

Jefferson County Board of County Commission
Regular Session
July 6th, 2023

The Board met this date in regular session.

Present were Chairman Chris Tuten; Commissioner Gene Hall; Commissioner Austin Hosford; Commissioner JT Surles; Commissioner Stephen Walker; County Manager Shannon Metty; County Attorneys Heather Encinosa and Evan Rosenthal.

Chairman Tuten called the meeting to order. Commissioner Hall led the Invocation and Pledge.

Commissioner Hosford made a brief statement regarding the Lloyd Sewer concern. He noted that the landowner was working on a feasibility study and at this point there were no applications or permits. He added that the County is aware of the situation and closely monitoring. He stood firm by stating the County does not support any development at this time and nothing has been approved to date.

- Agenda Item #14 Public Announcements, Presentations and Awards
 - None
- Agenda Item #15: Citizens Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items
 - Mr. Bill Snyder, resident, voiced his concern for Lloyd development and wishes that the community have the opportunity to view any plans prior to approval.
 - Commissioner Hosford acknowledge and confirmed that residents will have time to view and have their voice heard.
 - Mrs. Kellie Beck, resident, thanked the commission for their attentiveness and responsiveness in being proactive with the Lloyd situation as history has shown they do not adhere to stop work orders.
 - Mr. Dan Hamedani, resident, voiced his concerns for Casa Bianca Road. He felt speed bumps should be included to help with the constant traffic and speeders. He also stressed his concern for they type of sod being installed.
 - Commissioner Surles explained that the contractor is bound to a contract that describes the types of sod that are allowed. He also stated that he has requested an increased traffic detail to combat the speeding issue.
 - Mrs. Jennifer Tyler, resident, voiced her concern for Lloyd by stressing that the people involved with the development don't care to follow rules and regulations. She added they are bullies who tend to get what they want. She noted that Leon County's Mr. Ryan Griffin has had numerous complaints about the same landowners and developers. She also asked if the grant was from DEO and if they know the County's opposition.
 - Commissioner Walker suggested an encroachment clause be added to permit.
 - Commissioner Surles assured Mrs. Tyler that Jefferson County would not be bullied and was not afraid to fight.
 - County Attorney Encinosa assured Mrs. Tyler that DEO was aware of the opposition.

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- Continued Agenda Item #15: Citizens Request and Input on Non-Agenda Items:
 - Mrs. Lynn McGrady, resident, stated that after the work completed on Lake Road, she has had continual drainage issues. She stated that the water is being diverted to her property and her culverts are almost full of dirt. She also wanted the Board to be aware of the continual trash increase in and around the Dollar General on N. 19.
 - Commissioner Hall stated he spoke to the manager of the Dollar General about the issue with the trash and was told it would be taken care of. He suggested sending a letter regarding the issue.
 - Chairman Tuten agreed that a letter should be sent.
 - Commissioner Walker inquired further about the water runoff and instructed County Manager Metty to work with Mrs. McGrady.
 - Mrs. Elvira Wilson, resident, voiced her concern for Casa Bianca Road becoming like Lake Road.
 - Commissioner Surles explained that the County Engineers were working closely with the contractors of the Casa Bianca project.
 - County Engineer Jack Husband explained that Casa Bianca was not completed at this time and he would address concerns with the contractor.
 - Mrs. Cindy Pyburn, resident, echoed concerns for Lloyd. She noted that the past response of these developers and landowners need to be remembered. She noted that her opinion is they are in bed with City of Monticello members while leaving County Officials in the dark. Her biggest concern is simple, Lloyd has nothing to do with the City of Monticello and everything to do with Jefferson County.
 - Commissioner Walker stated the City has no purpose in Lloyd development.
 - Chairman Tuten explained that the City of Monticello received grant money and they continue to move forward although the County is opposed.
 - Commissioner Hosford noted that the City Attorney Bruce Lineback urged the City Council not to pursue the Lloyd Project but they haven't listened.
 - Commissioner Surles asked for the Board's consensus to reach out the new City Council and address concerns.
 - The Board unanimously agreed and directed County Attorney Encinosa to do so.
 - Mr. Daryl Forsyth, resident, inquired about the 2021 Growth Proposal submitted by the City.
 - Chairman Tuten stated that the application in question was not completed by the BOCC. He explained that in 2006 the BOCC was contemplating applying but so much has changed since then that BOCC decided not to back the project because the time was not right.
 - County Attorney Encinosa noted that in January a resolution to fully revoke the support of that project was passed by the Board.
 - Mr. Ryan Summerlin, resident, inquired about the northeast quadrant. He stated he was under the impression that it was FEMA hazard for the Wakulla Springs and that any sewer development would affect the spring within 52 days.
 - Commissioner Hosford directed him to meet with County Manager Metty directly.
 - Commissioner Walker suggested enacting a noise ordinance during construction out of normal hours and revoke permits when wildlife destruction occurs.

