

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**  
**January 4, 2021**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Chairman Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bruce Henry, Chairman, Gerald Stunkel, Vice-Chairman, Don Jernigan, and Doug Luke.

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager, Sharon Robinson, Administrative Services Director, Dennis Pate, Finance Director and David Ozburn, County Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** District 5- Chairman Bruce Henry

**Agenda Approval:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the minutes for the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting, December 15, 2020 Called Meeting, and December 15, 2020 Work Session; Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Check Register:**

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the check register check numbers 60223-60463. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to go into Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

A public hearing was held for a change to the minimum lot width in Residential R-1 and RL-3 from 100' to 125'.

Shane Sealy stood before the board to present Application 2020-TA-003. Jasper County Planning and Zoning is looking to increase the minimum lot width in Residential (R-1 and RL3) from 100' to 125'. He stated that also in the ordinance it states that the cul-de-sac must maintain 60' of frontage.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to close the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to go into the second public hearing at 6:09 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

A public hearing was held for a text amendment to the Guest House ordinance.

Shane Sealy presented application 2020-TA-005 Text amendment to the guest house ordinance.

The existing definition reads: Guest house means an accessory building subordinate to a principal single-family dwelling used a dwelling only for family members for the non-commercial boarding of guest or if on a farm, full-time workers on that farm.

The proposed definition reads: Guest House means an accessory building subordinate to a principal single-family dwelling used as dwelling only for family members or guests. Guest house shall not have a separate driveway coming off of the county or state road from the principle residence and a secondary driveway coming off the principle driveway shall be a minimum of 100' from the right of way of the county or state road. The guest house will have to share the same electrical service as the principle single-family dwelling. The guest house will only be for non-commercial boarding of guest. The maximum size for a guest house is 750 heated square feet. A guest house is only allowed agricultural and rural residential zoning.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to close the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

### **Commissioner's Items:**

Commissioner Ledford- None

Commissioner Stunkel- None

Commissioner Jernigan- None

Chairman Henry- Chairman reminded everyone on Facebook to be respectful in their comments. He welcomed Commissioner Ledford to the board. Chairman Henry stated that the Jasper County Food Bank has a lot of extra food. He stated that they are open on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. He mentioned that any resident can go to get food until further notice.

### **Presentations/Delegations**- None

### **Appointments:**

**Appointment of Chairman**- Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint Bruce Henry to continue to be the chairman of the board. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairman**- Bruce Henry motioned to appoint Commissioner Stunkel to continue to serve as Vice-Chairman of the board. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Appointment of County Attorney**- Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint David Ozburn of the firm, Ozburn Law Firm, LLC as the County Attorney for 2021. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Appointment of County Clerk**- Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint Sharon Robinson as the County clerk for 2021. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

### **Regular Agenda:**

**Item 1: Application 2020-TA-003-increase the minimum lot width in Residential(R-1 and RL3) from 100' to 125'**: Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve Application 202-TA-0003 to increase the minimum lot width in Residential (R-1 and RL3) from 100' to 125' as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: Application 2020-TA-005 Text amendment to the guest house ordinance:** Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve application 2020-TA-005 Text amendment to the guest house ordinance as presented. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Alternate Site for Superior Court Jury Selection:** County Manager Mike Benton stated that in 2020 all jury trials were suspended. The Supreme Court of Georgia is desiring to start back having trials because they are getting backed up. There are certain safety protocols that have to be in place. Every county has been required

to offer an alternate location for jury selection. All possible jurors have to be able to hear the attorneys at once. The best place that would work in our county is Charlie Elliot. There is a \$500 fee that covers setup, breakdown, cleaning, equipment, and other items.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the Charlie Elliott Conference Center Meeting and Lease Contract and Resolution # 2021.01.04 establishing the Charlie Elliott Conference Center Banquet Hall as the Alternate Location for Superior Court Jury Selection. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 4: Schedule Work Sessions:** A work session was scheduled for Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Topics for discussion during this work session includes PFA Applicants and Blight tax.

**County Attorney Items:** Attorney Ozburn thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as the County's attorney for 2021.

**County Manager Items:** Mr. Benton gave updates on the permits given by the P&Z Office. There were 149 new construction permits for 2020. There were 564 total permits for 2020. The Public Works Shop building is moving along. The expected completion date is late March. Benton Tree service is scheduled to start trimming on Thomaston Road and should be finished by the end of the week. The Health Department is moving along.

**Citizens Comments:** There was one Facebook comment asking the commissioners to put the Work Sessions on Facebook citizen comments.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk