

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Session  
October 4, 2016

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

1. Commissioner Bishop led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Citizen Paul Henry informed the Board and distributed flyers about a run to be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee to raise money for burn victims.
3. Dick Bailar, on behalf of the Legislative Committee, stated he would be back at a future meeting for the Board’s legislative priorities.
4. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously carried (4-0, Barfield not present), the consent agenda was approved.**
5. Jake Whitfield, with Red Hills Sports Group, addressed the Board regarding a private group interested in moving forward with Project Game Changer. Crit Smith, land owner and representing Jamaro Inc., addressed the Board and stated his family was looking to privately fund the project via a lender. He stated that all of the risk would be on his family and not the County. He provided the Board with a draft Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Boyd discussed the MOU and stated that as soon as the debt was repaid, tax revenue from specified quadrant would revert to the County. Commissioner Bishop stated the County would have other expenses related to the project as Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS and Solid Waste and stated his desire to see the county receive a percentage of the profits from the onset. He also stated concern about setting a precedent. Mr. Smith clarified that his family was not asking for gas tax revenue, but rather an equal and off-setting amount from the County. Commissioner Boyd stated his belief that this would not detract from current businesses, but rather bring more business to the County. **Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the MOU between Jefferson County and Jamaro Inc. regarding Game Changer, to which Commissioner Boyd seconded for discussion.** Mr. Smith stated his intention was not to get a decision today, but rather to discuss the MOU at length and reach a proposal with which the Board was comfortable. **Commissioner Hall withdrew his motion and Commissioner Boyd withdrew his second.** Commissioner Boyd stated he hoped the Board could tell Mr. Smith what changes they wanted to he could bring a revised MOU to a future meeting. Mr. Whitfield informed the Board that moving forward may also allow the County to tap into the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> cent tax since the facility would qualify as an event center per GSG. Citizen Phil Calandra stated he felt the language of this iteration of the project was the same as on the referendum. Commissioner Boyd stated the main difference was the County had no financial risk. Citizen Ann Holt stated she voted against the project as presented on the referendum but believed that this version of the product could work. She also inquired how the sewer would be paid for, to which Commissioner

Barfield stated CDBG or BP money among other ways. Citizen Paul Henry encouraged the Board to act judiciously.

6. Gretchen Avera and Katrina Walton with the Tourist Development Council presented a proposal to the Board to increase the Tourist Tax by 1 cent (from 2 cents to 3 cents). Ms. Walton noted that Jefferson County is among the lowest in the state at 2%. Citizen Paul Henry stated it was not a bad thing to have the lowest tax in area and that he was opposed to an increase. Citizen Troy Avera spoke in favor of the increase and described ways the money could be utilized. Commissioner Barfield asked for estimate of how much additional revenue this would generate, to which Ms. Walton stated approximately \$15,000. Business owner Arun Kundra stated he was not opposed to increasing the tax but he believed the money should be spent to promote hotels. Commissioner Boyd stated he was in favor of the increase but felt it would be more appropriate to have the discussion in tandem with discussions on the Lloyd Interchange. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Bishop and failed 3 to 2 (Boyd/Hall opposed; a supermajority was needed), the TDC request for an increase in the Tourist Tax did not pass.**
7. Commissioner Bishop excused himself from the meeting to attend a funeral.
8. Attorney Heather Encinosa, with Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, gave a presentation to the Board about MSTU and Private/Public funding for road improvements. At the conclusion of her presentation, she fielded questions from the Board and public and stated the Board would need to approve a resolution by 1/1/2017 in order for it to take effect in the next calendar year. Citizen Phil Calandra inquired about the scope, to which Ms. Encinosa stated it was mainly for local and subdivision roads. Citizen Paul Henry stated his belief there was no real downside to this and he encouraged the Board to move forward. **On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried (4-0; Bishop not present), the Board approved moving forward with this and requested Attorney Encinosa bring back sample resolution of intent to a future meeting.**
9. County Engineer Debby Preble was not present for the purchasing policy discussion and it was the consensus of the Board to place this item on the next agenda.
10. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick stated that Boards and Committees would be discussed at the next Board meeting.
11. Attorney Buck Bird encouraged the Board to work with Attorney Mark Mustian moving forward on any discussions regarding Project Game Changer.
12. Attorney Bird noted he still had not heard from the School Board on their intentions for the next payment for legal settlement of the re-districting suit.
13. Commissioner Hall stated the City of Monticello was working to re-surface Mamie Scott Drive and he requested County Coordinator Parrish Barwick bring funding options for re-surfacing Rocky Branch Road.

14. Commissioner Hall stated he had been having some issues with his county email and apologized if he had not responded to anyone.
15. Commissioner Hall commented he would like to see more of the “miniature libraries” throughout the County and said he would work with County Coordinator Barwick to accomplish this.
16. Commissioner Barfield stated she was disappointed the TDC tax increase did not pass.
17. Chairman Walker inquired about possibly having the first morning meeting of every month at 4 pm rather than 9 am. Commissioner Barfield requested this item be placed on a future agenda for discussion with the new Commissioners after the elections.
18. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
19. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

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Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk