






# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 30, 2024

## Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

*Jackson County, FL. – On September 24, 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.*

### **REQUEST: Board Review of Final Draft of Comp Plan Proposed Amendment and Request to Set a Public Hearing**

On August 13, 2024, the Board approved Amendment 2 of the agreement with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) for technical assistance with updates to the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan. This is a continuation of a diligent process that began in December 2023, aimed at ensuring the plan reflects current needs and changes within the county. The final draft of the proposed updates was recently reviewed, marking a significant milestone in the process. As required every seven years by Florida law, the county is updating its Comprehensive Plan to keep pace with growth and development. A public hearing is scheduled for 9:00 AM on October 8, 2024, for approval to submit the proposed amendments to Florida Commerce for review, with a second public hearing to follow once their comments are received. This is a crucial step in maintaining a forward-thinking vision for Jackson County's future.

- **Approval of final draft of Comp Plan Amendments:**



- **Approval to set public hearing for October 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM, for approval to submit the proposed amendments to Florida Commerce:**



**HEALTHY & SAFE  
COMMUNITY**



**VIBRANT &  
GROWING ECONOMY**

CONTINUED 

**REQUEST: Approval of an Ordinance Regarding the Disposition and Acquisition of Real Property**

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing clear procedures for acquiring and disposing of county-owned real property. This ordinance outlines methods for declaring property as surplus, disposing of it through competitive bidding, private sales, or other means, and acquiring real property for public purposes. The Board aims to ensure transparency and fairness while maximizing public benefits through these flexible, standardized processes for handling county real estate.



**REQUEST: Approval of TDC Special Event Sponsorships**

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 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, the Board approved the following Sponsorships:

- **Alabama High School Rodeo:** Alabama High School Rodeo is applying for **\$6,000** in sponsorship funding and the expenditure of \$500 for photography/videography services for their upcoming Rodeo event at the Ag Center in January 2025.  
*The TDC board voted to approve the sponsorship for facility rental fees and stock cattle rental and \$500 for photography/videography services to be managed in house by staff.*
- **Stock Dog Show:** Ed Clements is applying for **\$5,000** in sponsorship funding award for the upcoming Stock Dog Show to be hosted at the Ag Center in February 2025.  
*The TDC board approved the \$5,000 sponsorship to be used on facility rental fees and sanction fees.*



**REQUEST: Approval to Adopt TDC 5-Year and FY24-25 Marketing Plans**

The Board approved the annual and 5-year marketing plans for the Tourist Development Council. These plans, which received unanimous approval from the TDC Board during its September meeting, outline a comprehensive approach to promoting Jackson County. The 5-year strategic plan highlights broad marketing goals, key tactics, and performance metrics that will guide long-

term efforts. Meanwhile, the FY24-25 plan breaks down targeted initiatives, exciting campaigns, and a detailed marketing budget that staff will be implementing this year. Together, these plans will drive continued growth and visibility for our community!



### **REPORT: Cost Estimates and Comparative Review for In-House Right-of-Way Connections**

In the past, the Road & Bridge department handled the installation of right-of-way connections, such as driveways, at no cost to property owners. The process involved a district supervisor assessing the site and determining if a culvert was needed. If necessary, crews would be scheduled to install the culvert, or materials like dirt or rock would be delivered if a pipe wasn't required. This process was entirely free for property owners.

In 2014, the Board introduced a permit fee structure that charged \$50 for residential and \$100 for commercial connections, with property owners assuming responsibility for constructing their own connections under Road & Bridge staff supervision. However, in 2018, the Board removed these fees, eliminating any direct costs to property owners for this service.

Recently, staff analyzed the costs of bringing the installation process back in-house, using past data and applying current rates. It was estimated that the average cost to construct a connection requiring a culvert would be \$1,325, which includes labor, equipment, and materials like dirt or rock. This figure does not factor in the supervisor's time, sandbag headwalls, or concrete collars.

To ensure a thorough comparison, data from six Florida counties was reviewed. Permitting fees in these counties ranged from \$25 to \$125, with some counties also charging inspection and installation fees. In most cases, property owners are responsible for purchasing the culvert and handling installation, while some counties offer additional services for a fee.

In 2023, over 80 permits were issued for connections requiring culverts. If the County had completed the installations, the cost would have exceeded \$106,000. Additionally, even connections that do not require culverts often need material to ensure smooth ingress and egress, as well as to preserve the edges of paved roads.

The Board approved a measure to supply pipe for new right-of-way connections, allowing property owners to purchase it from the County at cost. Road and Bridge will handle the installation to ensure compliance with standards.

This review underscores the importance of evaluating both service delivery and cost management as the County considers future decisions regarding right-of-way connections.



**REQUEST: Approval of Watson Street (RB-2324-05) Change Order #3, Closeout Docs, and Final Pay App**

The Board approved adjustments for the Watson Street Road Improvements, resulting in a reduction of the overall project cost. Change Order #3 decreases the unused contingency line item by \$17,500 and the sod line item by \$4,040, bringing the total project savings to \$21,540. The updated total project cost is now \$353,260.00, reflecting efficient management of resources.



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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