



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 9, 2024

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On April 9, 2024, at 9:00 AM, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners held a Regular Meeting. This is a recap of some of the reports and requests included in that meeting.

REQUEST: Proclamation/Fair Housing Month

April marks the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 established to eliminate housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin to provide fair housing opportunities for all Americans. Jackson County is committed to providing fair housing opportunities to improve economic stability, community health and human relations. The County recognizes furthering efforts to enforce local, state, and federal laws consistently and enhance commitments to fair housing can be accomplished through ongoing partnerships with other government agencies, for profit and non-profit organizations, realtors, lenders, landlords and others in the housing industry. Moreover, Jackson County acknowledges that fair housing is integral to the ethical commitment of all citizens and in the provision of services to the community. Jackson County encourages activities provided by private and public entities to educate and advocate for fair housing opportunities for all citizens and prospective residents.



PROCLAMATION 

 **HEALTHY & SAFE
COMMUNITY**

 **INNOVATIVE FACILITIES
& INFRASTRUCTURE**

RECOGNITION: Employee of the Month

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners provides an Employee of the Month Award to a deserving employee who has exhibited exceptional performance, dedication, and commitment to serving the community. This recognition highlights the importance of acknowledging and appreciating the hard work and contributions of employees who go above and beyond in their duties.

At this meeting, Human Resources Director, Judy Austin along with District 3 Commissioner and Chairman, Paul Donofro Jr., presented the Employee of the Month for April 2024 to **Amber Barnes**, Senior Planner with the Community Development Department.

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Since joining the County on March 27, 2007, Amber has continually showcased unparalleled professionalism and dedication to her responsibilities. Her exceptional leadership abilities and steadfast commitment to providing exceptional customer service have set a remarkable standard for her peers. Her capacity to seamlessly manage multiple projects while delivering unparalleled service to the public exemplifies her extraordinary capabilities.

Moreover, Amber's meticulous attention to detail and unwavering dedication to accuracy ensure that planning and development information provided to the Board is comprehensive and reliable. The Board would like to thank Mrs. Barnes for her service to our great County.



PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION: Employee Years of Service

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has recognized the dedicated service of its employees by awarding "Years of Service" awards to those who have shown commitment and



loyalty to the county through their tenure. This acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication serves as a testament to their contributions towards the growth and success of Jackson County.

At this meeting, Human Resources Director, Judy Austin along with District 3 Commissioner and Chairman, Paul Donofro Jr., presented awards to the following employees:

- **Angela Burks**
Angela Burks currently works for the Jackson County Correctional Facility. She is recognized for 20 years of continuous service.
- **Corey Jones**
Corey Jones currently works for the Jackson County Correctional Facility. He is recognized for 15 years of continuous service.
- **Deborah Hynes**
Deborah Hynes currently works for the Jackson County Library. She is recognized for 10 years of continuous service.

REQUEST: Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Permit / Partners for Pets

On March 25, 2024, a request for a Temporary Alcoholic Beverage Permit was submitted by Partners for Pets Inc. seeking approval to sell alcohol (beer only) at a Paws-a-Palooza event being held at Compass Lake in the Hills located at 645 Compass Lake Drive in unincorporated Jackson County. The event will be held from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on April 20, 2024. The Board unanimously approved the request.



REPORT: Legislative Session Update

Alan Suskey, Executive Vice President of the County's lobbying firm, delivered an encouraging report on the recent legislative session, showcasing significant funding projects for the community. The report highlighted appropriations and actions awaiting the Governor's approval, which will benefit Jackson County projects across various sectors. These projects include Jackson County Corrections Officer raises, Pooser Road improvements, Endeavor Convention Center project, and storm debris cleanup funds. All lobbying efforts emphasize the positive impact these initiatives will have on Jackson County's prosperity and well-being.



REQUEST: Memorandum of Understanding / Project Bristol

Roy Baker with Opportunity Florida presented a request for board approval of an MOU for Project Bristol, a food/beverage manufacturing company. The company wishes to build a 75,000 square foot expandable facility, employ 75-100 workers in 3-5 years, and invest around \$27M in the location at Endeavor. The Board unanimously approved the request.



REQUEST: Passport Application Facility / Library

In response to the U.S. Department of State's initiative to enlist local public agencies as Passport Application Facilities, Deborah Hynes, Library Director, requested Board approval to designate the Library as a Passport Application Facility. Should this proposal be approved, the Library will undertake the responsibility of accepting Passport Applications, including those for first-time applicants and minors, on behalf of the State Department. Subsequently, these applications will be forwarded to the State Department, with the Library retaining a nominal fee of \$35 for each application processed. The Board unanimously approved the request.



REQUEST: Approval of Bid Award / Pooser Road Affordable Workforce Housing Development Project

In a significant step towards enhancing community development, the County embarked on a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, advertising for proposals on February 15, 2024. We are delighted to announce that on March 28, 2024, the County received a compelling proposal from NW Florida LD, LLC, also known as Rausch Coleman Homes.

After careful consideration and thorough evaluation, the Procurement department has determined that accepting this proposal aligns with the best interests of the County. As such, we are eager to move forward with the sale of the Pooser Road property to NW Florida LD, LLC. This collaboration marks the beginning of an exciting initiative - the Affordable Workforce Homes Development.

We anticipate that this partnership will not only contribute to the growth and vitality of our community but also provide much-needed affordable housing options for our workforce. The County looks forward to working closely with NW Florida LD, LLC, as we embark on this transformative endeavor together. The Board approved the request.



REQUEST: Approval of Bid Award / Shangri La Selective Debris Removal

On February 29, 2024, Jackson County requested bids for the Shangri La Selective Debris Removal project. On March 28, 2024, eight (8) bids were received. Lynsey Darragh, Procurement Officer, requested the Board to award the project to the lowest qualified bidder, Preslie's Construction, in the amount of \$56,500.00. The Board approved the request.



REQUEST: Approval of Agreement / Pooser Road Project

Grants/Contracts Manager Lucas Mayo requested Board approval for an agreement for the Construction Phase of Pooser Rd through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The current project amount is \$979,073. HMGP is funding up to \$734,304.75, with an additional \$41,500 available for Sub-Recipient Management Costs (SRMC) activities. The County is responsible for up to \$244,768.25 through the required match. This project will provide drainage improvements from Hwy 73 to Wynn Rd. The Board approved the request.



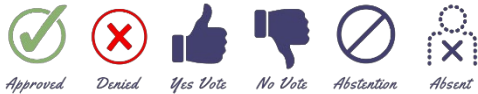
REQUEST: Letter of Support / Sunland Forensic Facility

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a letter of support addressed to Senator Trumbull, expressing strong endorsement for the proposed allocation of legislative funding towards the establishment of a new forensic facility for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) on the Sunland Marianna property. The letter emphasized the transformative impact of the proposed forensic facility on public safety and care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Board highlighted the facility's strategic importance in catering to the unique needs of this population while ensuring the safety of the community.



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LEGEND:



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5
JIM PEACOCK