



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 23, 2024

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On October 22, 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.

RECOGNITION: Recognition of Citizens Academy 2024 Participants



Jackson County is proud to announce the continued success of our Citizens Academy, a program designed to bridge the gap between citizens and local government by fostering education, engagement, and community involvement. Now concluding its third year, the Academy has provided participants with valuable insights into the workings of our local government and the roles of various departments in serving the community.

This year's class saw outstanding participation with 23 dedicated citizens who completed the program—an increase from our inaugural year—demonstrating a growing interest in understanding local government and how residents can make a meaningful impact. We are grateful for their commitment and look forward to building on this momentum in future programs.

During this meeting, some of the participants in attendance were recognized by the Board for their dedication to Jackson County and presented with shirts and certificates of completion. Those in attendance included:

Stephanie Rush, Rhonda Dykes, Jaliyah Godwin-Williams, Mary Libby Keel, Princella White, Karla Joiner, Julia Porter, Heidi Weaver, Breanna Booker, Lori Forster, Craig Brown, and Larry Keasling.

Other participants who completed the program, but who were unable to attend the meeting included: *Susie Barber, Melissa Roddenberry, Lynsey Darragh, Debbie Dennis, Amanda Fellows, Wendy Newsome, Greg Lovett, Lee Anderson, Justin Lyons, Willie Mack, and Chierstin Rasmussen.*



CONTINUED

REQUEST: Adoption of Proclamation Honoring Elmore Bryant



Jackson County mourns the loss of a respected community leader and cherished member, Elmore Bryant, who passed away on October 2, 2024. Mr. Bryant was known for his tireless dedication as a teacher, mentor, and advocate, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Over his 40-year career, Mr. Bryant served as a distinguished educator and coach in the Jackson and Washington County School Districts, shaping the minds and lives of countless students. His influence extended far beyond the classroom, as he was a prominent businessman and civic leader, founding the Jackson County Minority Business Association, local Habitat for Humanity, and Chipola Rainbow Home Builders. As the first Black Mayor of Marianna and a local spokesperson for the NAACP, he made history and touched countless lives.

On October 22, 2024, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners adopted a proclamation honoring Mr. Bryant’s outstanding contributions to the community and expressing their deepest condolences to his friends and family. The Board gratefully acknowledges his lifelong service and the positive legacy he leaves behind.



REQUEST: Approval and Authorization of Transmittal of the Comprehensive Plan to Florida Commerce

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. The Board held a public hearing at the most recent meeting, approving the updates and authorizing transmittal to Florida Commerce.



REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearing for Bethlehem Ridge Subdivision

The Board of County Commissioners set public hearings for November 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. for 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.

This public hearing will provide an opportunity for community members to engage and offer feedback on the proposed project, 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 TDC Sponsorship Reimbursement to the Town of Sneads

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 reimbursement of \$4,950 to the Town of Sneads for their successful Sneads Boat Race Event. The Board approved the request, showing their continued support for local events that contribute to tourism and community engagement.



REQUEST: Approval to Appoint Angela Locke to the TDC Board

During its October meeting, the Jackson County Tourist Development Council (TDC) approved the appointment of Angela Locke to fill a vacant seat designated for an elected official from a non-Marianna municipality. Currently serving her second term as councilwoman on the Sneads Town Council, Angela Locke will replace Arthur Obar. The Board is confident in her commitment to supporting the future growth and success of Jackson County.



REQUEST: Approval to Apply for Florida Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant for Fire Gear

Jackson County Fire Rescue is seeking approval to apply for the Florida Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant to secure much-needed fire gear for its team. Serving a rural community makes

Jackson County eligible for this 50/50 matching grant, which will help replace aging equipment. Fire Rescue is applying for 13 sets of structural fire gear, 12 sets of wildland gear, and 8 fire helmets, all of which are nearing the end of their 10-year lifespan. The 50% match will be covered by the Fire Rescue Capital Outlay, as outlined in the FY 24-25 budget. If awarded, the gear will take approximately 4-8 months to be built and delivered.

