



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 14, 2025

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On January 14, 2025, 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, incoming Human Resources Director Sarah Sun, alongside District 5 Commissioner and Chairman Jamey Westbrook proudly presented the Employee of the Month Award for January 2025 to Jaliyah Godwin-Williams.

Since joining the County on July 5, 2023, Jaliyah has served as Administrative Assistant for both the Administration Office and the Maintenance Department, demonstrating a level of professionalism and dedication that goes above and beyond.

Balancing her role with part-time work and online studies, Jaliyah consistently delivers exceptional results, taking pride in her work and completing every task with precision and care. Known for her unwavering work ethic, kind demeanor, and can-do spirit, Jaliyah inspires her colleagues and earns admiration from co-workers and citizens alike.

Her commitment to excellence and her "FOR Jackson County" attitude embody the values we strive to uphold. Congratulations, Jaliyah, on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for your outstanding contributions to our team!

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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, District 5 Commissioner and Chairman, Jamey Westbrook, Administrator Wilanne Daniels, along with Department Directors presented awards to the following employees:

- **Deric Coleman**
Deric Coleman currently serves as Equipment Operator II with the Road and Bridge Department. He is recognized for 10 years of continuous service.
- **Pamela Dixon**
Pamela Dixon currently serves as Administrative Assistant with the Fleet Maintenance office of the Road and Bridge Department. She is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **Jennifer Ham**
Jennifer Ham currently serves as Personnel Specialist with Human Resources. She is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **Howard Payne**
Howard Payne currently serves as Maintenance Technician in the Building Maintenance Department. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.
- **Harmon Watts**
Harmon Watts currently serves as Program Supervisor with the Road and Bridge Department. He is recognized for 5 years of continuous service.



REQUEST: Adoption of Resolutions Naming Courtrooms in Honor of Hon. Judge Robert L. McCrary Jr. and Hon. Judge Woodrow W. Hatcher

The Board adopted two resolutions to honor the exceptional legacies of two distinguished judges by dedicating courtrooms in their names.

The Circuit Courtroom at the Jackson County Courthouse has been named the Judge Robert L. McCrary, Jr., Courtroom in recognition of Judge McCrary's decades of service, including his tenure as Chief Judge of the 14th Judicial Circuit and his pivotal role in landmark cases such as Gideon v. Wainwright.

The County Courtroom has been dedicated as the Judge Woodrow W. Hatcher Courtroom, commemorating Judge Hatcher's innovative contributions to the judiciary, including his leadership in

improving court administration and being the first in Florida to implement audio-visual technology for first appearances, arraignments, and jury trials.

These dedications celebrate their profound impact on Jackson County’s legal system and their enduring commitment to justice.



REQUEST: Adoption of Resolution Supporting USBR 90 Realignment

The Board approved a request from the Adventure Cycling Association to realign U.S. Bicycle Route 90 (USBR 90) through Jackson County, shifting the route from Highway 90 to Reddoch/Blue Springs Road. This adjustment, supported by the Florida Department of Transportation and endorsed through an official resolution, highlights the county's commitment to promoting bicycle tourism—a growing industry contributing \$75 billion annually to local economies.

The realignment is expected to benefit Jackson County by attracting bicycle tourists, boosting the local economy, and encouraging health and environmental benefits. The county also plans to install signage along the new route to enhance visibility and accessibility for cyclists. This initiative underscores Jackson County’s dedication to supporting outdoor recreation and fostering sustainable tourism opportunities.



REQUEST: Adoption of FDOT SCOP Resolution and Approval of the Supplemental Agreement

The Board celebrated progress on the CR 276 (Kynesville Highway) improvement project, supported by a FDOT SCOP grant. FDOT agreed to design the entire corridor in three phases, adding \$540,000 in funding for a total agreement amount of \$756,506. This comprehensive design effort ensures continued upgrades along this key roadway. The Board adopted the necessary resolution and approved the supplemental agreement to move the project forward.



