



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 28, 2024

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On Feb. 27, 2024, 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.

PROCLAMATION: Flood Awareness Week

Community Development, Senior Planner, Amber Barnes, requested Board adoption of a proclamation to establish the week of March 4 through 11, 2024 as Flood Awareness week in Jackson County. As participants in the National Flood Insurance Program, we may provide residents with the opportunity to obtain flood insurance premiums at a reduced rate. Public education and awareness of potential weather hazards and methods of protection are critical to the health, safety, and welfare of residents.



PROCLAMATION 



HEALTHY & SAFE
COMMUNITY



VIBRANT &
GROWING ECONOMY

REQUEST: Approval of Development Order/Darby's Gun Shop & Shooting Range

Community Development, Senior Planner, Amber Barnes, requested Board approval for a General Development Order to reuse existing buildings and vehicular use area for a gun shop and shooting range. The proposed project will be located one mile east of the intersection of Hwy 71 and Old Spanish Trail on the south side of Old Spanish Trail in unincorporated Jackson County.

On February 5, 2024, the Planning Commission recommended approval to the Board of County Commissioners.



VIBRANT &
GROWING ECONOMY

CONTINUED 

REQUEST: Set Meetings to Review Updates to Code of Ordinances

Community Development, Senior Planner, Amber Barnes, requested Board recommendation to set up meetings to review updates to Chapter 42 of the Jackson County Code of Ordinances. Recommendations include text and number edits, deleted text, and new verbiage in several chapters and sections, such as parking standards, transportation, subdivisions, signs, wireless towers, etc. Staff requests the Board's decision in which manner they would like to review the codes, and to set dates and times for the meetings.

The Planning Commission reviewed the updates to Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances on 12/4/23, 12/18/23, and 1/22/24 with recommendations for approval as written.



REQUEST: Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License/Smith Distribution

Community Development, Senior Planner, Amber Barnes, requested Board approval for an alcoholic beverage license for distribution of alcoholic beverages to vendors and other distributors. The alcohol will be stored on the owner's property at 6652 Rainbow Road in unincorporated Jackson County. There are no schools or churches within 300 feet.



REQUEST: Approval of Payment Policy for Fees and Fines/Special Magistrate

The Board recently amended Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to provide for the Adoption of a Magistrate Hearing Process. This initiative has streamlined and expedited the resolution of code violations. It has improved efficiency by relieving the burden on the traditional court system and providing a more specialized forum for addressing code enforcement issues.

During this meeting, Code Enforcement Officer, Jessica Nabors, requested Board review and approval Request: Board review and approval of a payment policy for fines and fees imposed by the Special Magistrate. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear payment procedures for fines and fees imposed and/or ordered by the Special Magistrate for respondents who violated the Jackson County Code of Ordinances. This policy applies to all respondents and the departments and/or divisions responsible for the collection of these payments, including Animal Control, Building Services, Code Enforcement, and the Fire Marshall.



REQUEST: Approval of TDC Special Event Sponsorships/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 sponsorships/reimbursements 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.

During this meeting, Tourist Development Council Director, Kelsi Jackson, Requested Board approval of (3) TDC grant reimbursements, and (3) sponsorships.

Reimbursements:

- **RockaDock** - RockaDock hosted a week-long paddling event in September at the Florida Caverns State Park. The event brought in 144 people, coming from all over the US, who stayed for a week at the Caverns and explored Jackson County waterways and more. RockaDock has already booked the campground again for its 2024 event. After staff review, **\$2,650.73** in approved expenses are eligible for reimbursement.
The TDC approved the reimbursement during its February meeting.
- **Autumn Toss 'Em** - The JC Disc Golf Club hosted its Autumn Toss 'Em event back in November. The event brought in approximately 70 people from around the region. After staff review, **\$2,228.77** of expenses are eligible for reimbursement.
The TDC board approved the reimbursement during its February meeting.
- **Cave Adventurers** - In September, Cave Adventurers hosted its 20th anniversary celebration at Blue Springs. The event brought in around 200 attendees, traveling from 18 states and 4 countries, with roughly 60% of attendees staying overnight for 1-3 nights. After staff review, **\$2,997.72** in approved expenses are eligible for reimbursement.
The TDC approved the reimbursement during its February meeting.

Sponsorships:

- **JC Disc Golf Third Annual Open** - The JCDGC is applying for **\$1,620** in sponsorship funding for the February JC Disc Golf Open. This funding will cover a custom stamped disc and tournament sanction fees.
During its February meeting, the TDC board voted to approve funding for custom towels and tournament sanction fees.
- **Fire & Feathers** - Oak Grove Plantation, Jackson County Fire Rescue, and Jackson County TDC have partnered up together for this event to promote a new local hunting range in Jackson County. Oak Grove offers guided hunts and dog training services for the southeast region. The TDC Board voted to approve **\$3,000** in funding to cover some of the cost of the birds for the hunt. The event is bringing businesses and individuals in from around the region to bring more awareness of Oak Grove.

- **Alabama High School Rodeo** - In April, the Alabama High School Rodeo will be hosting a rodeo event at the JC Ag Center. There will be approximately 200 families who will travel into Jackson County to participate in the event, with even more estimated spectators and attendees. Participants are expected to stay 3-4 nights. The TDC board voted to approve **\$7,500** in funding to cover the cost of the facility rental, stalls, and stock/chutes.



REQUEST: Approval of RFP for Great Oaks/Third-Party Management

The Board approved the purchase of the Great Oaks property on June 26, 2023. During this meeting, Tourist Development Council Director, Kelsi Jackson, Requested Board approval to initiate an RFP (Request For Proposals) for third-party management of the Great Oaks Property. This RFP outlines an agreement between the county and a third-party vendor to manage Great Oaks as an events venue. This RFP is modeled similarly to the concessionaire contract for Blue Springs. Details of the RFP include requests to submit revenue split proposals, facility grounds improvements, requirements to have the facility open to the public at designated times, and an allowance for county-hosted events.



REQUEST: Approval to Award Road & Bridge Bids

During this meeting, Road & Bridge Director, Jeffrey Register, requested Board approval to award the following bids:

- **RB- 2324-05:** On February 8, 2024, five bids were received and opened for Watson Street Drainage Improvements. Baxter's Asphalt was the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of **\$374,800.00**. Staff recommends that the project be awarded to Baxter's Asphalt.
- **RB-2324-06:** On February 8, 2024, six bids were received and opened for Old Spanish Trail Improvements. Southeast Construction was the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$1,030,948.50. Staff recommends that the project be awarded to Southeast Construction.



REQUEST: Approval to Request Bids/Architectural and Design Continuing Services Contract

In an ongoing commitment to fostering growth and infrastructure development within Jackson County, Procurement Officer, Lynsey Darragh, requested Board approval of an Invitation to Bid for Architectural and Design Continuing Services. The Board originally entered into a contract with Clemmons, Rutherford, and Associates on 3/26/2019, and that contract, inclusive of all extensions, will expire on 5/1/24.

This (ITB) seeks to enlist qualified firms that will stand ready to provide comprehensive architectural and design solutions, ensuring the county's projects are executed with excellence and innovation. Through this competitive bidding process, the Board aims to establish a roster of adept professionals poised to support the county's vision for development and progress.



REQUEST: Approval to Award Architectural Design & Engineering Services Contract

During this meeting, Grants/Contracts Manager, Lucas Mayo, requested board approval to award 2223-16 Architectural Design & Engineering Services to DAG Architects, Inc.

DAG Architects, Inc. was the only responder to RFQ# 2223-16, Architectural Design & Engineering Services for CDBG-DR Grant No. M0043 (Madison's Warehouse Roof Replacement). The County has received Sole Source approval from Florida Commerce to proceed with the project and engage DAG Architects.



REQUEST: Approval of Indian Springs Customer Packets/Phase 2 Water Extension

Deputy County Administrator, Rett Daniels, requested Board approval to proceed with the creation and distribution of the 2024 Indian Springs Customer Packets. In alignment with a practice established in recent phases, this process involves Board oversight prior to dissemination to ensure unanimity and precision in the information conveyed to the public. This measure guarantees that all stakeholders disseminate consistent and accurate information to our citizens. The packets are designed to address two distinct audiences: existing sewer customers contemplating the addition of County water services, and potential customers interested in initiating County water service in anticipation of forthcoming sewer extensions.



###

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