

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
Thursday, December 4, 2025
9:00 AM

The Board met on this date in Regular Session. Chairman Ben White, Commissioners JT Surles, Austin Hosford, Jessica Gramling, and Gene Hall were present. County Manager Shannon Metty, Deputy Manager Ron Russo, Clerk of Court Trey Hightower, County Attorney Evan Rosenthal, and Assistant County Attorney Kirsten Mood were also present.

The board meeting opened with approval of the agenda—with the addition of employee gift cards—and introductions of staff and regional representatives. Public input included comments on property taxes, after which the board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. General business covered adjustments to the holiday calendar, discussion of Gulf Consortium funding and potential economic and workforce development projects, identification of legislative priorities, approval of staff gift cards, and a planning department update. Additional reports noted progress on county audits, road construction on Ashville Highway, reminders about County Manager evaluations, and transportation discussions involving Jefferson Express. Commissioners closed with brief acknowledgments and suggestions before unanimously adjourning the meeting.

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance (00:00:10)**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda (00:00:51)**
 - a. Item D, Mural Agreement, has been removed from the agenda as it has already been approved. Shannon Metty requests that the payment for the gift cards for employees be added to the agenda.
 - b. Commissioner Surles motions to approve Shannon Metty’s request, seconded by Commissioner Hosford and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 3. Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards (00:01:55)**
 - a. Shannon Metty introduces her Deputy Manager, Ron Russo. She also introduces Caroline Smith from ARPC as Economic Development Representative.
- 4. Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items (00:03:17)**
 - a. Paul Henry speaks about property taxes in FL. He presents a resolution encapsulating the governor’s idea of removing all property taxes.
- 5. Consent Agenda (00:05:18)**
 - a. Commissioner Surles motions to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
- 6. General Business (00:05:38)**
 - a. 25-26 Holiday Calendar (00:05:18)**
 - i. Shannon Metty makes two edits in May, changing the 14th to the 21st. In October, the meetings will be moved to the second and fourth Thursdays.
 - ii. Commissioner Gramling motions to approve the calendar and tentative changes, seconded by Commissioner Surles and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - b. Gulf Consortium Potential Projects (00:07:00)**

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session

Thursday, December 4, 2025

9:00 AM

- i. Shannon Metty presents ideas for use of our funds, mentioning economic development and/or workforce development training, citing Bay County. She requests the board's direction for continuation of potential projects.
 - ii. Commissioner Hall asks how much money remains unspent. He proposes a park near Hopkins Landing and asks about legislative funding.
 - iii. Commissioner Surles highlights the importance of vocational workforce training.
 - iv. Counsel states that it is a lengthy process to change the SEP. The project target should be Fall 2026. For pot 3, the final deadline is 2032. The \$12 million is allocated for Jefferson County.
 - c. **Legislative Priorities for Lobbyist (00:15:25)**
 - i. She asks the board's priorities with respect to our lobbyists. Board consensus are grants and land-use bills, as well as Broadband funding.
 - ii. Commissioner Hall mentions the community center, specifically an indoor facility.
 - iii. Commissioner Surles asks about the status of the Senior Center.
 - d. **Staff Gift-Card Payment (00:20:30)**
 - i. **Commissioner Hall motions to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gramling and unanimously approved by the board.**
 - e. **Planning Department Update (00:21:04)**
 - i. David Wheeler announces the Planning Commissioner Meeting next Tuesday night and discusses the agenda items.
7. **Clerk of Court (00:27:45)**
 - a. Updates the board on the status of the audit for 2024 and 2025. We plan to be back on track for the June 30th deadline in 2026.
8. **County Engineer (00:28:22)**
 - a. Ashville Highway will deliver the first third of the road in January.
9. **County Attorney (00:29:00)**
 - a. Reminds the board to complete and submit the County Manager evaluations.
10. **County Manager (00:29:23)**
 - a. Discusses the Disadvantage Board Meetings and recommends staying with Jefferson Express for public transportation. Board consensus to look for available grants.
11. **County Commissioners (00:30:35)**
 - a. Commissioner Hall compliments the recreation department and solid waste.
 - b. Commissioner Gramling suggests sending an arrangement on behalf of the board to the Property Appraiser.
12. **Adjourn (00:31:51)**

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session

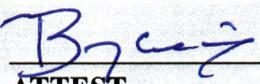
Thursday, December 4, 2025

9:00 AM

- a. **Commissioner Surles motions to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hosford and unanimously approved by the board.**



ATTEST
Cecil Trey Hightower
Clerk of the Circuit Court



ATTEST
Ben White
Chairman