



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 14, 2023

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On Nov. 14, 2023, 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.

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:

- **Traci Fears**
Mr. Fears currently works for the Jackson County Correctional Facility. He is being recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
 - **Danny Tolson**
Mr. Tolson currently works for the Jackson County Road & Bridge Department. He is being recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
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REQUEST: Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements / Schedule Update

Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, requested Board approval of the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Element 5-year Schedule update for fiscal years 2023-2028, to be adopted by ordinance.

F.S. 163.3177(3)(a)(5)(b) The capital improvements element must be reviewed by the local government on an annual basis. Modifications to update the 5-year capital improvement schedule may be accomplished by ordinance and may not be deemed to be amendments to the local comprehensive plan.



CONTINUED 

REQUEST: Review/Approval of Wireless Telecommunications Facility Tower

During this meeting, the Board held a public hearing for a proposal by “Blue Sky Towers LLC” to construct a 199-foot wireless telecommunications facility tower. The proposed tower, planned for a site leased from John and Gwen Young at 5037 Hwy 77 in unincorporated Jackson County, received a recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission on November 6, 2023. Subsequently, the Board set November 14, 2023, as the date for a public hearing to discuss the project further.

The hearing was marked by active community participation, with residents expressing concerns about potential health and environmental impacts, while some property owners and Blue Sky Towers highlighted compliance with regulatory standards and minimal impact projections. Balancing these concerns with the legal framework established by the Telecommunications Act, the Board remains focused on ensuring a harmonious balance between technological advancement and community welfare.



REQUEST: Special Exception for In the Woods RV Park

On October 26, 2023, a request was submitted to Community Development for a 33-unit RV Park. The Jackson County Comprehensive Plan Policy 2.2(2)(3)(a) requires regulatory board approval for a special exception to the Agriculture 2 land use category to allow placement of an RV Park.



REQUEST: Review of Variance to Code of Ordinances

During this meeting, Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, requested Board approval of a variance to Jackson County Code of Ordinances Section 42-455(7) to allow a manufactured home to be placed on Lot 17, Blk 125, Unit 5 in Compass Lake in the Hills Subdivision. The Board made a motion to deny this request.



REQUEST: Set a Public Hearing / QuikTrip Convenience Store and Gas Station

Senior Planner with Community Development, Amber Barnes, requested to set a public hearing for December 12, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. for a General Development Order to construct an 8,292 square foot convenience store, 6,552 square foot auto fuel canopy, 3,663 square foot truck fuel canopy, along with 163,493 square feet of impervious surface for vehicular use. The project will be located at 2638 Hwy 231, on the east side of Hwy 231, less than 1/4 mile northeast of I-10 in unincorporated Jackson County.



REQUEST: Rescind Purchase Order for Step One Auto / Mosquito Control

Jackson County's mosquito control truck was budgeted in the 2021-2022 budget year, and Step One Auto placed the order for the truck on 01/12/2023. Subsequently, Step One Auto has been largely unresponsive despite many attempts for contact in search of updates. As of their last response on August 2, 2023, the truck was not currently scheduled for production due to shortages on parts. The County has not received a response to update requests since then. A request was made for the board to rescind the purchase order number 4442 in the amount of \$36,590.00, so that staff may request to purchase an available truck from a different vendor for mosquito control.

A request was then made to purchase (2) Mosquito Control trucks that will be compatible with their new sprayer systems. These trucks are available now and can be delivered within a couple of weeks. These are priced through the Florida Sheriff's Association at \$41,189 and \$39,649.



REQUEST: Work Order Authorization / Finley Engineering

A request was made for Board approval of a Work Authorization for broadband consultant, Finley Engineering. This Work Authorization instructs Finley Engineering to complete a feasibility study. Tasks covered under the Work Authorization include survey implementation, launch, and data collection; analysis and reporting; pre-engineering and feasibility analysis; presentation of results; and travel and onsite incidental expenses.

The total cost for the Work Authorization is \$79,700. A total of \$54,540 was budgeted for this project in the FY 23-24 budget. The remaining \$25,160 of the cost will be covered by Contingencies.



REQUEST: Approval to Award Endeavor Convention Center Project to CGM Construction

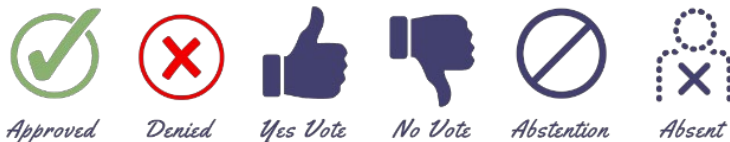
The County received bids for the Endeavor Convention Center on 10/11/23. CGM Construction Group, LLC was the low bidder with a base bid amount of \$3,978,000.00. The currently available funds are \$1,000,000.00 from a legislative appropriation, plus \$2,200,000.00 in "lockbox" TDC funds, giving a total available budget of \$3,200,000.00.

After meeting with CGM, and considering items that can be value engineered, and items that can be postponed for future funding, the recommendation is to award the project to CGM in the amount of \$3,197,281.18.



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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