



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 28, 2023

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On March 28, 2023, at 6:00 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: Resolution Authorizing the Planning Division to Approve Variance Requests

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners has authorized the Planning Division to approve variance requests for RVs to be used as temporary housing during new home construction. This decision comes as a relief to many homeowners who are looking to build new homes and may face temporary displacement during the construction process.

The new authorization allows homeowners to use recreational vehicles as temporary housing during the construction of their new homes, without having to go through the lengthy process of obtaining a variance approval from the Board of County Commissioners. This will not only save time and money for homeowners, but it will also help to alleviate some of the housing shortages and affordability issues that are currently affecting the county.

"We recognize that building a new home can be a stressful and expensive process, and we want to make it easier for homeowners to navigate the challenges that come with temporary displacement during construction," said County Administrator, Wilanne Daniels. "By authorizing the Planning Division to approve variance requests for RVs, we hope to provide homeowners with a more affordable and accessible option for temporary housing during this transitional period."

The Planning Division will now have the authority to review and approve variance requests for RVs, ensuring that they meet all applicable health, safety, and environmental standards. Homeowners will be required to submit a request and obtain approval from the Planning Division before using an RV as temporary housing during home construction.

This decision is a significant step towards addressing the housing shortages and affordability issues that many Jackson County residents are currently facing. The Board of County Commissioners is committed to finding innovative solutions to help residents navigate the challenges of building new homes and is confident that this authorization will provide much-needed relief for homeowners.



RESOLUTION 

REQUEST: Review and Approval of Peacock Bridge Store

Sr. Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, made a request for a General Development Order to construct a 3,200 square foot convenience store and liquor store as well as 9,364 square feet of impervious surface for a vehicular use area including sidewalks. The proposed project will be located on the west side of Hwy 71 South approximately 470 feet north of the intersection of CR278 (Peacock Bridge Road) and SR 71 South in unincorporated Jackson County.

On March 6, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended approval to the Board of County Commissioners.



REQUEST: Appointment of Planning Commissioners

On February 27, 2023, the Board approved to move Michael Crutchfield from District 1 to District 2, which opened the vacancy for the District 1 Planning Commission seat. Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, made requests for the Board to appoint two seats on the Planning Commission.

- Board approval to appoint **Mrs. Leontyne Clay** to the seat of District 1 Planning Commissioner for a three-year term. Mrs. Clay applied through the newly incorporated Boards and Committees procedure. She brings many years of experience serving on various local boards. Commissioner McKinnie stated, *“I have had a few conversations with Mrs. Clay, and she is ready and willing to serve.”*
- Board approval to appoint **Mr. Harrold Hatcher** to the seat of the At-large Planning Commissioner for a three-year term. He applied for the position under the newly incorporated Boards and Committee procedure. Mr. Hatcher has many years of experience in government and is a graduate of the 1st annual Citizens Academy. Mr. Hatcher was present at this meeting. Chairman Donofro stated, *“Mr. Hatcher, we appreciate your willingness to serve. We also appreciate your willingness to take part in Citizens Academy. I think that speaks well to not only you, but also to the fact that we have this course that is bringing forth an interest in our community and local government. Thank you very much.”*



REQUEST: Set a Public Hearing/Extend Development Agreement for Partners 4 Pets

Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, made a request to set a public hearing for April 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. to extend a Development Agreement for Partners for Pets. The applicant is requesting an additional 24-month extension. On June 22, 2021, the BOCC approved to construct nine new buildings totaling 12,612 square feet to be used for an animal adoption center and shelter. The proposed development is located at 2810 Panhandle Road in unincorporated Jackson County.



REQUEST: Set a Public Hearing/Southern Grape Company, LLC

Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, made a request to set a public hearing for April 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. for Southern Grape Company LLC. The request is for a General Development Order to construct a 9,800 square foot building to be used for a wine production facility along with retail and manufacturing areas and 31,715 square feet vehicular use area including sidewalks. The proposed facility will be located on the east side of Hwy 231 approximately 1,723 feet north of the intersection of Hwy 231 and Hwy 73 North in unincorporated Jackson County. This request is also considered a special exception to the Agriculture 2 Land Use Category.

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



REQUEST: Approval of TDC Grant Funding

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council has a policy allowing it to provide initial funding to non-profit organizations with the intent to promote special events and projects. Visitor Enhancement Grants are offered specifically to advertise and promote events and projects to out-of-county markets to attract visitors to the county.

TDC Director, Kelsi Williams requested Board approval of TDC funding for two events.

- During the March TDC Board meeting, the TDC Board voted to approve \$2,400 in grant funding for the Renaissance Park Earth Day 2023 event. This will be a culinary history event focused on African American contributions to our nation's food culture. The event will take place on Earth Day with an emphasis on conservation and ways to protect our environment. Commissioner Peacock stated, *"I make a motion with one comment; They have good food out there, folks."*
- During the March board meeting, the TDC Board voted to approve a \$4500 grant for Southern Lights Production. This event is a three-night family friendly talent event that will be hosted at the Chipola Art Center in July 2023. The TDC Board has funded the event in 2021 and 2020.



REQUEST: Approval of Bid Award/Charm Rd.

On Monday March 20, 2023, six sealed bids were opened for Charm Road Chip Seal with an asphalt alternative. The Board was presented with a Letter of Recommendation, Executed Bid Tab, and Notice of Award for the low bidder, Premier Paving, LLC, to construct the proposed improvements to Charm Road in the amount of \$ 385,776.48. This project is being partially funded by a FDEP Resilient Florida Grant in the amount of \$345,000. Additionally, work on this project cannot begin until the County receives a fully executed grant agreement from FDEP.



REQUEST: Approval of Litter Contract Renewal

The Board is committed to keeping Jackson County Beautiful. One of the ways Jackson County does that is by contracting a third-party for roadside litter pickup, along with internal efforts. The initial contract was entered into on April 13, 2021. The contract has a renewal clause for two (2) additional one (1) year terms. This contract was previously renewed on March 8, 2022. This will be the final renewal allowed pursuant to contract terms and will be required to be re-bid next year if the Board wishes to continue this service. Additionally, in accordance with the awarded bid, the price increases by \$1.00 annually with each renewal. This renewal will be for \$25.45 per mile with 1,045 miles of road listed. This is for 12 cycles. The total annual cost for the renewal term is \$319,143. This does not include the one-time mass trimming. The difference has been budgeted for the remainder of this fiscal year and will be a budgeted expense for the next fiscal year. The Board Previously renewed this contract on March 8, 2022.



REQUEST: Approval of Contract/Indian Springs Phase 2B Sewer

On January 24, 2023, the Board awarded RFP 2223-05, Indian Springs Phase 2B Sewer Extension, to Blankenship Contracting. The stipulated price for the project is \$6,377,639.99, which would be covered by the “Springs Protection Sewer Project” fund. Deputy County Administrator, Rett Daniels requested approval and authorization of this contract.



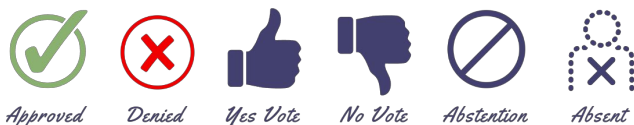
REQUEST: Approval of Use of Courthouse Lawn for Memorial Day Observance

The VFW has requested use of the Jackson County Courthouse lawn for a Memorial Day Observance on May 19th at 10am.



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LEGEND:



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1 DISTRICT 2 DISTRICT 3 DISTRICT 4 DISTRICT 5
ALEX B. MCKINNIE EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD PAUL DONOFRO JR. DONNIE BRANCH JIM PEACOCK