

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Session
August 2, 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 Chief Deputy Clerk Tyler McNeill.

1. Commissioner Hall led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.
2. Citizen John Nelson announced that the Howard Academy Class of 1966 would be observing their 50th class reunion from August 19th through August 21st. He provided a resolution to be placed on the next agenda for approval. The consensus of the Board was to add this item to the consent agenda of this meeting.
3. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda as amended and the resolution for Howard Academy Class of 1966—was approved.**
4. Citizen Anthony Charles inquired about the run down Welcome Center at the state line. Commissioner Barfield stated a letter could be sent from code enforcement requesting the owner clean up the property. Citizen Paul Henry stated you could not apply 2016 building codes to a 1950’s building and that the Board was dangerously close to infringing on people’s rights. Commissioner Bishop stated it was not the Board’s business to tell people what to do with their property.
5. Commissioner Barfield introduced the budget discussion and stated she had several questions. Her first question about was about the increased funding for Animal Control. She asked if the County could partner with the Jefferson County Humane Society for spaying/neutering. County Coordinator Barwick stated his desire to have Solid Waste and Animal Control Director Beth Letchworth present for any further discussion on this item. Commissioner Barfield requested that Beth Letchworth be present at the Thursday budget meeting.
6. Commissioner Barfield introduced the Small Business Development program line item budgeted for \$25,250. Commissioner Hall stated we did not need to spend this money, as FAMU offered similar services for free. Small Business Development program director Marcia Elder presented a report to the Board and discussed the future of the Small Business Development program after her involvement ends later this year. There was a lengthy discussion of what the Board should do with the client records in Ms. Elder’s possession. County Attorney Buck Bird stated that returning the records to the clients is the best option, but that the County would need to retain the records if they are not returned. Citizen Paul Henry discussed the state of Florida’s records retention schedule and told the Board where it be downloaded at no charge. Chairman Walker stated the \$25,000 for Small Business Development could be moved to professional services for future use with another vendor.

7. Commissioner Barfield introduced the topic of the Fire budget and stated she felt the County should fund the fire truck and equipment out of the fiscally constrained money and let Fire Chief Matthews find the money in current budget for additional overtime and retirement increases. Commissioner Bishop stated he was unsure if the Board should fund all three vehicles, to which Commissioner Barfield stated her belief the County should fund the vehicles now while the money is available. County Coordinator Barwick stated the Fire Department was not in general fund and was supposed to be self-sustaining via fire assessment and that was why Chief Matthews proposed the increase to the fire assessment. He cautioned against mingling general fund revenues and fire assessment/fee based services. Commissioner Boyd stated it was bad policy to mix funds, but if the Board was determined to draw down the reserves he felt the request should be smaller and not for all three new pieces of equipment. Commissioner Bishop offered to meet with Fire Chief Matthews and County Coordinator Barwick to bring back a proposal to the budget meeting Thursday night. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved funding \$576,000 for new equipment out of general fund cash reserves.**
8. Commissioner Bishop stated there were three areas in his district where oak trees hang so low that they are making contact with vehicles. He stated he would like to see some money placed into the Road Department budget for tree trimming/removal.
9. Commissioner Barfield wanted to clarify that \$267,000 of BP Sales tax refund money would be spent on roads in upcoming budget year. County Coordinator Barwick stated the minutes from that meeting did not presently reflect that, but he would go back and listen to the audio to confirm.
10. Attorney Bird discussed the Canvassing Board for the upcoming primary election and stated his opinion that no Board member should serve because of the referendum item on the ballot. It was the consensus of the Board to recommend John Jones for the Canvassing Board.
11. County Coordinator Parrish Barwick reminded the Board of the Game Changer workshop to be held tonight at the annex as well as a budget workshop on Thursday at 6 pm.
12. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.
13. **On motion by Commissioner Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Chairman

Attest: _____
Clerk