

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Agenda

Thursday, September 12 2024

5 PM

The Board met on this date for a Regular Session. Chairman JT Surles, Commissioners Chris Tuten, Austin Hosford and Gene Hall were present. Commissioner Ben White attended via Zoom. County Manager Shannon Metty, County Attorney Heather Encinosa, Assistant County Attorney Evan Rosenthal, HR Director Renee Long, Clerk Elect Trey Hightower, and County Budget Officer Gus Rojas were also present.

Budget Meeting

1. County Manager Shannon Metty read the tentative millage rate into public record. Budget totals \$48,659,542 for the appropriated expenditures and reserves.
 - a. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to begin the public hearing, Commissioner Hall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
 - i. No public comment.
 - b. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to close the public hearing, Commissioner Hall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
 - c. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to allow Commissioner White to participate via Zoom, Commissioner Tuten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
2. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to approve Board 24-25, 7.8226 mils, Commissioner Tuten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
3. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to adopt Resolution 24-25, Commissioner Hall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
4. **Adjourn**

Regular Session Hearing

5. **5 PM Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**
6. **Public Announcements, Presentations, and Awards**
 - a. **Opposing Extreme Pro-Abortion Amendment 4**
 - i. Bill Snyder requesting resolution in opposition to Florida's Amendment 4. Resolution read by Soloman Styles. Requesting the BOCC to adopt the resolution.
 - b. **County Attorney**
 - i. Does not see County purpose as the resolution appears to state inaccuracies. If BOCC wishes to adopt the resolution, it is recommended that they clean up the language and bring it back to BOCC.
 - c. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to approve the resolution, Commissioners Hall and Tuten recused themselves, and Chairman Surles passed the gavel to Hosford and seconded the motion.** No further discussion; resolution passes. Hosford returned gavel to Chairman Surles.
 - d. **Stephanie Syles**
 - i. Spoke on the laws already in place on the subject.
7. **Citizens' Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items**

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Agenda

Thursday, September 12 2024

5 PM

- a. Rachel Herman
 - i. Spoke on animal control. Currently the facility smells and is at a dump. She requested a different facility for animal control to offer a new location better suited and in better condition.
- b. Commissioner Hosford
 - i. Would like to explore the property change; Chairman Surles agrees.
- c. Wendy McKerick
 - i. Citizens speaking – donating money for kennels – no suitable property found – invested \$10k in new facility but the engineers will not hold the price.
- d. Commissioner Tuten
 - i. This process will take time. He has discussed the plan with County Manager Shannon and Robby. He will move forward with Shannon and Robby’s plan and then look into another situation. Shannon’s plan is to relocate compactor to new location and designate northern area to the animals – re-landscape the area for the animals. The new location is not the best option due to employees (only 1.5). Once through the permitting phase, they will present to the Board – new kennels by Christmas.
 - ii. Hosford wants a committee to address ongoing issues.
- e. Natalie Binder
 - i. Setting up a friends’ group who could advocate for animals and raise money as a charity.
- f. Patricia Reed
 - i. Wants to follow through so that animals may be adopted.
- g. Chairman Surles
 - i. Leave this as a Permanent Agenda item until resolved. It must be talked about every two weeks moving forward.
- h. Leeman R
 - i. When a community honors one of its citizens, it should be placed on Highway 19. I do not see any signage on 19 going north or south.
- i. Steve Bents
 - i. Regarding kennels—wants to make sure things move on.
- j. Lynn McGrady
 - i. Say no to Amendment 3 which proposes the legalization of recreational marijuana. She would like the Board to support a resolution against Amendment 3.
- k. Jack Stevens
 - i. Agrees with Lynn McGrady. Trulieve’s motive is that of greed.

8. Consent Agenda

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Agenda

Thursday, September 12 2024

5 PM

- a. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Tuten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- b. Victim Impact Statement—Reams Case
 - i. County Attorney Evan Rosenthal
 1. County victim counsel prepared a draft of statement to present at sentencing hearing.
 - ii. **Commissioner Hall motioned for the Attorney to speak at hearing, Commissioner White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
 - iii. Lynn McGrady
 1. Does not approve of what has been done. As for what Reams has done, she believes the Board should bear some responsibility.
 - iv. Commissioner Tuten
 1. BOCC did fight against the actions of Kirk Reams for three years. He supports reading the statement at the sentencing hearing.
 - v. Jenny Cooley
 1. Inquires as to the location of the money that was stolen and whether it will be paid back.
 - vi. Chairman Surles
 1. In response to Cooley: that is what the statement is for and addresses.
 - vii. Carolyn Hamilton
 1. Spoke regarding the title company where most of the money went.
 - viii. Surles
 1. That would be information that the State Attorney has.
 2. **Motion and second on the victim impact statement were unanimously approved. This unanimous approval is in reference to item (b) ii.**
- c. Planning Director Appointment
 - i. The new Planning Director, from Madison County, will appear at the next meeting.
 - ii. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to approve the Planning Director appointment, Commissioner Hosford seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- d. Aucilla Shores ARR 2024
 - i. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to approve, Commissioner Hosford seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- e. Valley View ARR 2024
 - i. **Commissioner Hosford motioned to approve, Commissioner Tuten seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**
- f. Fire ARR 2024

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Session Agenda

Thursday, September 12 2024

5 PM

- a. Waukeelah SCOP Project waiting on permits from Army Corp of engineers. Ashville highway construction should start on Phase I.

13. County Commissioners

- a. Commissioner Hall
 - i. Wacissa River dogs loose. Commissioner White states that signs are needed and once they are up, he can enforce – Sheriff – Hall was there on weekend – deputy in place – did not point it out
- b. Commissioner Hosford
 - i. Bicycle(s) on roads, which is (are) dangerous. People are requesting resolution – bikers blocking road.
- c. Sheriff
 - i. They are allowed to be on the road, but they are supposed to stay on the right side of the lane to allow passing. Wants single file ordinance but cannot supersede state law. Multiple citizen complaints. The Attorney will investigate the matter and report back.
- d. Commissioner Hosford
 - i. Light on Old Lloyd and 90 – must go to DOT - need committee to start back up. County Manager Shannon will get with City to move forward.
- e. Chairman Surles
 - i. Flashing lights on dangerous curve on Old Lloyd are working well.
- f. Commissioner Hosford
 - i. Possibly getting that section of Old Lloyd on Scop and Scrap to fix that section. Shannon and Gus potentially on board.

14. Adjourn

- a. **Commissioner Tuten motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Hall seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**