

# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session  
November 19, 2020  
6:00 P.M.

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman Stephen Walker, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Eugene Hall, JT Surles and Chris Tuten. Also present were County Attorneys Buck Bird and Scott Shirley and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

1. Chairman Surles called the meeting order. Commissioner Fulford led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Rick Davis, Associate Dean at North Florida College, addressed the Board and discussed different opportunities/programs/offerings at the NFC. He provided materials for both the Board and the public. Commissioner Hall inquired about having a representative from NFC in the community on a quarterly basis and Mr. Davis stated that could be arranged.
3. The following people spoke in recognition of outgoing Commissioner Stephen Fulford: County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, Clerk of Court Kirk Reams, Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Barfield, Commissioner Walker, Chairman Surles, Attorney Scott Shirley, Attorney Buck Bird and citizen Paul Henry.
4. Judge Robert Plaines performed the swearing in of Commissioner-Elect Chris Tuten.
5. Chairman Surles passed the gavel to make a motion. **On motion by Chairman Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, Commissioner Walker was elected as Chairman of the Board. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Chairman Surles and unanimously carried, Commissioner Hall was elected as Vice Chair.**
6. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, General Fund/Transportation Vouchers, BOCC Minutes for the 11/5/2020 Regular Session and County Employee Christmas Gift Card—was approved.**
7. Planning Attorney Scott Shirley introduced the special assessment Valley View Home Owners Association item. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated an advertisement with the resolution of intent would be running for four consecutive weeks. He noted that this has to be done every year. Attorney Shirley stated this item would be discussed at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and that an updated schedule/calendar would be provided. Commissioner Walker inquired if any action was necessary at this time, to which Attorney Shirley responded in the negative.
8. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams introduced the Jefferson County CARES update item and stated that the funds had been opened up for new businesses and non-profits, with 13 of the former showing interest and 14 of the latter. He requested that the Board extend the deadline for all programs to November 30<sup>th</sup> and noted that any approvals would be on the warrant register for the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Hall inquired about the eligibility of volunteer fire departments; David Jahosky, with GSG, cautioned against this. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated that the volunteer fire departments could coordinate with Fire Chief Derrick Burrus to see if any funds can be received thru the county Fire Department. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by**

**Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved accepting applications until November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

9. Planning Official Shannon Metty gave an update on the Gulf Power projects committee and stated various items had been discussed such as: improved lighting, playground equipment and lighting the walking track and a new community center at the main Rec Park as well as the concession stand and improvements to the Lamont Park. She noted that it would cost \$1.4 million to re-do all of the lighting. County Coordinator Barwick cautioned against a community center, as it would have both recurring maintenance costs and likely require personnel to oversee/manage. Commissioner Barfield stated a workshop might be a good place to discuss the various projects. Commissioner Surles stated he was ready to see something happen, to which Mrs. Metty stated the concession stand item was going out for bid tomorrow. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved moving forward with the Lamont Park and Jefferson County Recreation Park concession stand, bathroom and storage facility.** Citizen Paul Henry urged the Board to learn from its history with the A Building and do it right and all at one time rather than piecemeal. Timothy Bryant with Gulf Power stated there was approximately \$1 million for community projects, but the county would also be receiving tax revenue from the transmission lines, which he estimated to be around \$1 million the first year. Mrs. Metty stated Gulf Power was also applying for some grants on the behalf of the county, including one that would extend the sewer to the Lloyd area and one for public safety. Renovating the old gym for an additional emergency management shelter was briefly discussed, but Commissioner Barfield stated a consensus from the Board would be needed before this was moved forward any further. Mrs. Metty also noted that Gulf Power performed an energy audit that would help the county realize approximately \$27,000 in savings.
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced the Florida Broadband Initiative Resolution for Reliable, High Speed Internet and stated it came to Jefferson County via the National Association of Counties and was basically a resolution supporting exactly what the County was trying to accomplish with broadband. He stated the wording had been reworked to be specific to Jefferson County and asked that any motion include the caveat that no spending would be approved unless it first went before the Board for approval. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved resolution no. 11192020-001 as described above.** It was the consensus of the Board that Commissioner Barfield be the local technology contact.
11. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick provided an update on the emergency situation (culvert) on Thompson Valley Road and stated the road should be opening up Monday or Tuesday. He noted that the total cost after reimbursement from Emergency Management would be around \$7000.
12. County Attorney Scott Shirley provided an update on the Waukeelah Highway litigation. He stated that Clerk of Court Kirk Reams had applied for a second extension, but FDOT was terminating the contract December 18<sup>th</sup>. His recommendation would be to starting the project over. Clerk of Court Reams stated the only silver lining was that the plans for this project had already been completed and paid for.
13. Commissioner Barfield asked Clerk of Court Kirk Reams if the lights were still on the Courthouse dome, to which Clerk Reams answered in the affirmative and stated he would have them turned on.

14. Commissioner Hall inquired where the county was with the A Building renovation, to which Clerk Reams stated the county was waiting for the results of two grant applications and that the funding was dependent on the legislature.
15. Commissioner Surles thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as Chairman.
16. Commissioner Walker and the rest of the Board welcomed Commissioner Tuten aboard.
17. Commissioner Barfield mentioned Homer Williams Landing was a county road and main access to Lake Miccosukee. She stated it was grown up so high that you can barely see the water and stated we should discuss using FWC funds or reaching out to FWC. She stated her desire to work on this project with County Coordinator Barwick and reaching out to FWC to review their management plan for Lake Miccosukee.
18. **On motion by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

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Stephen Walker, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court