

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**  
**June 6, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

Commissioners Present: Bruce Henry, Chairman, Don Jernigan, Sheila Jones and Steven Ledford.

Staff Present: Sharon Robinson, County Clerk, Larissa Ruark, Chief Accounting Officer, Mike Benton, County Manager, and David Ozburn, County Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** Sheriff Donnie Pope

**Agenda Approval:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the minutes for

- April 1, 2022- Work Session Minutes
- May 2, 2022- Regular Meeting Minutes
- May 16, 2022- Work Session Minutes

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve Check #s 64429-64734. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Public Hearings:** None

**Presentations/Delegations:** None

**Citizens Comments:** None

**County Commissioner's Items:**

**Commissioner Ledford:** None

**Commissioner Stunkel:** None

**Commissioner Jernigan:** None

**Commissioner Jones:** Commissioner Jones stated that she have some constituents in the audience who would like to know what can the county Commissioners do for district 1. They feel like since they are in the City they are getting double taxed but no receiving any benefits and would like to discuss at a future meeting.

**Chairman Henry:** None

**Regular Agenda:**

**Business Items:**

**Item 1: Planning and Zoning Board Appointments:** Mr. Justin Owens stood before the board to state why he would like to continue to serve on the board. He stated that he have served on the board for about 17 years. He stated that he brings a unique perspective to the role.

David Sheppard stood before the board to explain why he would be a good choice for the board. He has been in the county since 1996. He stated that he spent 40+ years with the Kroger Company. He would like to help the county move forward.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to reappoint Justin Owens to the Jasper County Planning and Zoning Board to serve for a 3-year term. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: Jasper County Recreation Board Discussion:** Chairman Henry stated that we have seven positions for the Recreation Board. Two of the positions are vacant.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that the board started with five members and gradually increased. He stated that five members is a good number to work with.

Commissioner Ledford stated that based on what he saw he don't know if the ones on the board need to be on the board and we need to start over from scratch. The current members did not have the best interest of the Director. It seem like they were just there to bash the director.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he don't think the board understand that they are an advisory board and they do not run the department. They are there to advise and help not to run the department. The meeting that he attending was not a real meeting. People were talking over each other. He ask Attorney Ozburn if there is any way to relieve the current members from the board.

Commissioner Jones agreed that the meeting did not go well. She ask if we have ever done anything similar such as shut down a board and start over.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to reduce the size of the Recreation Board from seven to five members. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Attorney Ozburn stated that he would have to do some research about releasing the current members and restarting the board.

Commissioner Stunkel suggested that our next Work Session to be a session with the Recreation Board and lay out what is expected of the board. If any member does not agree they will be asked to resign.

**Item 3: Region 5 EMS Advisory Council Appointment:** Mike Benton stated that we are a member of Region 5 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. We provide a member. Our current member is Chris Finch. His term has expired. He is willing to continue to serve.

Chief Finch stated he has been on the board for the last six years and willing to continue serving.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to reappoint Chief Chris Finch as the Jasper County Representative to the Region 5 EMS Advisory Council. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 4: Ocmulgee Circuit Public Defender's Office - Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement:** Larissa Ruark stated that the Finance Department received the annual contract for the Legal Representation for indigent persons. There is not increase to the amount. The amount is \$51,743.94. Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve Chairman to execute the Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 with and annual cost of \$51,743.94 paid in monthly installments of \$4,312.00. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 5: Discussion/consideration of extending the current Moratorium on the acceptance of Subdivision Preliminary Plats:** Chairman Henry stated that the clock is winding down for the moratorium that was put in place earlier this year.

Judy Johnson stated that we have been able to make great strides in getting ordinances amendments drafted. The primary reason to ask the board to consider extending the moratorium is it was set to expire on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Even if we were able to get the amendments through the Planning Commissioner the Board of Commissioners would Jasper County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes June 6, 2022 – Regular Meeting

not be able to meet. She asked if the BOC could hold a work session in mid-July. She stated that if we extend the moratorium at least until the September meeting that would give a plenty of time if either board have questions or need to table something.

Chairman Henry asked if we need extend for 60 days or 90 days. If we extend for 90 it would put us into October after the BOC meeting.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to continue the process of extending the subdivision moratorium to October 5, 2022 which includes holding a public hearing. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 6: Human Resources and County Boards Report:**

Ms. Robinson gave HR and County Boards Report.

**Item 7: Annual Update of the Capital Improvements Element for FY 2021 – Adoption:** Mike Benton stated that since the county participates in the Impact Fee program, we are required to do an annual update to the CIE. This is the final stage to adopt the document that we have been through several times.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to adopt the 2021 Capital Improvements Element and Short Term Work Program Annual Update as presented. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 8: Resolution authorizing the execution of documents related to the issuance of the Jasper County Public Facilities Authority's revenue bonds, including an Intergovernmental contract with the Authority:**

Commissioner Stunkel stated that we have had many reports detailing the shortcomings of the Jail and facilities. Specifically the female housing which is in a dire state at this point. We are currently at \$10 Million for the project of which \$7 Million will be funded through the PFA.

Chairman Henry motioned to allow the chairman to sign the document package related to the Jasper County Jail Renovation project. Chairman Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 9: FY 2023 Employee Health Insurance Program Selection:** Chairman Henry stated that we have had two insurance companies to come out and present to us.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to renew with Assured Benefits Administrators adding the Cigna PPO portion Employee Health Insurance program with Kelly Fox with Southern Benefits Consultants. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 10: Curbside Contract Discussion:** Mike Benton presented the proposal for Ryland Environmental. Their proposal is \$275 per cart per year.

Chairman Henry stated that we will not move forward with Ryland Environmental.

**Item 11: FY 2023 Budget Line Item Cuts Considerations:** Mike Benton discussed budget cuts which were presented on the screen. The total of the new cuts is \$34,919. Some department with areas that were decreased were Fire Rescue, Roads and Bridges, Senior Center, Jasper Memorial (Indigent Transport), Health Department, Recreation.

**Item 12: FY 2023 Budget Consensus:** Chairman Henry stated that he does not think we are ready for a consensus just yet.

**Item 13: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings:** A Work Session was scheduled for June 13, 2022 at 6 p.m.

**County Attorney Items:** None

**County Manager Update:** Mike Benton gave an update on the total permits for the month and year to date.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Ledford motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk