

# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session  
Courthouse Annex  
May 7, 2020  
6:00 P.M.

The Board met this date in regular session. Present via videoconference/telephonically were Chairman JT Surlles, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Stephen Fulford, Eugene Hall and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Attorney Scott Shirley and Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill.

1. Chairman Surlles called the meeting order. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick led the invocation.
2. Chairman Surlles requested that item 4b (SCRAP Project Waukeelah Highway) be removed from the agenda. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda, consisting of: Approval of the Agenda as amended, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers and Minutes for the 4/2/2020 Regular Session.**
3. County Attorney Scott Shirley introduced Ordinance No. 2020-050720-02 the Special Assessment Master Ordinance. Mr. Shirley the read the ordinance and gave a brief explanation. He also stated this would provide language for small county road projects and special assessments. Chairman Surlles inquired if this would allow voluntary implementation, to which Attorney Shirley stated this would allow both voluntary and involuntary. Chairman Surlles requested that a different version be brought without the involuntary language. Attorney Scott Shirley stated the ordinance as presented is a good standalone ordinance and could bring a draft of an additional ordinance to a future meeting. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved Ordinance No. 2020-050720-02.**
4. Attorney David Collins introduced Ordinance No. 2020-050720-01, regarding the County requiring vendors/power companies to provide explanations to various questions. He further explained that this ordinance would not prevent power companies from building lines or require them to bury the lines, but rather would require the company provide explanations on why lines cannot be located on existing routes, etc. Timothy Bryant, with Gulf Power Company, stated that the proposed project would provide a variety of benefits to Jefferson County, including \$300,000 for the County to put towards recreation. He further stated that the land code of the county is preempted by Florida Statutes and recommended the Board table the ordinance as proposed. Citizen Stephen Trent stated that Gulf Power has not shown in the past that they are forthright and he felt it was disingenuous that they tell us how great of a neighbor/partner they are for our community right before threatening us. Commissioner Hall inquired if the \$300,000 was a recurring payment or one-time, to which Mr. Bryant stated it was a one-time payment, but his company was willing to work with the county on additional partnerships moving forward. Citizen Ellyn Hutson stated that \$300,000 was a very small amount from a corporation of this size. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Chairman Surlles (who passed the gavel to second) and unanimously carried, the Board approved Ordinance No. 2020-050720-01 as presented.**

5. Attorney Scott Shirley introduced the Solar Ordinance and provided a brief overview for the Board and public. Attorney Shirley noted this was for general discussion and no action was needed from the Board at this time.
6. Commissioner Walker introduced the re-entry steps to open our community item, and stated his opinion that the Board open the boat ramp but keep the beaches at the head of the Wasiccas River closed for now. Chairman Surles spoke with Sheriff McNeill and stated that some residents feel it is time to open the beach to county residents, but others feel that opening it up could lead to overcrowding. Sheriff McNeill stated he was supportive opening the boat ramp and would take opening the beach into consideration. Chairman Surles stated his desire to give discretion to the Sheriff on this matter, as his office would be tasked the enforcement. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board voted to open the boat ramp and leave the opening of the beach to the Sheriff's discretion.**
7. Solid Waste Director Beth Letchworth introduced the item related to out-of-county abuse of the Solid Waste dump sites. She stated the need for assistance in identifying county residents at the Lloyd, New Monticello and Wacissa sites and stated that over 25 non-residents were identified trying to utilize our dump sites. Presently, the site workers have to check identification cards, which is time consuming. Her proposal is to have stickers for placement on the windshield of county residents. County Coordinator Barwick stated this would be for dumping at any of the 13 county sites. Chairman Surles commented that there may be some growing pains, but he was in favor of moving in this direction. Commissioner Barfield stated she was in favor of this plan as well, as she received many complaints about non-residents dumping at the Lloyd site. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Fulford and unanimously carried, the Board approved moving forward with the proposal.**
8. Commissioner Walker introduced the Lobbyist Registration item and stated that if someone is speaking on an issue in Jefferson County that both the Board and its residents needed to know who they are representing. For example, whether they are from Jefferson County, represent someone/entity from Jefferson County or if they work for an outside company or entity. Commissioner Barfield concurred. Attorney Scott Shirley stated that lobbyists have to register in advance so their interest would be disclosed. The consensus of the Board was for counsel to research this item further.
9. Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill gave an update on the 17-18 County CAFR. He also stated that jury trials and hearings are still not taking place and that the Courthouse remains closed the public, but that employees are still processing all documents/payments electronically filed or in the drop box at the south entrance.
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated the next Board meeting would take place on June 4<sup>th</sup>.
11. County Attorney Scott Shirley provided an update on the Capital Asphalt injunction and stated he would be in touch with the Board on this matter.
12. Commissioner Barfield commented on how nice Highway 90 from the city limits towards Tallahassee was looking and stated they were trying to restore the aesthetics to the Fred Mahan era.

13. Commissioner Walker inquired about the county-wide high speed internet item, to which Commissioner Barfield stated she had spoken with Langton & Associates and that this item was still stuck in the Treasury Department awaiting approval to move forward.
14. Commissioner Fulford provided an update on lots sold in the Industrial Park. County Coordinator Barwick praised the City of Monticello, Raymond Clark, Steve Wingate and Tom Kisamore for all of their efforts.
15. Chairman Surles informed the Board of the closing on the sale of the Yeager house on 4<sup>th</sup> Street tomorrow morning. He requested that the Board give approval to the Chairman and/or his designee so the County Coordinator could sign if the Chair were unavailable. It was the consensus of the Board to approve this request.
16. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Jefferson County, Florida**

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J.T. Surles, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court