

Jasper County Board of Commissioners
March 1, 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 Steven Ledford

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation: District 5- Commissioner Steven Ledford

Agenda Approval: Commissioner Jernigan motioned to add the Free Landfill month as #22 to the agenda. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the agenda with the changes that were presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the minutes for the February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting, as presented; Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Check Register:

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the check register check numbers **60722-60894**. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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

- 1. A public hearing will be held for the construction of a new cell tower. The property is located on Post Road on a piece of property owned by Robert Sidney Aiken at 3901 Post Road Monticello, Ga 31064. Tax Map 028, parcel 051. Current zoning is Agricultural (A). Applicant is Verizon Wireless.**

Mr. Shane Sealy stood before the board. Verizon Wireless has applied for construction of a new 250' self-support tower. The property is located on Post Road on Tax Map 028 parcel 051. The property is zoned agricultural. The GA Center for Local Government has reviewed the application and has recommended conditional approval of the application. If approved, the facility will address a gap in coverage between Post Road and areas in the North portion of the County. A balloon test was properly scheduled and conducted on October 3, 2020 from 10am to 2pm. Based on the balloon test, it appears that the visibility of the tower would be mostly limited to the parent tract and South of the tower along Post Road. The P&Z Board heard this request on January 14, 2021 and recommended approval 5-0.

Mr. Clark Davidson stood before the board to make them aware that he is present representing Verizon and is available to answer any questions.

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

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to go into Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

2. A public hearing for Application 2020-TA-004 – To add “Livestock Auction” to the Permitted Use Table under Agricultural zoning with a Special Use Permit required. Applicant is William Johnson.

This is an application for a text amendment for Application 2020-TA-004 to add “Livestock Auction to the permitted use table under Agricultural zoning with a Special Use Permit being required. This could or could not affect the existing use of adjacent or nearby properties. Each site will have to be looked at individually to determine if there will be issues or not. Different stipulations could be put on properties that came forth for special use permits. The Planning and Zoning Board heard this on January 14th, and recommended approval 4-1.

Mr. William Johnson owner of Wayside Auction stood before the board in favor of the request. He stated that there will not be any animals stored on the property. Mr. Johnson stated that by his auction being in Jasper County it will bring some jobs to the county. He stated that on special auctions they have raised thousands of dollars for needy kids and kids with cancer.

Ms. Melissa Hyde and her husband Roland Hyde stood in favor of the auction. She stated that they visited the auction when it was in Jones County. They currently travel to other auctions in other counties to attend auctions. She stated that having the auction here would keep money in the county.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to close Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to go into Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

3. A public hearing for Application 2020-TA-005 – To add “General Auction” to the Permitted Use Table under Agricultural zoning with a Special Use Permit required. Applicant is William Johnson.

Mr. Shane Sealy stood before the board to present application 2020-TA-005 – To add “General Auction” to the Permitted Use Table under Agricultural zoning with a Special Use Permit required. Applicant is William Johnson. Owner is Justin Wyatt. Tax Map 023A parcel 005 (21753 Hwy 83N) and 023A parcel 038. The Planning and Zoning board heard this request on January 14, 2021. The recommended denial 5-0.

Mr. Johnson stood before the board in favor of the request. He stated that he believes the reason they were denied by the P&Z board because they were not clear on what they planned to sale in the general auction. He stated that at these sales animal feeders, hay, fencing, lumber, gates, etc. are sold. He stated that he cannot sale automobiles. Ms. Valerie Johnson stated that they just want to be able to bring the auction here to help the community.

Ms. Melissa Hyde stood before the board and reiterated that she just believes that this will bring more business to local businesses in Jasper County.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to close the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments:

Jennifer Allen: Ms. Allen stood before the board to introduce herself. She stated that she is running for District 1 Commissioner. She stated that she has been in the county for about 13 years. She stated that she wants to be the voice of the community. She stated that she would like to see improvements in the Fire Department. She announced her meet and greet to meet members of the community.

Wanda Cummings- Ms. Cummings thanked everyone for the volunteer efforts for the trash pick-up. She stated that it was a wonderful thing. She asked if there would be a Saturday where the landfill could be open so that residents can dump for free. She also asked about having big trash dumpsters placed throughout the county like they were in the past.

Kerry Terrell- Ms. Terrell stated that she is the owner of Sac o Suds. She stated that her brother should not be able to use the Sac o Suds name since it is trademarked.

Sheila Gantt Jones- Ms. Jones stood before the board to introduce herself. She stated that she is also running for Commissioner of District 1. She announced her meet and greet for the Saturday. She stated that she is willing to do what it takes to see what District 1 needs and work together.

Commissioner's Items:

Commissioner Ledford- None

Commissioner Stunkel- None

Commissioner Jernigan- Commissioner Jernigan thanked the citizens, Sheriff, and Public Work for trash pick-up efforts. He stated that he would like having a part-time employee to work with community service explored. He stated that we have some absentee land owners. He stated that he would like to see No Littering and No Trespassing signs put up throughout the county.

Chairman Henry- Chairman Henry noted a big turnout for the cleanup on Saturday. He stated that there will be another clean-up day on March 27th.

Presentations/Delegations- *None*

Regular Agenda:

Item 1: IGA – Development Services for Stanton Springs: Shane Short of the Development Authority of Walton County stood before the board. He stated that he also works with the Development Authority of the Joint Development. He stated that the Stanton Springs is working with another large project under the name Baymare. The JDA plans to sell them over 600 acres of land. There is a bond resolution that just passed for \$42 Million. They will bring in tax revenue and high paying jobs to the area.

Andrea Gray the attorney for the JDA presented an Intergovernmental Contract Agreement for Developmental Services. This agreement will lay out who will lead the Developmental Services for all future projects in Stanton Springs. This agreement allows one County to do all of the Developmental role for all the project. They would do all of the permitting and inspecting and charge all of the fees which are associated. The agreement allows for an assisting County.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to authorize Chairman to sign the Intergovernmental Contract for Development Services for Stanton Springs as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 2: Application 2020-SU-006 – Construction of a new Cell Tower on Post Road located on Tax Map 028 parcel 051: Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve Application 2020-SU-006 for the construction of a new cell tower on Post Road located on Tax Map 028 parcel 051. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 3: Application 2020-TA-004 – To add “Livestock Auction” to the Permitted Use Table under Agricultural zoning with a Special Use Permit required: Attorney Ozburn noted that this is just to add the text amendment to the ordinance to add this a special use.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve text amendment to ordinance to allow special use permit. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 4: Application 2020-TA-005 – To add “General Auction” to the Permitted Use Table under Agricultural zoning with a Special Use Permit required: Commissioner Jernigan asked if there will be something in the text amendment stating what can and cannot be auctioned. Mr. Sealy stated that that information would be in the special use permit request.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to add text amendment to agricultural zoning. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 5: Probation Services Agreement – Jasper County Superior Court: Attorney Ozburn stated that he reviewed the contract and it seems to be the standard contract.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to authorize Chairman to sign the Probation Services Agreement between the Jasper County Board of Commissioners and the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia for the Jasper County Probate Court as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 6: Probation Services Agreement – Jasper County Probate Court: Commissioner Stunkel motioned to authorize Chairman to sign the Probation Services Agreement between the Jasper County Board of Commissioners and the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia for the Jasper County Probate Court as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 7: Alcohol License – Retail Sales of Beer and Wine – Cholista Ann Owens: Sac-O-Suds Management, LLC located at 54 Hwy 16 West, Monticello applied for Alcohol License for 2021 for the sale of beer and wine. The applicant is Cholista Ann Owens.

Attorney Ozburn stated that the county is not in a position to decide on the validity of the Intellectual Property rights. If it is validly formed LLC and the applicant has the required interest in the LLC and otherwise meet the permit requirements that is all the county is concerned with. The Intellectual rights is a civil matter handled through other ways.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve of a retail license of beer and wine for the applicant for the Sac-O-Suds location. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 8: Human Resources Report: HR Director Sharon Robinson presented the Human Resources report.

Current Open Positions

Equipment Operator (3)

Operator I (1)

CDL Driver (1)

Recreation Coordinator (1)

Deputy Clerk (Clerk of Courts)

EMT (3)
911 Dispatchers (4)

Terminations/Resignations

Public Works - 3
Jail - 1
Fire Rescue – 1
Recreation – 1
Clerk of Courts - 1
BOC –
Registrar

Item 9: County Boards Report: Ms. Sharon Robinson presented the county boards report.

Board Appointments Needed:

Jasper County Library Board: 2 terms expiring June 2021
Jasper County Water & Sewer Authority: 3 Vacancies, one expiring May 2021

- 4 appointments to be made tonight.

Jasper County DFCS Board: 1 vacancy

- One vacancy that was never filled from last advertisement

Board of Appeals: 1 vacancy (in March 2021)
Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D Council – 1 vacancy

Item 10: 911 Joint Authority Board Appointment: Mr. Benton stated that we have one opening and one applicant.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint Jeffery Lee, Sr. to Jasper County 911 Authority Board with the term ending March 1, 2023. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 11: Planning and Zoning Appeals Board Appointment: Mr. Rusty Bullard stood before the board to express his interest in serving. He stated that he has 30 years of experience and would love to share his knowledge.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to re-appoint Mary Patrick to the Zoning Appeals Board. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 12: Tax Assessor Board Appointments: Ms. Bentley stated that she have two board positions expiring in the next month. The positions are for Larry Smith and Lionel Taylor. Both wish to continue to serve. Both members are up to date on their education requirements.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint Larry Smith to position 4 with the term expiring March 17, 2024. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to reappoint Lionel Taylor to position 3 with the term expiring May 30, 2024. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 13: Jasper County Family Connection Fiscal Agent: Attorney Ozburn stated that this is the normal annual request.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the request from the Jasper County Family Connection that Jasper County Board of Commissioners will serve as the fiscal agent for the Jasper County Family Connection for FY 2022. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 14: Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority Board Appointments: Mr. Benton stated that there are a couple vacant positions for this board. He stated that this is a big board and it takes a lot to fill it.

