

JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jones County Government Center

Virtual Meeting

First Tuesday Business Meeting

April 7, 2020

6:00 PM

The Jones County Board of Commissioners met for their First Tuesday business meeting at 6:00 p.m. April 7, 2020 by teleconference. Members present were:

Chris Weidner – Chairman
Sam Kitchens- Vice Chairman - District I Commissioner
Jonathan Pitts – District II Commissioner
Tommy Robinson – District III Commissioner
Daylon Martin - District IV Commissioner
Ashley Brodie – County Attorney
Jason Rizner – County Administrator
Shannon Wagner – HR Director / Interim County Clerk

Chairman Weidner called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Attachments to the minutes are filed separately from the minutes in a clasp envelope labeled by meeting in the commissioner’s vault.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Chairman Weidner asked for approval of the agenda. Comm. Pitts made the motion to approve the agenda. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – Unanimous.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Comm. Kitchens gave the invocation.

PLANING AND ZONING:

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

CONSENT AGENDA AND FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1. Third Tuesday | - | March 17, 2020 |
| 2. Executive Session | - | March 17, 2020 |
| 3. Called Meeting | - | March 20, 2020 |

Comm. Pitts made the motion to approve the minutes. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – unanimous.

VISITORS - Three minutes limit –

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chairman Weidner spoke to the Board about paying part time employees during the COVID-19 shutdown. Comm. Kitchens stated that this was a situation where the employee were asked to stay home and the right thing to do would be to pay them. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to pay the part time employees during the COVID-19 shutdown. After discussion, Comm. Kitchens amended his motion to include that the part time employees would be paid their average weekly pay for the days that Jones County was shutdown. Comm. Pitts seconded. Vote – 4-1. Comm. Robinson voted nay.
2. Chairman Weidner spoke to the Board about waiving rental fees for the Bradley Wayside Auction during the COVID-19 situation due to not being able to run the auction. After discussion, Comm. Martin added that Central Georgia Technical College also needed to have their rental fees waived. Comm. Pitts made the motion to waive the rental fees for Bradley Wayside Auction and Central Georgia Technical College for the month of April. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – 4-1. Comm. Martin voted nay.
3. Comm. Pitts spoke about the importance of technology and making sure the County could still be functional if another shutdown were to occur. Comm. Pitts asked Jason Rizner, Will Harp, and Shannon Wagner to do a study on each department to determine what would be needed for each department to work from home and report the results back to the Board.
4. Comm. Pitts spoke to the Board about allowing a food truck to be placed in the parking lot of the old high school. This would allow the employees to walk over and pick up lunch and the County could charge a fee to allow the truck to use the parking lot. After discussion, Ashley Brodie, County Attorney, said this could be a violation of the gratuities clause if no fee was charged and it would have to be made available to anyone who wanted to use the parking lot. Comm. Kitchens and Comm. Martin both thought it would be a good idea to allow this. Jason Rizner and Ashley Brodie are to research and report back to the Board.
5. Jason Rizner, County Administrator, spoke to the Board about amending the SPLOST resolution to include the new election date. Comm. Pitts made the motion to approve. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Comm. Kitchens spoke to the Board about the well testing that needed to be done in Juliette. Ashley Brodie, County Attorney, stated that the county paying for the services would be a violation to the gratuities clause and this could put the County in a potential lawsuit. Mrs. Brodie also stated that if the contamination was caused by the County that would make a difference, but since it did not, we should not get involved.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Matt Goins, Parks, Rec & Golf Director, spoke about the maintenance being done at the Golf Course and remaining closed until the maintenance is over.

Don Graham, EMA Director, stated that he had delivered over 500 masks and gloves to the County and City offices. Mr. Graham stated that everyone would have PPE at the Government Center.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: (3 MINUTES – SIGN IN) –

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: -

Comm. Robinson thanked Jason Rizner for setting the meeting up by teleconference.

Comm. Martin did not agree with opening the County back to the public. Mr. Martin stated that the Board needed to think about what needed to be done to keep the employees and citizens safe. He stated that there are 7 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Jones County and we needed to give PPE to all the employees and have sanitation stations setup.

Comm. Kitchens shared Comm. Martin's concerns. He stated that services needed to be done online and by phone. Comm. Kitchens thanked Jason Rizner for getting the meeting ready and doing it by teleconference.

Comm. Pitts thanked Jason Rizner and Will Harp for getting the meeting ready by teleconference. He also thanked Don Graham for getting the PPE. Comm. Pitts read a verse from Psalms and asked everyone to keep praying and be safe.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: (1 MINUTE – NOT SIGNED IN) –

ADJOURNMENT: Comm. Pitts made the motion to adjourn. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED

Jones County Board of Commissioners

Chris Weidner, Chairman

Sam Kitchens, Vice Chairman / District I Commissioner

Jonathan Pitts, District II Commissioner

Tommy Robinson, District III Commissioner

Daylon Martin, District IV Commissioner

Jason Rizner, County Administrator

Shannon Wagner, HR Director/ Interim County Clerk