

Jackson County Commission

Meeting

February 14, 2022

The Jackson County Commission met February 14, 2022 in the Commission boardroom. Those in attendance were Chairman Bill Nance, Danny Rich, Jason Venable, AJ Buckner and Kevin McBride. County Attorney John Porter was also present and Assistant County Administrator Denise Johnson recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Chairman Nance noted that a quorum was present. John Porter gave the invocation and Commissioner McBride led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the agenda of the meeting and work session for February 14, 2022 was made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Buckner. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

There were no awards or presentations.

Public comments:

Betty Bellamy, treasurer of Jacob's Well Ministry spoke on behalf of the Board for Jacob's Well, a food pantry at Skyline and supporter of the Backpack Buddies program, also. She mentioned how they had continued the food pantry throughout COVID with drive through pick up of shelf stable and frozen foods. The food pantry is open the 3rd Saturday of each month. She asked the Commission to support Jacob's Well by donating the funds for 5 years of food in the amount of \$60,000 (\$12,000 x 5 years).

Brittany Williams spoke regarding the need for a Tee ball field and parking at North Sand Mountain Park. They already have the required volunteer labor along with material and equipment donations to provide the necessary improvements to be approved and monitored by the Parks Manager, David Coggins. No monetary funding is needed from the Commission to make the necessary changes.

Motion to adopt the minutes as provided from the January 10, 2022 meeting and January 24, 2022 meeting was made by Commissioner Buckner and seconded by Commissioner Venable. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to approve City of Bridgeport funding request for Riverfront Park with \$25,000 to be paid from the Industrial Development Board (IDB) funds was made by Commissioner Rich and seconded by Commissioner Venable. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to approve Southern Health Partners amendment to health services agreement for base compensation was made by Commissioner Venable and seconded by Commissioner Rich. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to approve fee for schematic phase at Jackson County Park at Hytop and award Goodwyn Mills Cawood (GMC) the contract was made by Commissioner Buckner and seconded by Commissioner McBride. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to approve increasing Commission share of cost for security work at Juvenile court building from \$8,000 to \$11,790 (50/50) was made by Commissioner Venable and seconded by Commissioner Buckner. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to award contract for two digital repeaters using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to Mobile Communications America, the lowest bidder, was made by Commissioner Rich and seconded by Commissioner McBride. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to approve and sign Procurement Procedures for Rural Public Transportation at Council on Aging was made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Rich. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Work Session

EMA:

Communication Tower update – Paul Smith, EMA director, gave a slide presentation of the communication tower rebuild. The project has been completed and came in \$3,000 under proposal.

Park:

Tee Ball Field at North Sand Mountain Park – Parks Director David Coggins spoke about the need for a Tee ball field and additional parking at North Sand Mountain Park. He has been to the park and reviewed the requested changes from the community. The area requested for Tee ball field is already being used for practice, but is a grass field and not usable for games. The area requested for the parking is also being used for parking in a wet, grassy area. He agrees the improvements would be beneficial to the North Sand Mountain Park. Due to the time restraint and needing to get this established before ball season, it was decided to set aside the rules to expedite the improvements.

Motion to set aside the rules was made by Commissioner Buckner and seconded by Commissioner Venable. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Motion to approve recommendation to establish Tee ball field and additional parking area at North Sand Mountain Park with the Parks Director to monitor the progress and completion of the improvements was made by Commissioner Rich and seconded by Commissioner Venable. All members voted affirmatively, motion carried.

County Boat Ramp Safety and Lighting – David Coggins discussed various boat ramps and contracts/issues with each one. This will be continued on next meeting with a speaker from the State.

Commission:

My Lake Guntersville Briefing and Discussion – Rick Roden gave background of how My Lake Guntersville was created and spoke about the need for control of aquatic weeds. He mentioned the Economic Impact study that was done and had been supported by various groups and municipalities including Jackson County Commission.

“Don’t Drop it on Alabama” – Chairman Nance said he had a truck and should be able to go to Montgomery to pick up provided supplies.

Liberty Lane Building – Revenue Commissioner Jeff Arnold gave presentation of proposed layout of building and discussed the advantage to the taxpayers and especially the elderly and handicapped with close, level parking as opposed to the courthouse parking. He also discussed how the layout would allow more social distancing. Probate Judge Victor Manning discussed leaving 1 employee at courthouse with documents for convenience of attorneys. County Extension Coordinator Matthew Webb spoke about the advantages of relocating his office and services with the capability of expanding their services and training with the accommodations of this building. The Commission discussed having a public meeting in the near future to allow comments from the citizens and taxpayers of Jackson County. This discussion will be continued.

Comments from Staff:

County Engineer gave updates on various projects across County.

Parks Director talked about some issues at Sportsman’s Landing. ATVs are not allowed on TVA property and barriers and signage have been added at Sportsman’s Landing to help prevent this. He also said there is to be no hunting within 500’ of boat ramp.

Comments from Commission:

Commissioner Buckner – Happy Valentine’s Day.

Commissioner Venable – Happy Valentine’s Day. Be careful.

Commissioner Rich – Happy Valentine’s Day. Be safe. Go Rams.

With no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Rich and seconded by Commissioner Buckner, with all members voting affirmatively, to adjourn until the next meeting on February 28, 2022 @ 3:30 pm in the Commission boardroom.