Mr. Mark Stone he stated that he has been a resident for 30 years. He stated that he just retired and he has some time he would like to give back to the county.

Mr. Jeff Yoder stated that he has been a resident for about 8 years. He stated that he too would like to give back to the community by serving on the board.

Ms. Eileen Ott stated that she has been a resident for the last 22 years. She stated that she has served on the board for the last 3 years. She stated that it has been a struggle with meetings because there have not been enough board members to have a meeting.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to reappoint Ken McMichael for a five year term ending March 2026. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to reappoint Eileen Ott for a five year term ending March 2026. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint Jeff Yoder to a five year term ending March 2026. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint Mark Stone to a five year term ending March 2026. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 15: Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D Council Appointment: Mr. Johns Scruggs stated that the mission of the Upper Ocmulgee River RC & D is to improve communities by balancing environmental quality with economic and cultural development. He stated that he believes that he is uniquely qualified to serve on this board. Commissioner Stunkel motioned to appoint John Scruggs to the Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D Council. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 16: Jasper County Public Facilities Authority Board Appointments: Chairman Henry stated that there were nine applicants for this board. The commissioners submitted their votes for the members to fill the board. After the county the board came back together. The results were three appointments that could be made right away. There were two that had a tied vote. Those two were Tony Tanner and Charles Forsyth.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint Hal Harris, James Thiele, and William Nash to the Jasper County Public Facilities Authority for a one-year term. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 17: Jasper County Recreation Association Board Amended Bylaws Adoption: Commissioner Jernigan stated that he reviewed the bylaws and saw several things that are inaccurate and calls reason for concern on some degree.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to table the bylaws adoption until the April meeting for review and language which is in the suggested edits. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 18: Tub Grinding Bid Award – Tree Limbs and Stumps: Mr. Benton stated that over the past three years we have accumulated a lot of trees, stumps and other storm debris. There is 7,083 Cubic yards of debris that we need to get rid of. The EPD is tolerant for a little while but need to get it taken care of. We sent out bids we received two. We would like to use the mulch for the landfill.

Commissioner Jernigan asked if we have a need for the material once it is ground up. Mr. Benton stated that we do have a current need. Commissioner Jernigan also asked if Mr. Benton think that at some point in the future we will be able to allow the citizens of the county to use the mulch. Mr. Benton stated yes.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to award tub grinding services for tree limb and tree stump materials stockpiled at the County Landfill to Conkle's Tree Service, Inc. in the amount of \$21,500.00. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 19: FY 2020 Capital Improvements Element Update Adoption: Mr. Benton stated that this is the final adoption. The DCA was backed up due to the pandemic. There is not any changes to what has already been approved. Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adopt the 2020 Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Program Annual Update as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 20: Assistance to the City of Shady Dale: Chairman Henry stated that the County when 50/50 with the City of Monticello when paving College Street. He stated that since we helped the City of Monticello we need to help the City of Shady Dale. He stated that Mr. Benton calculated assistance of \$15,437.79.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve providing funding assistance to Shady Dale City Council in the amount of \$15,437.79. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 21: Central Georgia EMC Broadband Initiative: Chairman Henry stated that we heard from Central GA EMC at a previous meeting. Commissioner Stunkel stated that we definitely need to invest but we need to know where the funds will come from. Commissioner Jernigan ask if we should see if any other county would be interested in investing.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to have the County Manager reach out to school leadership to help with Broadband Initiative. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 22: April Free Landfill for Residents: Commissioner Jernigan stated that in the past we have allowed Jasper County Residents to dump at the landfill for free during the month of April for their residential trash. There will still be a four tire minimum. Commissioner Jernigan motioned to waive tipping fees at the Landfill for the month of April for Jasper County Residents only, for residential waste and four tire maximum. Commissioner Ledford, seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 23: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings: The board scheduled a tentative meeting for March 22nd to discuss potential broadband funding.

County Attorney Items: None

County Manager Items: Mr. Benton stated that the Public Works shop should be completed by the end of the month. The Health Department building is on track for a March completion date. Mr. Benton stated that the clean-up effort on Saturday had a great turn-out

Executive Session: Commissioner Jernigan motion to go into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to exit the Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Adjourn:

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bruce Henry, Chairman

Sharon Robinson, Clerk