



Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2021 • 6:00 P.M.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Jackson County Courthouse, 5000 Jackson Parkway, Jefferson, Georgia.

Commissioners Present: Tom Crow, Chairman
Jim Hix, Commissioner District 1
Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2
Ralph Richardson, Jr., Commissioner District 3

Commissioners Absent: Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

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

Press: Alex Buffington, Jackson Herald/Mainstreet News

A. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Tom Crow 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:**

There was a consensus of the board to forego the adoption of the minutes for May 17, 2021.

E. **CITIZEN INPUT:**

Many people were in attendance because of their tax assessments. Chairman Crow spoke on behalf of the board and reviewed the state law that governed the tax assessment process.

- Mindy Gibbons, 105 Sunrise Drive, Hoschton, GA spoke and expressed her concern with the drastic increase in her property tax.
- Linda Youngblood, Lillian Drive in Northminister Estates, addressed the board on behalf of seniors. She urged the board to consider increasing tax breaks for senior citizens.
- Ron Aiello, 217 Shoreline Drive, Jefferson, GA addressed the board and was concerned that Jackson County had one of the highest tax bases in the state.
- Fernando Andrade, 223 Birch Field, spoke and was concerned about the County's high taxes.
- Jeremy Griffey, 115 Meadowcreek Drive, spoke and expressed his concern regarding his high tax assessment. He suggested more information should be shared with homeowners about the process and the law.
- John Yarborough, a resident off of Storey Lane, spoke and asked the board to consider exempting senior citizens from school taxes.
- Steven Wolfbauer, 61 Shepherd's Court, asked for clarification on how corporate taxes affect residential homeowners and taxes they pay.
- Richard Crosby, addressed the board and said senior citizens needed a break on school taxes and should pay overall reduced taxes.

F. **REPORTS:**

None

G. **RECOGNITIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND SPECIAL ITEMS:**

None

H. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

None

I. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

J. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1) **Acceptance of FY2022 Jackson County Drug Court State Grant and Piedmont Circuit Veterans Court State Grant and Request for Date Funds:**

Richard Bosten, Assistant Director and Coordinator of the Specialty Courts for Banks, Barrow, and Jackson Counties, addressed the board and presented the staff report. He reviewed the programs and services his office offered to the community. This was a request to accept and

approve the grant award for FY2022 from the CJCC to assist in funding the Jackson County Drug Court, to accept and approve the grant award for FY2022 from CJCC to assist in the funding of the Piedmont Circuit Veterans Court, and to acknowledge use of the DATE Fund to assist in program operation expenses.

A motion was made by Chairman Crow, seconded by Commissioner Hix, to approve the request. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

K. **ADJOURN:**

Chairman Tom Crow adjourned the business meeting at 7:12 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 by the Board of Commissioners on any of the items listed below.

L. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Crow called the work session to order at 7:12 p.m.

M. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

N. **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a consensus of the board to amend the work session agenda and add Item #8, a request to consider a change order with Magnum Contracting, LLC for electrical work at Gum Springs Park.

2) **Funding for Purchase of New Ambulance:** (Kevin Poe)
To approve funding option for new ambulance.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported in the FY2021 Emergency Medical Services budget, the lease purchase of two new ambulances was approved and funds allocated to make the lease payments. He added the BOC had received CARES Act Funding related to COVID-19 and the board approved using \$255,000 to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Poe further stated between the CARES Act funding and what the budgeted, the remaining amount needed to purchase the second ambulance outright was \$80,000. He asked the board to allocate \$80,000 and purchase the ambulance without lease purchase financing. There were no questions.

3) **Intergovernmental Agreement Between Jackson County and the Georgia Department of Transportation:** (Kevin Poe)
To approve contract to provide an inmate detail for Georgia Department of Transportation.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, advised this was the annual renewal of the intergovernmental agreement between the County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to provide an inmate detail. GDOT will pay the salary/benefits, supplies, and materials needed for the completion of any work. There were no questions.

- 4) **FY2022 Capacity Agreement Between the Georgia Department of Corrections and Jackson County Government:** (Kevin Poe)
To approve County capacity agreement with Georgia Department of Corrections relative to State inmates housed at Jackson County Correctional Institute.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported this was the annual renewal of the agreement between the County and the Georgia Department of Corrections to house up to 150 inmates at the Jackson County Correctional Institute. There were no questions from the board.

- 5) **Mid-Year Salary Adjustments Recommendation:** (Kevin Poe)
Consider amending FY2021 budget to provide for mid-year salary adjustments.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, explained this was a request for the board to consider amending the FY2021 budget to provide for a mid-year salary adjustment. He proposed the board provide a 3% increase for public safety employees and a 2% increase for general administrative employees in order to keep salaries competitive with surrounding government jurisdictions and to keep up with wages in the local labor market. If approved, the budget impact was \$300,000 or \$600,000 annually.

Mr. Poe proposed an effective date of July 1, 2021. Chairman Crow proposed changing the effective date to April 1, 2021. Mr. Poe confirmed this would be an additional \$150,000 or a total of \$450,000 for this year. There were no questions from the board.

- 6) **Approve Various Tower and Ground Lease Agreements:** (Kevin Poe)

Kevin Poe, County Manager, advised at this time, there were no specific documentation. He said there will be several tower and ground lease agreements that he will bring to the board for adoption. The proposed agreements will be between the County and the City of Jefferson, Town of Braselton, Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority, Jackson County Board of Education, Plainview Volunteer Fire Department, and Georgia Power.

Mr. Poe added the terms and conditions of each agreement will be similar. The agreements were necessary for the construction of the new radio system for public safety.

- 7) **Jackson County Habitat for Humanity Lease Agreement:** (Kevin Poe)
To authorize the Chairman to execute the lease agreement with Jackson County Habitat for Humanity for the lease of retail space at the Commerce Service Center.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reported this was the annual renewal of the lease agreement with Jackson County Habitat for Humanity for the lease of retail space at the Commerce Service Center. The County will receive rent in the amount of \$2,732 per month. Mr. Poe told the board Habitat for Humanity had been a good tenant at the location. There were no questions from the board.

8) **Approve Change Order with Mangum Contracting, LLC for Electrical Work at Gum Springs Park:** (Kevin Poe)

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented the staff report for a request to authorize a change order with Magnum Contracting, LLC for electrical work at Gum Springs Park. He reported the first phase of work was almost complete. This work included installation of all underground utilities and conduit. The second phase of work will include pulling all of the wiring needed for field lighting, security lighting, pedestrian walkway lighting, scoreboards, concession/restroom building and the main electrical panel to provide power throughout the park. Staff obtained a price from the current contractor since they were already onsite and familiar with the layout. A change order was negotiated in the amount of \$220,000. Mr. Poe anticipated the cost could be lower than this amount. He then requested authorization to approve the change order with Magnum Contracting, LLC to complete the electrical work at Gum Springs Park. There were no questions from the board.

O) **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

P) **ADJOURN:**

Chairman Tom Crow declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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

Minutes Approved: Monday, June 21, 2021.



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Crow".

Tom Crow, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Hix".

Jim Hix, Commissioner District 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chas Hardy".

Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Richardson, Jr.".

Ralph Richardson, Jr., Commissioner District 3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Seagraves".

Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ericka Johnson".

Ericka Johnson, Deputy Clerk

