**JEFF DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING-CLOSED TO PUBLIC**

**July 21, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Ricky Crosby, Vice Chairman Vann Wooten, Commissioners James Benjamin, and Brad Crews, Attorney Carla Powell, and Clerk Heather Freeman

Chairman Ricky Crosby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner James Benjamin gave the invocation. Chairman Crosby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 3RD, JUNE 16TH, JUNE 24TH, & JUNE 26TH 2020**

**Motion:** To approve minutes for June 3rd, June 16th, June 24th, and June 26th, 2020

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS**

**Motion:** Approve to pay monthly bills.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY RETREAT**

County Clerk spoke on the information that was given by Andrea Taylor about the retreat. She stated that this would develop a strategic plan for economic development and the branding community input session for their campaign.

**APPROVE/DENY TO ADOPT RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FROM THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

County Clerk presented to the board, this is to apply for a DNR grant to help with repairs and upgrades to the 341 Parks & Recreation site. The Regional Commission will write the grant for us at no charge.

**Motion:** To approve to adopt resolution to apply for grant

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVE/DENY TO SPLIT THE COST OF THE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN**

County Clerk presented information given by Andrea Taylor. She presented that The Downtown Master Plan that they are planning to do is through the Regional Commission. The Cost is $6500. Andrea is asking that the JDA/Chamber, Board of Tourism, City and County split the costs. JDA and Tourism have both voted to support with $1625 donation. The plan is to get the downtown area a Rural Zone through DCA. They cannot apply for the Rural Zone designation without a downtown master plan. They are asking County to support with $1625.

**Motion:** To approve to support the downtown master plan and share the cost of $1625

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Motion Carried**

**DISCUSS CHAMBER BLOOD DRIVE**

County Clerk presented the information. She stated the blood drive would take place on Tuesday, July 28, at the Chamber from 10am-3pm. This is a competition between County and City for bragging rights and social media posts celebrating.

**APPROVE/DENY THE HIRE OF A GRADE OPERATOR AND CDL DRIVER FOR ROAD DEPARTMENT**

**Motion:** To approve the hire of employee for Road Department

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVE/DENY TO ADOPT POLICY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES DURING CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Attorney Powell stated it is the policy discussed in the last meeting, she drafted it out for it to be sent out.

**Motion:** To approve to adopt policy for public safety employees during coronavirus covid-19 pandemic.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Chairman Ricky Crosby

**Motion Carried**

**Discussion**: Commissioner Wooten stated he knows there are people laid off at the county because of people waiting to get tested and they are coming back without test or results. How can you go about not letting them work if they are an operator on a piece of equipment, why can’t you just let them work?

Commissioner Crews stated you probably can, but do you want to subject yourself to the possibility of something else happening. Commissioner Wooten stated you go to other places and nothing else is going on there. Commissioner Crews stated he understood that, but this is the way the CDC looks at. However that is not what is being voted on, this policy is for public safety.

**APPOINT MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF TOURISM**

County Clerk presented the one application submitted by Chelsea Mabey for the Board of Tourism.

**Motion:** To approve Chelsea Mabey for the Board of Tourism.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**DISCUSS LOCAL CONTRACTORS**

Commissioner Benjamin asked that we taper this item.

**DISCUSS RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Wooten asked if all signs were put on the county trucks, that they were delivered. Commissioner Crews stated they need to be on the trucks.

Chairman Ricky stated we needed to move the 341 project along with the restrooms and concession stand. Commissioner Wooten stated he had a conversation with the City and it is a stale situation. He also stated he feels the City brings in a lot of our Sales Taxes and he feels the County should finish the project if the funds are available, as cheaply as we can. Commissioner Crews asked Commissioner Wooten so we should not hold them accountable for a signed contract? Commissioner Wooten stated he is not saying not to hold them accountable, he would just like to finish the project. Commissioner Benjamin stated, there is a line that needs to be drawn with future projects. Chairman Crosby asked if we had the money to finish it. Commissioner Wooten stated the building for the concession stand has already been bought in the previous year. Commissioner Crews stated it needs to be finished, if we have the funds we need to finish it. He continued to say however a contract is a contract and he agrees with Commissioner Benjamin, if the City is not going to withhold their end, then we do not need to agree to move forward on any other projects in the future.

Attorney Powell stated to keep in mind the board just adopted the resolution to apply for a grant to help with some of the repairs.

Reporter Tommy Pruser asked if he could say something, he stated he served 8 years on the City Board and was on the committee that signed the contract. He feels as a tax payer for both the County and the City, the City should uphold that contract.

Commissioner Crews stated that it’s said we don’t help the City, but we just agreed to spend money on their water project and they are not spending anything on. He also stated, yes it is helping county business as well, but it is their project. They are the only one benefiting from it.

Reporter Pruser feels the Commissioners should talk with the City Board. The Commissioners all stated they have talked with different members of the board.

Commissioner Wooten stated he would go before the City board at their next meeting.

**Motion:** To approve to finish 341 Recreation Restrooms and Concession Area as long we can afford it.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Crews informed the board that he was not fully prepared to discuss this in detail, but wanted to talk with the board about COVID-19 tests. When the pandemic first started you could get your test within three days, now it can take up to ten days to get back due to the large number of tests being performed. Commissioner Crews stated a doctor contacted him about this issue and informed him that there is a quicker way to receive results back, it is just more expensive. Jeff Davis County Hospital feels that having this equipment to be able to run the test in house would benefit the county, they would just be losing a large amount of money when performing each test. The hospital has been contacting businesses to ask for participation to help offset the cost or the lost that the hospital is losing on the test. Commissioner Crews stated they have asked if the county would be interested in helping. No amount has been given, once an amount has been given we will bring back before the board and discuss.

Commissioner Wooten stated they are going to start widening Hwy 268 in September or October and wanted to know if they could pile dirt where that emergency tower is at the caution light. He stated he has talked with Administrator Carter and Chief Wasdin and they did not see an issue with it. Commissioner Wooten also stated he would call the adjacent landowners to check with them as well.

Chair Crosby handed the commissioners the mobile home ordinance. He stated there have been complaints on some of the mobile homes that were being moved and they need to look over the ordinance so they could discuss in the next meeting. Commissioner Crews stated the land owner can put convince on the land, but it’s only good for 20 years, unless it is renewed during the 20 years. There is a code of ordinance, it is just not being followed completely. Commissioner Crews feels is does need to be addressed in the next meeting.

Commissioner Benjamin asked how Administrator Carter was doing and if he needed more time off. Chairman Crosby stated he was back at work and had mentioned that to him. Commissioner Wooten stated he was working till 3:00 PM each day. Commissioner Crews stated he wished that until he got his strength back if he wanted to come in, if he would work till lunch and then be available by phone. All the commissioners agreed and Commissioner Crews stated he would talk to Administrator Carter about it.

**Adjourn – 6:30 PM**

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Heather Freeman, Clerk Ricky Crosby, Chairman