REQUEST: Approval of Land Development Projects

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

- **Modification to Love’s RV Stop**

The Board approved a Modification to a previously approved General Development Order for Love's RV Stop. The request is to add 14 additional RV spaces and modify proposed amenities and improvements. The 35.5-acre parcel is located on the north side of Dilmore Road approximately 875 feet east of the intersection of Hwy 231 and Dilmore Road.

The original General Development Order was approved in July 2023 for development of a 32-unit RV park with amenities. At the regularly scheduled meeting on December 2, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the modification as requested.

- **Twin Ponds Road Mini Farms Subdivision**

The Board approved a 9-lot minor residential subdivision with lots ranging from 2.20 acres to 5 acres. The proposed subdivision will be situated on the corner of Twin Ponds Road and Fairview Road in unincorporated Jackson County.

On December 10, 2024, the BOCC approved to set a public hearing. On December 2, 2024, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plat to the BOCC.

- **Peacock Bridge Store Development Agreement Extension**

The Board approved a request for a 12-month extension for an existing Development Agreement for Peacock Bridge Store. On March 28, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Development Agreement for 3,200 square-foot of impervious to include a convenience and liquor store, vehicular use area and sidewalks. This project is to be located on the west side of Hwy 71 South approximately 470 feet north of the intersection of Hwy 71 South and Peacock Bridge Road in unincorporated Jackson County.

On March 28, 2023, the BOCC approved the DA for Peacock Bridge Store. On March 6, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended approval to the BOCC.

- **Phase 1 Dryden Properties and Development**

The Board approved a General Development Order to construct Phase I totaling 23,759 sq ft of impervious surface area consisting of an office, retail, and warehouse space with sidewalks and vehicular use area. The property is located approximately 1,250 feet west of the intersection of Hwy 71 and Commercial Park Dr on the south side of Commercial Park Drive in unincorporated Jackson County.

On December 10, 2024, the BOCC approved to set a public hearing. On December 2, 2024, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the plat to the BOCC.

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 of a Volunteer Fire Department Grant Match for Grand Ridge

The Board approved a request for \$7,500 to assist the Grand Ridge Volunteer Fire Department in matching a Florida Forest Service Grant they successfully secured. The grant will fund essential equipment such as forestry hose, miscellaneous water plumbing supplies, wildland tools, and an apex

jack. This collaboration demonstrates the County's ongoing commitment to supporting local first responders and ensuring public safety.



REQUESTS: Approval to Apply for FL Dept of Health EMS Matching Grants

The Board approved applying for two Florida Department of Health Bureau of EMS Matching Grants to enhance Jackson County Fire Rescue’s capabilities.

The first grant seeks funding for pediatric video laryngoscope equipment, which will integrate seamlessly with the adult airway cameras obtained through a prior grant, improving life-saving care for patients of all ages. The match for this grant will not exceed \$26,000, depending on scoring.

The second grant application is for a new Type-1 ambulance, an essential addition to the fleet. The match for this grant, also contingent on scoring, will be budgeted for FY 25-26 and will not exceed \$100,050.

These initiatives underscore Jackson County’s dedication to equipping its first responders with state-of-the-art tools to better serve the community in emergencies.



REPORT: Jackson County Economic Development Council Quarterly Report

Darwin Gilmore, President/CEO of the Jackson County Economic Development Council (EDC), delivered an encouraging quarterly report to the Board of County Commissioners, emphasizing the region's growing economic momentum. Key updates included significant progress with high-impact manufacturing opportunities like TPA Group's Option Agreement and Pulse Industries, alongside exciting developments in the food and beverage sector, such as Project Bristol. These efforts could bring over 100 new jobs to the community in the coming years.

Additionally, Jackson County continues to excel not only in attracting new industries but also in retaining existing businesses. Through active participation in initiatives like Leadership Northwest Florida and maintaining strong regional connections, Mr. Gilmore and the EDC are positioning Jackson County for sustained economic success. Their dedication ensures the community is equipped to foster growth, create opportunities, and build a prosperous future.



