

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 19, 2016

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

1. Commissioner Benny Bishop led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance before the meeting was called to order.
2. Jennifer Johnson, interim director of the Jefferson County Health Department, introduced herself to the Board. Commissioner Board stated that the approval of Ms. Johnson’s appointment should be placed on a future agenda.
3. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the December 1st, 2015 Regular Session and the minutes of the January 5th, 2016 Regular Session—was approved.**
4. Citizen Phil Calandra provided the Board with an update on Commissioner Hall’s request for an annual report and stated he had already collected a large amount of data.
5. Citizen Willie Tyson expressed concerns about Tyson Road.
6. Chairman Stephen Walker requested to pull item 5(a) from the agenda. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended.**
7. Ron Cichon, of Economic Development Council, provided an introduction on the Game Changer project. Camille Tharpe, with Government Services Group, provided the Board with revised revenue projections based on recommended changes to the Game Changer funding model. She also fielded questions from the various Board members about the projections. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to move to the next phase of due diligence including defined facility cost projections, memorandum of understanding, letters of intent, development agreements, management and operation agreements and other legal documents with an allocation to not exceed \$70,000. Commissioner Hall seconded this motion for discussion.** Commissioner Bishop asked multiple questions to land owner Arun Kundra regarding the cost of the land, wastewater fees and capacity of the wastewater facility. Commissioner Walker expressed concern that if this deal did not work out, it could bankrupt the County. Commissioner Barfield wanted it reflected in the record that she was concerned about Old Lloyd Road access and the citizens of Lloyd. Citizens Phil Calandra, Paul Henry, George Haddock, Jerry Sutphin, Marianne Arbulu, Dick Bailar and Rick Carter provided comments about the project. **The motion carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Walker opposed).** Property Appraiser Angela Gray implored the Board to be responsible. Sheriff David Hobbs concurred with Ms. Gray.
8. County Engineer Debbie Preble, with Preble-Rish, stated the County had received two bids for the US-19 Beautification project. Low bidder Plant Man was missing critical elements in the bid packet and was also not submitted on time. She recommended the Board approve the only qualified bidder Piney Grove Nursery for this project at the cost of just over \$319,000. She stated this bid was over budget, but that DOT provided additional funding that was surplus from other counties. Commissioner Bishop expressed

concern with awarding the project to someone who overbid. Commissioner Boyd stated it was bureaucracy and technicalities that kept a young, local business from winning the project. **Commissioner Barfield made a motion to approve qualified bidder Piney Grove for this project. The motion died for lack of a second.** Attorney Bird stated the Board had bid rules that the Board needed to follow. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to re-bid the project, to which Commissioner Bishop seconded for discussion.** Stephanie Wall, with The Plant Man, stated the deficiencies were an oversight on their end. There was a lengthy discussion over re-bidding and different scenarios and options at this point in the process. **The above motion failed 2 to 3 (Barfield, Hall and Walker opposed).** Commissioner Barfield asked the County Engineer to restate her recommendation, to which Ms. Preble stated her recommendation to approve qualified bidder Piney Grove Nursery. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved Piney Grove the county engineer's recommendation.**

9. Clerk of Court Kirk Reams stated he was working with Commissioner Barfield and citizen Phil Calandra on the proposed Brownfield north of Monticello and would be reporting back to the Board at a future meeting.
10. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
11. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman