

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
August 5, 2014

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Betsy Barfield, Commissioners Benjamin öBennyö Bishop, Hines Boyd, John Nelson and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Coordinator Parrish Barwick, County Attorney Buck Bird and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

1. Commissioner Barfield requested that the budget for the TDC Marketing Plan be moved to the Budget Workshop. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved the consent agenda as amended, consisting of the Approval of the Agenda and adding the “Game Changer” discussion as item 5a under General Business.**

ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items

2. Citizen Paul Henry thanked Chairperson Barfield for pulling the TDC Marketing Plan for discussion at the upcoming budget workshop.
3. Citizen Janet Hines stated that speed bumps or other speed deterrents needed to be discussed for Limestone Road. She stated speeding had been an issue in the past and was even worse now that the roads were paved. She stated the Sheriff’s Department had been called but people were continuing to speed. Commissioner Walker stated he would need Board approval and a policy on how to spend money/get approval for speed bumps. Commissioner Boyd stated this was an issue the Board would be facing. Citizen Jessie Chunn stated that rumble strips were not helping. Chairperson Barfield asked Commissioner Walker to work with County Coordinator Parrish Barwick to get speed bumps put in place. Citizen Paul Henry recommended a speed survey be conducted to get a baseline for the problem and volunteered to help. Dr. Vivian Royster recommended the Board study Richview Drive in Tallahassee for the type of speed bumps being utilized. Commissioner Bishop stated that sometimes speed bumps were necessary.
4. Citizen Troy Avera requested that electronic copies of the minutes be published online in a timelier manner.

ITEM 5a: “Game Changer” Discussion

5. Economic Development Director Julie Conley explained the öGame Changerö project and stated that the EDC and Board would need an idea of infrastructure/cost/funding sources needed to make this a reality. She requested Board approval for up to \$30,000 to hire professionals to provide studies on bond revenue streaming, development and infrastructure development. Commissioner Boyd stated this was a major investment and that the County needed professional help to get answers. Commissioner Bishop stated that several studies of this nature had been completed with no results and that the group interested in coming to Jefferson County knows it is feasible or they wouldn’t be asking. Ms. Conley stated that she along with Clerk of Court Kirk Reams would be meeting with people on Thursday to discuss different aspects of the study and that it wouldn’t be \$30,000 to one person for a survey. Commissioner Boyd inquired as to where the funds would come from, to which Clerk of Court Reams responded from professional services.

Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve up to \$30,000 for Julie Conley (on behalf of the EDC) to utilize in the study, to which Commissioner Walker seconded for discussion. Citizen Paul Henry asked what exactly the "Game Changer" was, to which Ms. Conley responded it was a youth indoor/outdoor, multipurpose facility at the I-10 and Lloyd Interchange. Citizen Paul Henry stated he believed this should be funded by the people that want to use the facility, not with public funds. Citizen Troy Avera encouraged the Board to approve the \$30,000 because this was a great opportunity. Citizen Phil Calandra stated that the \$30,000 would bind consulting services to help the Board determine if they wanted to get to the "execution" stage of this project. **The motion carried 4 to 1 (Bishop opposed).**

ITEM 5b: SCOP/CIGP Resolutions

6. Chairperson Barfield introduced this item. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, Resolution # 2014-080514-01 for the SCOP project for St. Augustine Road in the amount of \$875,613 was approved. On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, Resolution # 2014-080514-02 for the SCOP project for Watermill Road in the amount of \$815,493 was approved. On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, Resolution # 2014-080514-03 for the CIGP project for Tecumseh Road in the amount of \$249,190 was approved.**

ITEM 5c: Audited Financial Report

7. Auditor Chris Johnson, with Carr, Riggs & Ingram briefly reviewed the county's audited financial. He stated that the county was in a healthy financial condition. He stated the county had a positive fund balance and revenue exceeded expenditures. Mr. Johnson recommended amending the budget at September 30th if any line items had been over-expended, which happened the previous year. County Coordinator Barwick stated that the County could have budgeted more money but the road projects were completed faster and therefore more money was expended than expected. Mr. Johnson went over the different comments and stated that the Tax Collector's Office had a deficit in her fund due to legal bills for services rendered. He also noted finds in the HUD grant but stated his confidence this would not be an issue in the future as a third party now administers that grant. Commissioner Boyd noted it was not a bad audit at all, with the exception of the Tax Collector issue.

ITEM 5d: Land Development Code Revision

8. Chairperson Barfield stated that the Planning Commission had spent several years revising the code and the next step was to hold two public hearings in the coming months.

ITEM 6: County Coordinator's Report / CDBG Housing Plan and SHIP Certification

9. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that the CDBG housing plan was required to include such things as ADA compliance, a self-evaluation and a grievance procedure and related documents. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution # 2014-080514-04 for the CDBG housing plan.** Citizen Paul Henry inquired as to how much this plan would cost and where the funds would come from, to which Coordinator

Barwick stated he was not sure of the cost but it would be paid from maintenance program.

10. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the Board approved Resolution # 2014-080514-05 for the SHIP certification.**

ITEM 7: PUBLIC HEARING – AMENED FIRE ASSESSMENT ORDINANCE

11. County Attorney Buck Bird introduced this item and stated this was a special assessment taxô not ad valoremô and there were no exemptions. He stated a letter would be sent to put owners in the city on notice that their property will be assessed. He also added that the monies collected would only be used for purposes of fire service. Citizen Troy Averra stated he was in favor of funding the Fire Department but felt the board would hear some feedback from the public at upcoming public hearings. Citizen Tom Dunn expressed support for the amended ordinance. He wanted to clarify that the additional funds were not for the Fire Station, but rather operations. He also stated that this could potentially help curb increases to homeowners insurance policies. Cititzen Paul Henry stated that people receiving services should help pay for the services. Commissioner Boyd stated he did not support the ordinance and that there were other options such as ôbeefing upö the volunteer departments. Commissioner Walker stated he was 100% in favor of this ordinance and that the County had been supplying fire protection to the city free of charge for years. Fire Rescue Chief Mark Matthews noted that he had worked hard to attract volunteers but it was difficult to get them everywhere, not just in Jefferson County. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 4 to 1 (Boyd opposed), the Board approved Ordinance # 2014-080514-01 to which gave the preliminary approval to amend the ordinance.** It was stated that the final reading would be held at the morning meeting in September for public hearing.

ITEM 8: Commissioner Discussion Items

12. Commissioner Bishop inquired as to whether the work at the Industrial Park had been completed, to which County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated not yet.

ITEM 9: Adjournment

13. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
14. **On motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk