list must be submitted to Georgia DOT this month. Mr. Poe also said funds were available, approximately \$1 million dollars, in the General Fund and staff planned to pave about 10 additional miles of roadway. Commissioner Hix moved to approve the FY 2021 LMIG grant. Commissioner Seagraves seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

12) Authorize Contract with Tusa Consulting Services to Provide Radio System**Implementation Services:****(Kevin Poe)**

To approve a contract with Tusa Consulting Services to provide professional services related to the implementation of the new P25 Trunked Radio System.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report for a request to approve a contract with Tusa Consulting Services to provide professional services related to the implementation of the new P25 Trunked Radio System. He reminded members, the board had approved a contract with Motorola Solutions at the last meeting to install and implement a new radio system for Jackson County. Mr. Poe advised it was expected to take up 24 months to build, install, and implement the new system. He also reminded members the County had used Tusa Consulting Services to provide the County's initial needs assessment, to develop project specifications, scope of work, and to assist with the Request for Proposals, to also include evaluation of the proposals.

He explained the final work needed from Tusa was to provide professional services during the implementation of the new radio system. There were seven tasks involved: a kick-off meeting and detailed design reviews, project management, technical oversight and guidance, factor acceptance test, onsite support, onsite support during testing activity, and oversee final acceptance of the system. The total cost of the work was \$350,000. There was a discussion concerning the company and their level of responsibility. Commissioner Hix moved to approve the contract with Tusa Consulting Services. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

L. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

All printed material/documentation presented is filed in Board Minute Addendum Book No. 13-P and hereby becomes a part of the official minutes.

Minutes Approved: Monday, February 1, 2021.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Attest: Ericka Johnson
Ericka Johnson Deputy Clerk

Tom Crow
Tom Crow, Chairman

Jim Nix
Jim Nix, Commissioner District 1

Chas Hardy
Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2

Ralph Richardson, Jr.
Ralph Richardson, Jr., Commissioner District 3

Marty Seagraves
Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4