

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
February 7, 2013

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairman John Nelson, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Benjamin “Benny” Bishop, Hines Boyd and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorneys Buck Bird & Paula Sparkman and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

1. Library Director Kitty Brooks announced the award of a Literacy Grant for \$10,000.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

2. County Coordinator Parrish requested that the inter-local cost sharing agreement for judicial software utilized by counties in the 2nd circuit be placed on the agenda. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the request was approved.** Chairman Nelson requested that Sunday alcohol sales issue be moved to the first item of business. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda as amended, the minutes of October 18th Regular Session, the minutes of November 1st Regular Session, the minutes of November 15th Regular Session, the minutes of the November 26th Special Session and the minutes of the December 6th Regular Session—was approved.**

ITEM 5(i): Sunday Alcohol Sales Discussion

3. Chairman Nelson recommended looking at surrounding counties before amending the ordinance. Citizens Jerry Sutphin and Paul Henry spoke in favor of Sunday alcohol sales. Citizen Kate Calvin requested that the Jefferson County Voice website be used for citizen input on the issue. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the Board approved using the website survey as an information source.** Citizens Troy Avera and Phil Calandra spoke in favor of Sunday alcohol sales. Citizen Bill Brumfield spoke against Sunday alcohol sales. Commissioner Barfield stated that the increased sales tax revenue would benefit the county, to which Commissioner Walker agreed. Commissioner Bishop stated he was not in favor of changing the current ordinance. Attorney Paula Sparkman stated that a draft would be prepared for the Board to review.

ITEM 5(a): Cell Tower Appeal

4. Planning Official Bill Tellefsen stated that the person filing the appeal asked that the hearing be moved to February 21st. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the hearing was moved to the February 21st meeting.**

ITEM 5(b): Letter of Support for Re-Designation of RACEC

5. Economic Development Director Julie Conley requested a letter of support for the 5 year re-designation of the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern that Jefferson County is a part of as well as a support letter for a staff grant. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd,**

seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, these requests were approved.

ITEM 5(c): American Hunter Update

6. Economic Development Director Julie Conley stated that the \$175,000 grant to finish the completion of the stormwater facility at the Industrial Park had been approved. She requested permission to apply for a Rural Business Enterprise grant to help offset some of the construction costs for the American Hunter facility. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the Board approved Mrs. Conley's request.**

ITEM 5(d): Granny-Flat Tax Request

7. Citizen Bill Brumfield requested that the Board consider implementing a Granny-Flat exemption. This is where tax payers who build additions or perform renovations to provide living quarters for a parent or grandparent get a tax exemption up to 20% of the homestead value. Property Appraiser Angela Gray stated this would be an estimated \$1800-\$11,000 impact to county revenue. She also stated that the county would need to notify other taxing authorities in the county that would be affected. Commissioner Walker stated that this was a good thing for the county residents taking care of loved ones. Chairman Nelson asked that Property Appraiser Angela Gray make this presentation to other taxing entities and also bring back information on expanding the low-income senior citizen homestead exemption.

ITEM 5(e): RESTORE ACT Discussion

8. Commissioner Barfield gave an update on the RESTORE ACT and stated that the county could be receiving between approximately \$2-\$10 million. She recommended sending out an RFP for consulting services prior to holding a workshop. Commissioner Boyd stated it was premature to issue an RFP because of the dynamic nature of the process. A workshop was set for March 5th at 4 pm to further discuss this issue.

ITEM 5(f): Crepe Myrtle Maintenance Discussion

9. Commissioner Barfield brought forth the matter of the poor maintenance of the crepe myrtles along US-90 and requested that a letter be sent to FDOT requesting maintenance. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the request to send a letter was approved.**

ITEM 5(g): Tax Abatement Discussion

10. Commissioner Barfield stated that she did not want to abate taxes unless there was a substantial benefit to the county. County Attorney Buck Bird presented a sample ordinance to the Board and this item was set for public hearing at the night meeting in March.

ITEM 5(h): Naming Opportunities Guidelines

11. Commissioner Barfield presented this item. Attorney Bird stated that to take effect, this item needed to be placed on a future agenda and adopted by a resolution. Commissioner Bishop stated that naming should be an honor for past achievements, not something that should be bought.

ITEM 5(j): Re-Districting Discussion/Decision

12. Attorney Bird asked the Board when it desired to set up meetings on this issue to decide whether changes needed to be made to districts. He also presented a proposal from Bryant, Miller & Olive. Attorney Bird stated that he recommended that the districts be the same as the School Board, but that they did not have to be the same and it would be up to the School Board to decide. Commissioner Barfield asked that Bryant, Miller & Olive look at the districts to decide if they needed to be changed and also requested that the prison population issue be addressed. Attorney Bird stated that Bryant, Miller & Olive needed to be contracted with in order to make any legal recommendations. Chairman Nelson stated it would be difficult to divide the prison into each district. Commissioner Barfield stated that she wanted equal representation and that this law firm understood the history of redistricting in the county and assured there would be public input. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and carried 4 to 1 (Nelson opposed), the Board accepted the proposal and decided to move forward with the re-districting process.** Citizen CP Miller expressed concern about the county not putting this out for bid. Attorney Bird stated that the Board could extend contractual agreements for professional services. Commissioner Boyd stated that the contract could be placed under two separate agreements with two separate companies to allow it to go under the \$10,000 threshold.

ITEM 5(k): Road Inventory

13. Citizen Phil Calandra presented a slideshow documenting the Board's decisions related to the Road Inventory list. He explained that this was the result of an objective and public process which could be used as an information tool on deciding what to do with the future of the county roads as a working and living document. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Clerk as the Custodian of the Road Inventory list.**

ITEM 5(l): Road Construction Bids

14. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick introduced this item. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Peavy and Sons as the low bidder for asphalt construction on roads that have been prepared by the county. On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Littlefield Construction as the alternative surface supplier.** County Coordinator Parrish Barwick requested that staff negotiate with the low-bidders on three turnkey projects to get within an acceptable range of costs that the county could manage on its own. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4 to 1 (Boyd opposed), the request was approved.** Commissioner Boyd stated he would rather work on these issues in a workshop setting by developing a plan. Commissioner Barfield stated that constituents are telling her to move forward and that she believes in proceeding with the roads that have been stabilized. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the decisions to place asphalt on Indian Hills and to go with the recommendation from the County Coordinator on the Lloyd Acres project were approved. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the decision to place chip-seal surface on Tyson and Casa Bianca Roads was approved.** County Coordinator Parrish Barwick requested the ability to look at equipment for road construction in order to cut the cost of construction and hauling. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the request was granted.**

ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items

15. Commissioner Bishop informed the Board that FWC would be removing the dam at Sneeds Smokehouse in order to restore the area to its original condition.
16. Commissioner Barfield stated that the Board needed to officially move the US-19 project to Tier 1 status on the bicycle and pedestrian master plan.
17. Commissioner Walker stated that there was an unresolved issue related to the county obtaining a secondary boat ramp from the Boland family. He further stated that the county may have to revisit the Malloy landing issue if his negotiations with the Boland's were not productive.

ITEM 11: Adjournment

18. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
19. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman