



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS




(850) 482-9633

www.jacksoncountyfl.gov

2864 Madison St. Marianna, Fl. 32446

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

 Mary Smith / Public Communications Officer
 (850) 573-1327
 smithm@jacksoncountyfl.gov

July 9, 2024

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On July 9, 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: Employee of the Month



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners provides an Employee of the Month Award to a deserving employee who has exhibited exceptional performance, dedication, and commitment to serving the community. This recognition highlights the importance of acknowledging and appreciating the hard work and contributions of employees who go above and beyond in their duties.

In the recent meeting, Human Resources Director Judy Austin, alongside District 3 Commissioner and Chairman Paul Donofro Jr., proudly presented the Employee of the Month Award for July 2024 to

Chastity Sheffield of the Tourist Development Council (TDC). Nominated for her unwavering professionalism, loyalty to Jackson County, and exemplary customer service, Chastity has consistently demonstrated remarkable leadership and project management skills. In her role as Program Manager, she adeptly handles multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining outstanding customer service.

In addition to her duties, since the Veteran Services moved to the Russ House in March 2024, Chastity has warmly greeted and assisted numerous veteran visitors, showcasing her patriotism and compassion.

Her eagerness to lend her expertise and her daily interactions are a true testament to her dedication. The Board of County Commissioners commends and congratulates Chastity Sheffield on her well-deserved recognition as Employee of the Month for July 2024.



PROCLAMATION 

CONTINUED 

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 department directors Chief Charlie Brunner and Jeffrey Register, County Administrator Wilanne Daniels, and District 3 Commissioner and Chairman Paul Donofro Jr., presented awards to the following employees:

- **Walter Gammons**
Walter Gammons currently works for Jackson County Road Department. He is recognized for 25 years of continuous service.
- **Christopher Vonier**
Christopher Vonier currently works for Jackson County Fire & Rescue. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **Fred Andreasen**
Fred Andreasen currently works for Jackson County IT. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.

PRESENTATION: Oak Grove Plantation Donation to Jackson County Fire Rescue



The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Tourist Development Council (TDC) proudly awarded \$3,000 in TDC Sponsorship funds for the Fire & Feathers event, held in February and generously hosted by Oak Grove Plantation at their venue. Reflecting the event's success and strong community support, Drew Miller, owner of Oak Grove Plantation, presented a \$3,000 check to Jackson County Fire Rescue. The Board thanks Oak Grove Plantation for their unwavering commitment to fostering community partnerships and supporting our dedicated first responders.



REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearings for Land Development Projects

The Board of County Commissioners set public hearings for July 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. 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.
- **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.
- **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.

These public hearings will provide 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. The Board is committed to facilitating growth that benefits Jackson County and its residents.



REQUEST: Approval of Applicant to Serve as District 2 Planning Commissioner

In a move set to strengthen our community's growth and development, Wendy Schlesinger, Director of Community Development, requested the Board's approval to appoint Ms. Caroline Chappell to the seat of District 2 Planning Commissioner for a three-year term. Ms. Chappell, who applied through the Boards and Committees procedure, brings a wealth of experience from her service on various boards and agencies.

Ms. Chappell is dedicated to propelling Jackson County forward while preserving its cherished rural and agricultural heritage. With a vision for balanced growth, she aims to attract new businesses to the county, fostering economic development and ensuring that more residents choose to stay and return to our beloved community.

Her appointment promises to be a positive step towards achieving sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for all Jackson County residents.



REQUEST: Approval of TPA Option Agreement

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners welcomed newly appointed Economic Development Committee President & CEO Darwin Gilmore during their recent meeting. Mr. Gilmore presented and secured approval for a TPA Option Agreement with TPA Group from Atlanta, GA. The agreement involves an option to purchase approximately 235 acres from Distribution Park at \$10,000 per acre, with an initial option price of \$100 per acre for three consecutive 12-month terms. The buyer, targeting end-users in manufacturing, technology, or distribution, will receive certain credits for due diligence, planning, and marketing costs.

The Board's approval marks a significant step toward economic growth in Jackson County. The collaboration with TPA Group is expected to create new job opportunities and attract significant investment to the area. The Board expressed confidence in Mr. Gilmore's leadership and dedication to driving economic prosperity for Jackson County.



REQUEST: Acceptance of Early Literacy Grant Award and Approval of MOU

Jackson County is thrilled to announce that Deborah Hynes, Library Director, successfully applied for a grant from the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida, Inc., securing \$10,000 to enhance early literacy programs. These funds will be utilized to purchase early literacy supplies and materials, support early literacy programming and outreach, and provide staff with professional development opportunities in early literacy.

This generous grant underscores the County's commitment to fostering a love for reading and learning in our youngest residents, ensuring they have the resources and support needed to thrive.



REQUEST: Approval of Re-Appointment of Thomas Leuenberger to the Tri-County Airport Authority

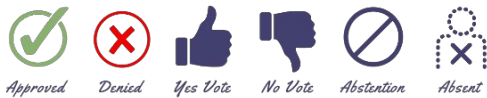
We are pleased to announce the reappointment of Thomas Leuenberger to Seat 4 of the Tri-County Airport Authority Board. Mr. Leuenberger has been serving on the board since February 2018, and his current term will end on September 30, 2024. He is now set to commence a new three-year term starting October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027.

Mr. Leuenberger has expressed his willingness to continue serving, and the Airport Authority has formally requested his reappointment. Jackson County Commissioners proudly approved his reappointment, recognizing his dedication and valuable contributions to the Airport Authority. We look forward to his continued service and leadership.



###

LEGEND:



COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT 1
ALEX B. MCKINNIE

DISTRICT 2
EDWARD CRUTCHFIELD

DISTRICT 3
PAUL DONOFRO JR.

DISTRICT 4
DONNIE BRANCH

DISTRICT 5
JIM PEACOCK