

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
January 20, 2022
6:00 P.M.

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

1. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order and Commissioner Walker led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Chairman Hall requested that item 4c, the BCC draft minutes from 10/7 and 10/21 be taken off the consent agenda and moved to General Business for further discussion. **On motion by Commissioner Surles and seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the revised consent agenda consisting of the General Fund and Transportation vouchers was approved.**
3. Chairman Hall introduce item 5a, the County Committee Appointees. An attached worksheet was provided for review and Commissioner Tuten requested to have Kent Watson added to the Economic Development Committee. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved the attached Committee worksheet with the addition of Kent Watson on the Economic Development Committee.**
4. Commissioner Walker introduced item 5b, County Park Rules Discussion and Fee Schedule. He introduced Sheriff McNeill and Planning Official Metty who discussed the attached proposed Fee Schedule. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for Planning Official Metty to contact other similar Counties to see how they handle infractions and for County Attorney Shirley to review and refine the proposed Fee Schedule.
5. Commissioner Tuten introduced 5c, the Recreational Park Improvement Project. After giving an update on the tennis court lighting quotes and after much general Board discussion, **on a motion by Commissioner Walker seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the Board approved that after going through the County's procurement process they would fund the lights from funds set aside from Next Era.**
6. Commissioner Tuten introduced item 5d and gave an update on the Aucilla Shores project. This was for informational purposed only.
7. Chairman Hall introduced item 5e, Purchasing Card Access. Clerk Reams made a brief statement concerning the fact that in several prior Board meetings, it has been alleged that he has violated the County's Purchasing Card policy. Clerk Reams indicated that he has hired Legal Counsel to represent him and to ensure that any liability concerning the defamation of his character will be dealt with. Afterwards, Commissioner Barfield requested County Attorney Bird sign a letter asking Regions Bank to give Parrish Barwick online access to the Purchasing Card system. **On a motion by Commissioner**

Walker and seconded by Commissioner Tuten and unanimously carried, the Board approved to ask Attorney Bird to sign the letter.

8. Commissioner Barfield introduced item 5f, the County Broadband Project Update. After an update by a GSG representative on potential services, project timetables and grant opportunities, **a motion was made by Commissioner Walker and seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved allocating \$500,000 of unused Next Era project money toward the Broadband Project with the caveat to begin at Thompson Valley Road and to also use some of their infrastructure as well.**
9. It was the consensus of the Board to bring back item 5g, the (10/7) and (10/21) draft minutes to the next County Commission meeting in February 2022.
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick informed the Board that he had a meeting with Verizon representatives that discussed various strategies on how to get better wireless and device services through the use of hot spots. This was for informational purposes only.
11. County Attorney Scott Shirley informed the Board that after his conference call concerning the road bond that the next step will be for the material to go to underwriting. After underwriting is completed, the Bond funding will be next.
12. Commissioner Barfield had multiple discussion items. They included; the County's potential funding for bridge repair through FDOT, internal financial reports, septic tank compliance on the Wacissa River, potentially re-bidding the County's Engineering services contract and discussed the Dirty Pecan bike event.
13. Commissioner Tuten gave a quick update on the concession stand project at the County's recreational park. He indicated that it may be finished and ready for opening day sports in the spring.
14. Commissioner Hall thanked everyone that made the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and parade such a success.
15. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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

Gene Hall, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kirk Reams, Clerk of Court