



Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2021 • 6:00 P.M.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, December 6, 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
Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

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

Press: Mike Buffington, Jackson Herald/Mainstreet News

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Tom Crow called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. INVOCATION:

Kevin Poe, County Manager, gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Ralph Richardson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, to approve the minutes for November 15, 2021. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

E. CITIZEN INPUT:

- **Babs McDonald, 1119 Hwy. 330**, addressed the board concerning the County's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. McDonald was concerned that the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan was not being utilized to guide map amendment and rezoning applications. She wanted to know how the applications were assessed. Additionally, Ms. McDonald asked how climate change and Covid 19 were being integrated in County decision-making.

- **Gina McKinney, 185 McBar Acres Road, Athens, GA**, addressed the board. She read a portion of an article titled *Putting a Dollar Value on Nature Will Give Governments and Businesses More Reasons to Protect It*.

F. REPORTS:

None

G. RECOGNITIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND SPECIAL ITEMS:

1) Jackson County Airport Authority – 3 Year Term:

- **Stan McClain – (District 1 – Term expires December 31, 2021)**
- **Ron Wilson – (District 2 – Term expires December 31, 2021)**

District 1:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hix, seconded by Commissioner Hardy, to reappoint Stan McClain to the Jackson County Airport Authority. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

District 2:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Hix, to reappoint Ron Wilson to the Jackson County Airport Authority. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

2) Jackson County Board of Health – 6 Year Term:

- **Henry Slocum – (Advocate for Needy – Term expires December 31, 2021)**
- **Joyce Bradshaw – (Nurse – Term expires December 31, 2021)**

Chairman Crow made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hix, to reappoint Henry Slocum to the Jackson County Board of Health. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

Chairman Crow made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hix, to reappoint Joyce Bradshaw to the Jackson County Board of Health. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

3) Jackson County Industrial Development Authority – 5 – Year Term:

- **David Lathem – (District 3 – Term expires December 31, 2021)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Seagraves, to reappoint David Lathem to the Jackson County Industrial Development Authority. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

4) **Keep Jackson County Beautiful – 3 – Year Term:**

- Jack Legg – (Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Cyndi Clark – (Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Wade Johnson – (Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Mike Faulkner – (Term expires December 31, 2021)

A motion was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Chairman Crow to reappoint all four (4) members to the Keep Jackson County Beautiful Board of Directors. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

5) **Jackson County Planning Commission – 3 Year Term:**

- Carson Saville – (District 1 – Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Les Knoblock – (District 2 – Term expires December 31, 2021)

District 1:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hix, seconded by Commissioner Hardy, to reappoint Carson Saville to the Jackson County Planning Commission. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

District 2:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Hix, to reappoint Les Knoblock to the Jackson County Planning Commission. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

6) **Jackson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee – 1 Year Term:**

- Roger Brock – (District 1 – Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Josh Huskins – (District 2 – Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Jay Phillips – (District 3 – Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Jimmy Peck – (District 4 – Term expires December 31, 2021)
- Bucky Sorry – (District 5 – Term expires December 31, 2021)

District 1:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hix, seconded by Commissioner Hardy, to reappoint Roger Brock. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

District 2:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Hix, to reappoint Josh Huskins. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

District 3:

A motion was made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Seagraves, to reappoint Jay Phillips. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

District 4:

A motion was made by Commissioner Seagraves, seconded by Commissioner Ricardson, to reappoint Jimmy Peck. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

District 5:

A motion was made by Chairman Crow, seconded by Commissioner Seagraves, to reappoint Bucky Sorrow. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 5 – 0)

H. CONSENT AGENDA:

None

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

J. NEW BUSINESS:

7) Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment #1 for Gordon Street Center:

(Kevin Poe)

Approve Amendment #1 to the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Jackson County Board of Education for the purchase of the Gordon Street property thereby changing the closing the closing date to February 16, 2022.

Kevin Poe, County, County Manager, reported earlier this year, the had board approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Board of Education for the purchase of the remaining portion of the property and buildings the BOE owned at the Gordon Street Center. He said the original agreement stipulated the closing on the property would be completed on or before December 29, 2021. Mr. Poe recommended, in order for the County to complete its due diligence before closing on the property, to move the closing date to February 16, 2022. There were a couple of pending items still needed, to include a boundary survey for the entire property and consultation for the development of a bid package for roofing repairs. Mr. Poe noted the Board of Education was amenable to changing the date.

Commissioner Chas Hardy left the meeting at 6:24 p.m. prior to the vote. There was a brief discussion regarding the timeline the Board of Education planned to abandon the building. It was confirmed after the closing, the County would own the facility and surrounding land. Chairman Crow made the motion to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment 1. Commissioner Hix seconded the motion. Hearing no

discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

- 8) **Approve Resolution Agreeing to be Bound by Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Georgia and Certain Local Government Entities in Reference to National Prescription Opiate Litigation:** (Kevin Poe)
To approve a resolution agreeing to be bound by the MOU between the State of Georgia and certain local government entities concerning the National Distribution and J&J Settlements and directing the execution of the “Acknowledgement and Agreement to be bound by MOU, “Subdivision Distribution Settlement Participation Form, and “Jansen Settlement Participation Form”

Kevin Poe, County Manager, reminded members the County was participating in a lawsuit and had hired the law firm, Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C., to represent the County in the National Prescription Opiate Litigation. Mr. Poe advised lawyers were moving forward with potential settlements related to this litigation. He explained the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding was to maximize the monetary recovery from the National Distribution and J&J Settlements to the State of Georgia and local government entities and to memorialize an agreement between the State of Georgia and certain local government entities regarding how settlement funds will be distributed.

Mr. Poe requested approval of the resolution and to authorize Chairman Tom Crow to sign Exhibit A, Exhibit B, and Exhibit C. Approval was recommended by the representing attorney and the county attorney. A motion was made by Chairman Crow, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, to approve the resolution agreeing to be bound by the Memorandum of Understanding, the State of Georgia, and local government entities concerning the National Distribution and J&J Settlements and to allow the Chairman to sign the other documents attached to the resolution. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. (Vote 4 – 0)

K. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Crow declared this portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:32 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 6:32 p.m.

M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

N. NEW BUSINESS:

9) Consider Adopting Resolution Supporting Changes to Georgia's Annexation Law: (Kevin Poe)

To consider adopting a resolution supporting changes to Georgia's annexation law based on recommendations made by the 4 General Assembly's 2022 House Study Committee's final report via legislation introduced during the 2022 General Assembly.

Kevin Poe, County Manager, presented a request to adopt a resolution supporting changes to Georgia's annexation law. He reported this was a request from ACCG. He stated this year the Georgia House passed a resolution establishing a House Study Committee on annexation. The committee met five times over the summer and fall, with ACCG submitting its recommendations to improve Georgia's annexation arbitration process. Mr. Poe also stated on November 18, 2021, the House Study Committee issued its final report incorporating many of ACCG's suggestions. ACCG urged the General Assembly to pass the recommendations of the 2021 House Study Committee's final report with legislation introduced during the 2022 General Assembly. Mr. Poe reiterated ACCG requested support from the various counties with the adoption the resolution that was presented.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

P. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Crow adjourned the meeting at 6:35 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, December 20, 2021

Jackson County Board of Commissioners



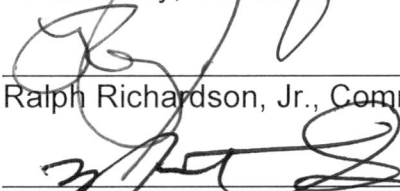
Tom Crow, Chairman



Jim Hix, Commissioner District 1



Chas Hardy, Commissioner District 2



Ralph Richardson, Jr., Commissioner District 3



Marty Seagraves, Commissioner District 4

Attest: 

Ericka Johnson Deputy Clerk