

Jasper County Board of Commissioners
August 23, 2021
Called 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, Sheila Jones and Steven Ledford

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager, and Sharon Robinson, Administrative Services Director

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation: Commissioner Steven Ledford, District 5

Agenda Approval:

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

Consent Agenda:

Public Hearing: None

Presentations/Delegations- None

Citizens Comments:

Mary Patrick- Ms. Patrick stood before the board to discuss a few things. She stated that there are a lot of people on the PPP list of recipients. She ask if the Planning and Zoning Department have business license for many of them. She stated that she feels the county should find the businesses and make them pay for a business license and fines. She stated that AT&T wants \$22 million to run broadband when we already have paid Central GA EMC \$1 million so she hopes that is a zero. She is interest in the bond issue for the Jail Expansion. She stated that SPLOST is a lot easier on the tax payers than a bond. She stated that she would like to know if the Commissioners would agree to declare September 13-17 as Freedom Week. She stated that September 17th is Constitution Day. She has a template.

County Commissioner's Items:

Commissioner Ledford- None

Commissioner Stunkel-

Commissioner Stunkel stated that several weeks ago he was approached about an issue involving a building permit question. An investigation was done on a property. The property owner is going to end up paying more \$3700 in fees and penalties plus hoops to jump through and that person just happens to be on the Planning and Zoning Board and they have personal reasons to resign from that board currently. He stated well done to the Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Jernigan- None

Commissioner Jones- None

Chairman Henry- Chairman Henry reminded everyone of the Carl Pennamon Memorial Highway Dedication on August 28th.

Regular Agenda:

Item 1: Letter of Intent for Underwriting Services- Raymond James Financial:

Commissioner Stunkel stated that the PFA board is moving right along with getting all of the funding together for the jail expansion project. In doing that they have to have bonding company to work with. This is a non-binding letter of intent. There was a previous letter of intent signed but was sign by the late Carl Pennamon. They are requesting an updated letter of intent with the current chairman's signature.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to authorize Chairman to sign the non-binding Raymond James Financial Letter of Intent dated August 23, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 2: Architectural Firm-Sheriff's Office and Jail Renovation & Expansion Project:

Chairman Henry stated that we will need to contact an Architectural firm to the Jail renovation and expansion.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that Precision Planning is the firm that did the original plans and project for the current jail. They have been involved with the Sheriff to discuss our current needs. The biggest need right now is housing for female inmates. This expansion will expand the female side to 24 beds from the current 8 beds. There will be separate medical facilities for the males and females. He stated that we would like to continue with Precision Planning since they know the current building. He stated that they are asking that they go with a Construction Manager at Risk with guaranteed maximum price option. This means that the Architecture Firm will hire a Project Manager who would go out and get a maximum amount that would be spent. If material costs increase they would be responsible. They would also be responsible if they project goes over budget. The bond will not be more than 10 years because this is not a huge project.

Commissioner Stunkel motion to approve Precision Planning as the Architectural Firm for Jail Renovation and Expansion. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 3: Lake Pines Development- Landers Lane Access Improvements:

Chairman Henry stated that we have question about the entry lines for the new Lake Pines Development. GDOT was not requiring any new changes to the road. The preliminary plat that was approved does show a D-cell lane. They were also asking if the county would be willing to ask for that improvement and either pay for it or get DOT to pay for it using the county as a reference. He state that when he first saw it his first thought was if we have an favors coming from GDOT the county needs to save those and let the builder pay for any improvements that are needed.

Mike Benton stated that the motion needs to be changed.

Commissioner Ledford stated that it is only calling for a D-cell lane coming from towards Jackson Lake. He stated that he would like to see a turning lane as opposed to a d-cell lane.

Shane Sealy stated that GDOT has a checklist that they will review. By the road being a county road, the county has to be the applicant to DOT. The cost would go to the developer. The Engineer and the Developer cannot proceed with the project unless the county agrees to be the applicant to DOT.

Chairman Henry ask how much of a delay will it cause if this item is tabled until September.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to table this item until the next meeting to contact GDOT about D-cell lane. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 4: Service Delivery Strategy Update:

Chairman Henry stated that the map has been presented and discussed. It has been approved by the City of Shady Dale and the City of Monticello. It has to be approved by all three governments. Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adopt Resolution #2021.08.23 updating the Water Service Area component of the Jasper County Service Delivery Strategy as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 5: Broadband Project – AT&T – Arp- State Fiscal Recovery Fund:

Chairman Henry stated that we were approached by Paul Chambers who came over and sat with Mike Benton and the Chairman. They put together somewhat a proposal. The deadline on that proposal was August 31st. He state that he thinks it's a moot point at this time.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to table this item until a later date. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 6: Redistricting Overview- 2020 Census:

Chairman Henry stated that we will never have the districts exact. However, District 1 and District 2 will need additional citizens. Districts 3, 4, and 5 will need people taken away. We are working with NEGRC who has given us a price of \$1500-\$2000. They will give options and we would move forward with the options that follows all legal parameters. We will have to decide how we would like to get our map drawn.

Mike Benton stated that our options are use NEGRC.

Carol Norris stated that the other option is to go through the Office of Reapportionment. There is not cost with the state.

Mr. Benton stated that Ms. Wright with the State stated that normally the timeline to have a certified map is before a special session. The time has not run out to choose the state to do the redistricting.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that he thinks we should first get the Board of Education to sign on and both us the same

Commissioner Ledford motioned to use NEGRC and State Reapportionment for redistricting maps. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously

County Attorney Items: Absent

County Manager Items:

Dennis Pate announced to the board that the candidate had accepted the Finance position. The employee will start on September 7th.

Executive Session: None

Adjourn:

Commissioner Ledford motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bruce Henry, Chairman

Sharon Robinson, Clerk