



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 27, 2023

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. - February 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm, 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: Board Adoption of Proclamation/2023 Flood Awareness Week

Jackson County is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program. Through this, the County provides residents with the opportunity to obtain flood insurance premiums at a reduced rate.

Community Development Director, Wendy Schlesinger, requested Board adoption of a proclamation to establish the week of March 6 through 13, 2023 as Flood Awareness week in Jackson County.

The Board is proud to announce the adoption of a proclamation to declare March 6-13, 2023 as "Flood Awareness Week." Public education and awareness of potential weather hazards and methods of protection are critical to the health, safety, and welfare of residents. This is an important step in raising awareness of the risks and impacts of flooding, and the need to take proactive steps to prepare and protect our communities. Flooding is a serious risk, and we must do whatever we can to ensure our citizens are informed and prepared. During Flood Awareness Week, we encourage everyone to learn more about flood risks, know your evacuation routes, and create a plan for your family and property. Together, we can build resilient communities and protect our families from the dangers of flooding.



PROCLAMATION 

REQUEST: General Development Order/Project TAP

Community Development Senior Planner, Amber Barnes requested Board approval of a General Development Order to construct a 10,496 square foot building to be used as a semi-truck center and parts store and construction of a 72,306 square foot vehicular use area including sidewalks. The proposed project is located at 2530 Dilmore Road in unincorporated Jackson County. "Project TAP" is being funded by an RIF (Rural Infrastructure Fund) Grant, as well as Capital investments from the Developer. It is slated to bring at least 15 full-time equivalent jobs to the County.

On February 20, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended approval to the Board of County Commissioners.



REQUEST: Small-Scale Amendment

On January 13, 2023, Love's Travel Stop and County Store submitted a request for a Small-Scale Amendment for a Land Use Change of 6.3 acres from Conservation (CON) to Commercial (C). This parcel is located on the north side of Dilmore Road approximately 903 feet east of the intersection of Hwy 231 and Dilmore Road in unincorporated Jackson County.

On February 6, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Small-Scale Amendment to the Board of County Commissioners.



REQUEST: Set a Public Hearing/Dove Rest RV Expansion

Community Development Senior Planner, Amber Barnes requested Board approval to set a public hearing for March 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for a General Development Order for an expansion to Dove Rest RV and Mobile Home Park. The applicant is requesting to add four (4) mobile homes to the existing RV and Mobile Home Park. The proposed RV and Mobile Home Park is located at 1973 Dove Rest in unincorporated Jackson County.

On February 20, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended approval to the Board of County Commissioners.



REQUEST: Set a Public Hearing/Dove Rest RV Expansion

Community Development Director, Wendy Schlesinger, requested Board approval to move Planning Commissioner Michael Crutchfield from District 1 to District 2. The recent County redistricting changed his seat to District 1 though he resides in District 2. Approval of the request allows for advertising for the District 1 Planning Commission seat and closes the vacancy for District 2.



REQUEST: TDC Sponsorships/Grant Approvals & Reimbursements.

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council is committed to supporting and promoting tourism-related events that showcase the local culture, attractions, and businesses. To achieve this goal, the department offers special event grant funding and sponsorships to event organizers who demonstrate a positive impact on the local economy and community. By investing in these events, the department hopes to attract more visitors to the county, increase tourism revenue, and create memorable experiences for both residents and visitors alike.

At this meeting, TDC Director, Kelsi Williams, requested Board approval of multiple Grant approvals and Sponsorship reimbursements.

Those requests include:

- ***Milton H. Johnson Optimist Invitational: Sponsorship Reimbursement***

The Milton H. Johnson Optimist Invitational was hosted December 27-29, 2022 at Chipola College in Marianna. In October 2022, the TDC Board voted to approve a \$12,000 sponsorship to the event. The BOCC voted to approve this sponsorship in November 2022. The TDC Board reviewed the final evaluation paperwork and presentation and voted to approve a full reimbursement of the \$12,000 upon final receipt of all invoices/canceled checks.

- ***Florida Caverns Cultural Celebration: Grant Reimbursement***

The Florida Caverns Cultural Celebration took place over December 2-3, 2022. The TDC and BOCC voted to approve a \$5,000 grant funding for the event. The TDC Board was presented the final evaluation paperwork in the February 2023 meeting. After reviewing all expenditures, the TDC determined \$2,910.76 in approved expenses and voted unanimously to reimburse this amount to Florida Caverns.

- ***Paws-A-Palooza Disc Golf Tournament: Grant Request***

The TDC Board voted to approve a \$2,000 grant request for the first Partners for Pets Paws-A-Palooza Disc Golf Tournament to be hosted at Compass Lake in the Hills in April 2023. Approved expenses include advertisements (audio/radio ads, print/newspaper/flyers/brochures, and direct mailers).

- ***Professional Cowboys Association Rodeo: Grant Request***

The TDC Board reviewed a sponsorship funding request for PCA Rodeo/Big Dog Rodeo, to be held in April 2023. After further review, the TDC Board voted to approve \$1,250 in grant funding, to be used for advertising (newspaper, radio, signs).



REQUEST: Approval to Award Contract/Broadband Consultant

Jackson County is taking steps to improve broadband access in its rural areas. The county is seeking broadband consultants to assist in developing a plan to provide better internet access to its residents.

The need for improved broadband access has become more pressing as many residents in rural areas of the county continue to struggle with slow or unreliable internet connections. With more people working from home and students engaging in online learning, the lack of reliable internet access is hindering economic development and educational opportunities in the area.

The county is committed to finding a solution to this problem and is seeking consultants with experience in broadband infrastructure planning and development. The consultants will work with the county to assess the current state of broadband access in the area, identify areas where service is lacking, and recommend strategies for improving connectivity.

"We recognize that broadband access is no longer a luxury but a necessity for our residents," said Public Communications Officer, Dylan Bass. "We are committed to working with the right consultants to develop a plan that will help ensure that all residents of Jackson County have access to reliable, high-speed internet service."

During the period of Nov. 3, 2022 - Dec. 12, 2022, Jackson County requested proposals from professional Broadband Consultants. The County received 4 paper submissions from qualified respondents and each respondent made verbal presentations before the Board of County Commissioners. The respondents were ranked on their proposal response. The highest-ranking firm is "Finley Engineering."

Jackson County hopes that this effort will bring significant improvements to broadband access for its residents, and the county looks forward to working with the selected consultants to develop an effective plan for achieving this goal.



REQUEST: Approval to Waive Fees/Project TAP

County Administrator, Wilanne Daniels, requested Board approval to waive the County Building Permit and Development Order Fees for Project Tap.

Waiving building permit and development order fees can help to remove some of the financial barriers that a business may face when attempting to undertake a new project or development. This can make it easier for small or start-up businesses to get off the ground, and can also benefit larger businesses by freeing up capital that they can then reinvest in other areas of their operations. Overall, waiving building permit and development order fees for economic development projects can be seen as a strategic investment by the county in its future economic prosperity and growth.



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LEGEND:



Approved



Denied



Yes Vote



No Vote



Abstention



Absent

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5
JIM PEACOCK