






# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 23, 2024

## Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

*Jackson County, FL. – On July 23, 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.*

### RECOGNITION: Citizen of the Quarter



The Board has instituted a Citizen of the Quarter program to recognize Jackson County citizens who make the County a better place to live through their community service, leadership, and volunteerism. This quarter, the Board would like to recognize Mr. Danny Melvin. Mr. Melvin has dedicated countless hours of his time to removing trash and debris from Spring Creek and the Chipola River, to preserve the natural beauty of this vital resource. He helps organize and facilitate an annual fishing tournament on the Chipola River to raise scholarship funds for students attending Chipola College.

Mr. Melvin is a man of action when needed; he recently assisted an individual in serious distress on the Chipola River, ensuring that the individual in need was quickly and safely transported to the boat ramp where medical staff were able to aid the gentleman in achieving a full recovery. The Board would like to express their appreciation to Mr. Melvin for promoting the general welfare of the community and dedication to being FOR Jackson County.



PROCLAMATION 

 **HEALTHY & SAFE  
COMMUNITY**

### REQUEST: Adoption of FDOT SCOP Resolution and Approval of Agreement for Alliance Road

Jackson County is pleased to announce the approval of a Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Agreement from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the construction and CEI

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services of the CR 278 (Alliance Road) widening and resurfacing project. This initiative, requiring a resolution from our Board, signifies a major step forward in enhancing our local infrastructure.

The project involves resurfacing and widening the existing 22-foot roadway to 24 feet, along with significant drainage improvements, updated pavement markings, and new signage. Spanning 4.733 miles, the total estimated cost of the project is \$3,535,844.00.

This vital project underscores our commitment to improving road safety and accessibility for the residents of Jackson County, and we look forward to the positive impact it will have on our community.



**REQUEST: Approval of Land Development Projects**

The Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing for the following projects:

- **Project Banjo:**



General Development Order to construct a 2,700 square foot building to be used as a coffee shop with a drive-thru window and sit-down restaurant and construct an accompanying 32,075 square foot vehicular use area and sidewalks. This project will be located at 2195 Hwy 71 South in unincorporated Jackson County. The Board approved the project.

- **Bethlehem Ridge Subdivision:**



A 10-lot minor residential subdivision with lots ranging from 5 acres to 16.52 acres to be known as Bethlehem Ridge Subdivision. The proposed subdivision is situated south of Coley Road, east of Mutual Road and west of Bethlehem Road in unincorporated Jackson County. The Board unanimously tabled the project for further environmental review.

- **Small-Scale Amendment:**



A Small-Scale Amendment to change 16.31 acres of one parcel from Residential to Mixed Use Urban Transitional (MUUT). The parcel is located on the east side of Lakeshore Drive and the north side of Highway 90 in unincorporated Jackson County. The Board adopted the amendment.

The hearings for the above projects provided an opportunity for community members to engage and offer feedback on the proposed projects, ensuring transparency and community involvement in the development and land use process.



**REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearing for Corbin Road Mini-Farms Subdivision**

The Board of County Commissioners set a public hearing for August 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. for a 10-lot minor residential subdivision with lots ranging from 2.2 acres to 3.29 acres to be known as Corbin Road Mini-Farms. The proposed subdivision is located at the southwest intersection of Corbin and Seay Roads north of Alford and approximately 1.2 miles west of Hwy 231 in unincorporated Jackson County.

At the regularly scheduled meeting on July 15, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the minor subdivision.



**REQUEST: Approval of TDC Special Event Sponsorships/Reimbursements/Grants**

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 and grants 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 a TDC grant reimbursement and (3) sponsorships/grants.

**Reimbursements:**

- **Alabama High School Rodeo:** Alabama High School Rodeo Association hosted a rodeo event in April at the Jackson County Ag Center on Hwy 90. Everyone in the Alabama High School Association was thrilled to use the facility. Numerous families expressed their desire to return more often, not only for this association event but for several others as well. After staff review, **\$7,500** in sponsorship funds are eligible for reimbursement.

*The TDC approved the reimbursement during its July meeting.*

**Sponsorships/Grants:**

- **Sneads Boat Race:** Town of Sneads is applying for **\$5,000** in sponsorship funding for the 2024 Sneads Boat Race at Lake Seminole on August 10-11. This funding will go toward covering rental expenses, promotional materials, insurance, ambulance/safety rescue team service, and extra security.

*The TDC board voted to approve \$5,000 with the stipulation that \$50 of the \$5,000 award be used for promoting the event on the Visit Jackson County Fla page for the month leading up to the event.*

- **RockaDock:** Trip Smith is applying for a grant award for the upcoming RockaDock event. RockaDock hosts a week-long paddling event in September at the Florida Caverns State Park. This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year for RockaDock that brings attendees from all over the US, who stay for a week at the Caverns and explore Jackson County waterways and more. The request is to award \$4,000 toward the event.

*The TDC board voted to award funds to be used on t-shirts and mesh bags for trash pick up for the event.*

- **Autumn Toss 'Em:** The Jackson County Disc Golf is applying for **\$1,000** in sponsorship funding for their Autumn Toss 'Em event to be hosted at the newly built MERE disc golf course. Funds are to be used for tournament sanction fees and a custom stamped frisbee.



**REQUEST: Approval of Change Order and Close Out for Dilmore Road Improvements**

Jackson County is thrilled to announce the successful completion of the Dilmore Road Improvements (2223-18) project. David Melvin Engineering (DHM) has approved the project for close-out, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance local infrastructure and supporting the progress of Project Tap.

The project, initially budgeted higher, concluded with a final contract amount of \$804,217.07, thanks to a deductive change order (#4) that saved \$57,972.34.

This achievement not only improves road safety and accessibility but also demonstrates our commitment to fiscal responsibility. We are proud to deliver these improvements while achieving cost savings for our community.



**REQUEST: Update on Parks Grant Projects**

Jackson County is pleased to receive a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant for Cypress Park. This grant will fund a series of enhancements, including trail development, picnic facilities, additional playground improvements, and support facilities such as parking, lighting, and landscaping. These improvements will significantly enrich the park experience for residents and visitors alike.

Although the county did not receive the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) grant for Howells Landing, we remain committed to enhancing our recreational areas. We have engaged with citizens involved with the Chipola River and are exploring improvements for Magnolia Landing. Pending Board approval, we plan to collaborate with our consulting firms to design preliminary plans in preparation for the next grant cycle. These efforts underscore our dedication to continuously improving our community's recreational amenities and natural spaces.



**REQUEST: Approval of Appointment to CareerSource Chipola Board**

The Board approved the reappointment of Kevin Buchanan to the CareerSource Chipola Board. Mr. Buchanan, whose term expired on June 30, 2024, has graciously agreed to continue his dedicated service for another three-year term, extending through June 30, 2027.

Mr. Buchanan’s commitment and expertise have been invaluable to the board, and his continued involvement promises to further advance workforce development and economic opportunities within our community. We are grateful for his ongoing dedication and look forward to the positive impact he will continue to make.



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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