

Jasper County Board of Commissioners
January 12, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes
9:00 A.M.

Chairman Jernigan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Bruce Henry, Chairman; Steven Ledford, Vice Chair; Don Jernigan; Sheila Jones and Asher Gray

Staff: Mike Benton, County Manager, Sheila Belcher, Clerk- Administrative Services Director, Larissa Ruark, Chief Accounting Officer, Doug Attaway- Planning and Zoning Director,

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation: Commissioner Bruce Henry, District 2

Agenda Approval: Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: None

Public Hearings:

Presentations/Delegations:

- 1. Chairman Henry to Discuss Meeting Etiquette-** Chairman Henry read a statement to the board and attendees regarding what is expected during meetings.

Citizens Comments: -

- **Gail Harrell:** Ms. Harrell stated that there is now an open position on the 911 Authority board.
- **Mary Patrick:** Asked when will we get code enforcement in the county. When will there be a P&Z meeting to discuss use table. Stated that greenspace is being paid for by everyone else. She talked about Family Connection and their request.
- **David Thompson:** Mr. Thompson read a statement he prepared regarding green space.
- **Cathy Benson:** Gave her opinion on greenspace. Being taxed for Greenspace but can't use it.
- **Stephanie Puckett:** Ms. Puckett stated that she feels BOC property should be placed for public sale and not done through the Development Authority.
- **Jim Belcher:** Mr. Belcher encouraged the board to sign the resolution for Mental Health.
- **Bill Nash:** Mr. Nash spoke in favor of greenspace. He stated that
- **David McGuire:** Mr. McGuire spoke about the need for the board to work together respectfully.

County Commissioner's Items

Commissioner Ledford- None

Commissioner Jernigan- None

Commissioner Jones- None

Commissioner Henry- Commissioner Henry reminded everyone that today is the one year anniversary of the horrible tornado and that similar weather is expected today.

Business Items:

Item 1: Jasper County Family Connection Grant Opportunity from the Department of Family & Children Services & Community Prevention Support- Fiscal Agent Request-

Child abuse and neglect have increased since Covid. Jasper County is one county with high rates of child abuse and neglect. The local Department of Family & Children services reports that they have seen an increase in the use of THC, synthetic THC and vaping over the past couple of months and no resources available to educate parents or adolescents. Jasper County BOC serves as fiscal agent for Jasper County Family Connection. Jasper County Family Connection has opportunity to apply for grant funds from the Department of Family & Children Services & Community Prevention Support in the amount of \$15,000. The funds will be used to have additional family support for the community. Jasper County Family Connection has discussed possibly setting up a Family Resource Center and would use \$10,000 of the funds to set up Family Resource Center and the other \$5,000 can be used for basic needs (rent, utilities, hotel stays, food, transportation etc.). Jasper County Family Connection will also implement some adolescent substance abuse and vaping informational sessions in partnership with the Jasper County School System and local Department of Family & Children Services. The grant requires fiscal agent for grant opportunity to be same fiscal agent as Family Connection. Jasper County BOC is fiscal agent for Family Connection Grant.

Ms. Targie Folds and Ms. Sonya Hope answered questions regarding the overall processes of Family Connection. They requested that the county continue to serve as the fiscal agent for Family Connection.

Commissioner Henry stated that he would like to see quarterly reports for funds given to Family Connections.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned for Jasper County Board of Commissioners to act as the Fiscal agent for Jasper County Family Connection for the DFACS grant. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed 4-1 (Gray opposed)

Item 2: Monticello City Elections Agreement

The City of Monticello contracts with the County to perform the municipal elections on their behalf.

Judge Brown stood before the board to request the board to sign the standard agreement with the City of Monticello for their 2024 Elections. The City covers all of the costs.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to authorize Chairman to sign the IGA “Agreement by Monticello and Jasper County for Monticello Elections 2024”. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 3: Moratorium on Accepting Subdivision Preliminary Plats- At the October 2, 2023 BOC Meeting, the moratorium on accepting subdivision preliminary plats was extended with the last date of the moratorium being February 9, 2024.

Commissioner Henry stated that he would like to see it extended another 90 days.

Commissioner Ledford stated that he would like to see it extended to the point where the Zoning Director is comfortable.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to extend the moratorium on Accepting Subdivision Preliminary Plats for 90 days. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 4: Moratorium on Rezoning Property- At the October 2, 2023 BOC Meeting, the moratorium on accepting requests for residential and commercial rezoning applications was extended with the last date of the moratorium being January 29, 2024.

Commissioner Ledford stated that we will need to work on the Use table during the moratorium.

Commissioner Gray stated that we need to look at the acreage minimum during this time as well.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to extend the moratorium to match the same end date as the Preliminary Plat moratorium. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 5: No Thru Trucks Signage Request to GDOT Resolution-

The Jasper County BOC intends to request for GDOT to install No Thru Truck signage on the following State Route locations.

SR 11 North intersection at Jackson Lake Rd
SR 212 West intersection at Jackson Lake Rd
SR 16 West intersection at Jackson Lake Rd

SR 11 North intersection at Bethel Church Rd
SR 212 West intersection at Bethel Church Rd
SR 16 West intersection at Bethel Church Rd

SR 212 West intersection at Harvey Lane Rd
SR 16 West intersection at Harvey Lane Rd

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to authorize the board to sign Resolution# 01122024-3 requesting GDOT to place No Thru Trucks signage on the GDOT right-of-way. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 6: Green Space and Community Property Ad Valorem Taxation-

The Jasper County Board of Assessors has provided a position statement regarding ad valorem taxation treatment of subdivision green space and community property.

Ms. Londa Champion and Tax Assessor Lynn Bentley stood before the board to answer questions regarding greenspace taxation.

Chairman Henry stated that the Board of Assessors and the Board of Commissioners will need to work together to solve the issue.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to table the issue for further discussion at a later date. Commissioner Gray seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 7: County Appropriations Review-

Review of county appropriations to nonprofits has been requested. A twenty-one-year history of appropriations is included.

County Attorney Mr. Nelson stated that we should have agreements with all entities receiving county appropriations.

Commissioner Henry suggested that we have each organization to come or send in a memo quarterly.

Commissioner Jones suggested that we put stipulations on funds that are going out.

Commissioner Jones motioned to have staff reach out to each entity regarding quarterly updates and create IGAs with each of them. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Item 8: Reform and Improve Mental Health Services Resolution -

ACCG is asking for the Mental Health resolution to be signed. The modified resolution draft and the original resolution draft are attached.

Mr. Nelson suggested that we remove the first “Be It Further Resolved” and replace it with the verbiage from the initial template.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the chairman signing the Mental Health Resolution 2024-0108-4. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed 4-1 (Commissioner Gray opposed).

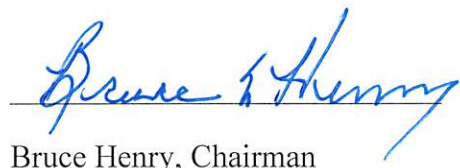
Item 9: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings as Needed: A Work Session was scheduled for January 26, 2024 for the audit presentation.

County Attorney Items: None


County Manager Update: Mr. Benton gave updates regarding Cook Road culvert being damaged again, minor damage on Aldridge and Gay Roads.

Executive Session: Commissioner Gray motioned to enter Executive Session at 10:57 a.m. for Real Estate and Personnel. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Commissioner Ledford motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Henry", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Henry, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheila Belcher", written over a horizontal line.

Sheila Belcher, Clerk