REQUEST: Approval of 4th Street (RB-2324-19) Final Pay and Certificate of Completion

The Board is thrilled to announce the successful completion of the 4th Street resurfacing project. Awarded to Anderson Columbia on October 22, 2024, with a contract amount of \$122,173.32, this project has been completed to our highest standards. All work has been inspected and approved, marking a significant milestone in enhancing our community’s infrastructure.



REQUEST: Approval to Reject Bids for 2324-33 AG Center Concessionaire

The Jackson County Chamber has withdrawn their proposal for the AG Center Concessionaire, and the Board has approved the recommendation to reject the bids received. We appreciate the efforts and enthusiasm of the Jackson County Chamber throughout the process. This decision allows us to reassess and consider the best approach moving forward for the benefit of our community. We remain optimistic about the future and are committed to finding the best solutions for this venue.



REQUEST: Approval to Award 2425-01 Shangri La Elevated Boardwalk Construction to Monolith Construction

The Board approved awarding the Shangri La Elevated Boardwalk Construction project to Monolith Construction. This exciting project, funded by an FDEP grant, will create an elevated boardwalk and viewing platform, enhancing public access to the scenic Shangri La Spring. After receiving seven bids, Monolith Construction was selected as the lowest responsive bidder at \$428,244, which includes a \$20,000 contingency. The project is fully within the grant budget, marking another step forward in providing residents and visitors with improved recreational opportunities.



REQUEST: Approval of FDEP Grant Agreement P25002 for Cypress Park Improvements

The Board approved an FDEP grant agreement to enhance Cypress Park with exciting new improvements! This grant will fund the addition of new playgrounds, an outdoor restroom facility, expanded trails, and upgraded security measures. These upgrades will make Cypress Park an even more enjoyable and safe destination for families and outdoor enthusiasts in our community.



REQUEST: Approval to Purchase Three Vehicles for Sheriff's Office Community Services Program

The Board approved the purchase of three vehicles for the Sheriff's Office Community Services Program, providing officers with dedicated transportation to support their vital work. Funded through the Opioid Settlement, these vehicles will enable the program's officers to better serve the community and enhance their ability to carry out essential duties.



REQUEST: Discussion of 9/24/24 Motion for Road and Bridge to Sell and Install Culverts

The Board revisited the process for driveway culvert installations, prioritizing clarity and fairness for property owners while ensuring efficient use of County resources. After thorough discussion, the Board unanimously voted to rescind a prior motion from September 24, 2024, and maintain the current ordinance, 44-57, until updates can be finalized. To provide consistency, the Board unanimously approved a blanket variance for permits issued since September 24, allowing homeowners to proceed under the existing guidelines. Looking ahead, a public hearing has been scheduled for February 11, where the Board will consider adopting a new ordinance.



This proposed ordinance would require homeowners to purchase culvert pipes, while the County would handle the installation, streamlining the process and providing clear guidance for property owners. The parameters of the proposed ordinance, requiring homeowner’s responsibility to purchase culvert pipes and the County responsibility for installation was approved with a majority vote of 4-1. These proactive steps demonstrate the Board’s commitment to improving services and balancing community needs with operational efficiency.



REQUEST: Approval of Joint Engagement of Attorney to Represent County at Public Service Commission Settlement Hearing

Marianna City Manager William Long addressed the Board with a plan to support all FPU customers in Jackson County in response to the proposed rate increase. He proposed a joint effort between the County, City of Marianna, and Jackson County School Board to engage an attorney who will represent the community’s interests at the Public Service Commission Settlement Hearing in March, proactively working to mitigate the impact of the proposed rate increase. The Board approved this collaborative approach, contingent on approval from the other entities, with the legal fees to be shared among the three. This unified initiative reflects a strong commitment to advocating for the citizens and ensuring a fair outcome for all FPU customers in Jackson County.



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LEGEND:



District 1
Dr. Willie Spires

District 2
Edward Crutchfield

District 3
Paul Donofro Jr.

District 4
Donnie Branch

District 5
Jamey Westbrook