This effort aligns with the Board's commitment to ensuring excellence in public safety, and Fire Rescue's dedication to providing high-quality care for the citizens of Jackson County. The pursuit of this grant demonstrates a continued focus on enhancing the resources and tools necessary to protect the community effectively.



REQUEST: Approval to Award Project Bids

At their most recent meeting, the Board awarded several important projects aimed at improving local infrastructure.

The following bids were awarded with unanimous approval by the Board:

- **CR 278 Alliance Road Paving (RB-2324-15)**: Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. was awarded the contract for \$3,422,548.10, contingent upon receiving the Fully Executed Supplemental Agreement from FDOT.
- **4th Street Paving (RB-2324-19)**: Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. was awarded the project for \$122,173.32 as the lowest qualified bidder.



The following bids were awarded with majority approval by the Board (4-1):

- **New Hope Road Paving (RB-2324-18)**: Southeast Construction was awarded the project for \$62,098.87 as the lowest qualified bidder.
- **One-Time Mass Brush Cutting (RB-2324-14)**: Preslie's Construction & Land Development was awarded the project for providing 440 hours of brush cutting while staying within the \$250,000 budget, offering the best value compared to other bidders.
- **Right-of-Way Grass Cutting (RB-2324-17)**: Collins Land Services, Inc. was awarded the project for an annual cost of \$1,049,840.00, offering significant cost savings compared to in-house operations. This contract includes mowing cycles across the county for a 3-year term with renewal options.

These projects are critical to maintaining and enhancing the county's infrastructure and ensuring long-term value for the community.



REQUEST: Approval of MOU and Purchase Agreement with CHROME Ministries for the Purchase of Dozier Cottage

The New Orleans Mission (CHROME) is set to enhance its support for women recovering from addiction by purchasing three cottages in phases. Among these is Dozier Cottage, which will be transformed into a treatment facility. The Board approved the purchase agreement of the cottage with the sale price of \$100,000. A memorandum of understanding was also approved, which solidifies the County and CHROME's dedication, specifying due diligence requirements. The partnership between the County and CHROME marks a significant step in providing crucial services to those in need.



REQUEST: Approval of Contract with DAG Architects, Inc. for Madison Warehouse Roof Project

The Board has approved a contract with DAG Architects, Inc. for the Madison Warehouse Roof Project. The project entails designing a robust roof system to safeguard the Madison Warehouse Restaurant, which was devastated by Hurricane Michael in 2018. The Board is confident in the project's success, marking a significant step in the restaurant's revitalization.



REQUEST: Approval to Award the Exterior Painting Project at Great Oaks to Paint King, USA, LLC.

County staff has worked diligently to address the exterior wood damage and painting of Great Oaks. After reviewing three quotes, staff recommends awarding the project to Paint King USA, LLC, for \$12,800.00. The County will purchase the paint separately for tax savings. The Board approved the request, furthering their progress to restore the historical landmark of Great Oaks, ensuring it remains a cherished part of the community.



REQUEST: Approval to Set a Public Hearing to Adopt the FY2023-24 Supplemental Budget

The Board adopts a Supplemental Budget each year to include monies received and cash balances carried forward above the original estimates. The Board approved to set a public hearing for November 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to adopt the FY2023-24 Supplemental Budget.



REQUEST: Discussion of November and December Meeting Dates

In accordance with F.S. 100.041, (2)(a), county commissioners from odd numbered districts will be elected during the general election on November 5, 2024, for a four- year term starting on the second Tuesday following the election. Consequently, the swearing- in ceremony for the new commissioners will be held on November 19.

The Board approved the following schedule for the remainder of the 2024 Board meetings and events:

- **First Regular Meeting:** November 12 at 9 a.m. (regular date and time)
- **Special Meeting and Swearing-In Ceremony:** November 19 at 9 a.m.
- **Second Regular Meeting:** November 26 at 9 a.m. *(Supplemental Budget will be presented for adoption at this meeting)*
- **December Meeting:** December 10 at 8 a.m.
- **Employee Christmas Party:** December 10 from 12-2 p.m.

This schedule ensures a smooth transition and continued efficient governance.



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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