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- Agenda Item #16: Consent Agenda
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously carried, for the Board to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: attached vouchers to be paid, the account list, the Commissioners report, the CSA #2-Road Bond, the Road Department Budget Amendment and the Supervisor of Elections Office Budget Amendment.
 - Chairman Tuten inquired as to where the minutes were.
 - Clerk Reams stated they were working on them and would have at the next meeting.
- Agenda Item #17-A: John Deere Lease
 - Removed for further review.
- Agenda Item #17-B: Fire Assessment Rate
 - County Budget Officer Gus Rojas stated he was bringing this to the Board to ask for guidance. He reviewed the recommendations and stated he recommended Option #8.
 - Commissioner Walker asked if it would cover the \$200,000.00 ask and stated that whatever option the Board took would need to be offset on the millage rate.
 - Mr. Rojas explained that it would almost cover, it reduces it by \$114,000.00
 - Commissioner Walker and Surles asked Mr. Rojas to run the numbers
 - Clerk Reams stated that this is years old and should have already been done.
 - Mr. Paul Henry, resident, stated that this isn't something that should be done all at once. He explained that he ran the numbers historically and there has always been a financial burden. He recommended the increase be done incrementally and not too steeply. He agreed that it is justified but is too far gone to be fixed in one shot.
 - Commissioner Walker agreed that this has come from years of not doing things correctly but explained that now is the time to clean it up.
 - Mr. Derrick Burrus, Fire Chief, stated that he wished this could have been done without the expense of a study. He explained that he would operate within whatever budget the Board deemed but agreed there was a need for financial help. He suggested the increase of \$84.00 and if it works no need to raise it next year.
 - Mrs. Angela Gray, Property Appraiser, asked if this would be assessed to vacant land and if it has any affect on the square footage minimum/maximum.
 - Mr. Rojas explained that it would adjust residential and would also be assessed on vacant land.
 - County Attorney Encinosa stated that could be further looked at.
 - Commissioner Walker asked if the rollback rate would show a decrease on tax roll.
 - County Attorney Encinosa explained it can't be looked at in that way as it is assessed by value.
 - Clerk Reams asked to further explain the proposed vacant rate.
 - Mr. Rojas stated that his recommendation for Option 8 would be a \$0.33 rate with no charge for agricultural land.
 - Commissioner Walker suggested Mr. Rojas to crunch the numbers further and work with Property Appraiser Gray to find a happy median.
 - It was the consensus of the Board for Mr. Rojas to bring back at a later time.

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- Agenda Item #17-C: Solid Waste Assessment Rate
 - County Budget Officer Gus Rojas reviewed the topic and stated his recommendation would be \$248.00.
 - Chairman Tuten asked when the last increase occurred.
 - Clerk Reams stated that several years ago it was lowered.
 - Commissioner Walker asked to clarify the increase would only be a total of \$23.00.
 - Mr. Rojas confirmed.
 - County Attorney Encinosa explained that this was only for residential customers.
 - Mr. Paul Henry, resident, questioned the need for the increase. He reviewed the proposed number and stated it would only render a revenue increase of around \$140,000.00 which would not be enough to cover expenses. He suggested automatic gates and live feed cameras would result in a larger save.
 - Commissioner Hall asked for clarification on the reason for the increase.
 - Mr. Rojas explained that there will be shortfall in the upcoming budget years and this increase would offset that. He also noted there was going to be an agricultural hit from the State.
 - Mrs. Lynn McGrady, resident, asked if Animal Control and Mosquito Control were part of this.
 - Mr. Rojas stated no.
 - It was the consensus of the Board to follow Mr. Rojas's recommendation.
- Agenda Item #17-D: Rainbow's Edge MOU
 - County Manager Metty reviewed the proposed MOU.
 - Commissioner Surles motioned to approve; Commissioner Walker seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda Item #17-E: Redistricting Ordinance
 - County Attorney Rosenthal reviewed the proposed ordinance.
 - Clerk Reams informed the Board that the Supervisor of Elections needed to be notified.
 - Commissioner Surles motioned to approve; Commissioner Hall seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda Item #17-F: RFP Debris and Derelict Vessel Selection
 - County Budget Officer Rojas reviewed the RFP and Selection.
 - Commissioner Walker motioned to approve; Commissioner Surles seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda Item #17-G: RFP Debris Monitoring Selection
 - County Budget Officer Rojas reviewed the RFP and Selection.
 - Commissioner Walker motioned to approve; Commissioner Surles seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

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- Agenda Item #18: Clerk of Court
 - None
- Agenda Item #19: County Engineers
 - County Engineer Jack Husband acknowledged Mrs. McGrady's concerns and situation for Lake Road and stated he would look in to it as the project was being finalized. He noted that Casa Bianca was coming along and paving would begin on Monday. He addressed the concerns for the Old Lloyd Road curve and created a couple of options.
 - Commissioner Surles asked for this to be placed on the next agenda for discussion.
- Agenda Item #20: County Attorney
 - None
- Agenda Item #21: County Manager
 - County Manager Metty informed the Board that the Waukeelah Highway Railroad Bridge goes out to bid tomorrow and the Waukeelah Highway Project would be next week. She added that the Comprehensive Plan Review was complete and is going to the State. She noted that there will be a one-year period to fix and changes but there may be a grant opportunity to help offset the cost. Once Comprehensive Plan was completed the Land Development Code would be reviewed.
- Agenda Item #22: County Commissioners
 - Commissioner Walker asked if the John Deere item could be handled by the County Manager or if it needed to come back before the Board.
 - County Attorney Encinosa stated it would be on the next agenda.
 - Commissioner Hosford asked staff to look into hiring a local agent for health insurance.
 - Commissioner Hall stated his concern for the facilities at the Wacissa River and suggested finding a different company or hiring a janitorial service.
 - Chairman Tuten and Commissioner Surles had nothing further.

On motion by Commissioner Walker; seconded by Commissioner Surles; and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee' Long

Renee' Long-Jefferson County Deputy County Manager

Board of County Commissioners
Jefferson County, Florida

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk of Court