

AGENDA  
THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
February 12, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
JOHNSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT ANNEX

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners held their REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING on February 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Johnson County Government Annex. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. led the Invocation.

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. led all in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Felice Pullen made a motion to accept the minutes of the last Regular Monthly Meeting held January 8, 2024. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous 5-0.

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated the amount of bills from the General Fund for the month of January amounted to \$208,990.46. Total amount of bills from all funds for the month of January was \$314,675.76. Chairman McAfee then called for a motion to approve the bills for January. Commissioner Mike Keene made a motion to approve the monthly bills for January of \$314,675.76 from all funds. Commissioner Felice Pullen seconded the motion. The vote to approve the bills was unanimous 5-0.

County Administrator Bill Lindsey gave the Financial Report. As of today, the General Fund will have a balance of \$1,073,038.25 after the monthly bills are paid. **A COPY OF THIS FINANCIAL REPORT WILL BE FILED WITH THESE MINUTES.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Consideration and Approval of Amendment to Subdivision Ordinance – County Administrator Bill Lindsey and County Attorney Joseph Sumner and several other department heads had a meeting with the District Health Director this morning. County Administrator Lindsey stated the main issue the Health Department has with our Subdivision Ordinance is a need for some clarifications as to what exactly their role is in our ordinance. Lindsey stated there are a couple of sections where the ordinance refers to the Health Department, as far as having to approve plats and water and septic systems. Lindsey stated they were trying to understand what their role is. Lindsey stated there are some things that we need to clarify, and there some things we were already looking to address anyway, particularly the issue with backdoor subdivisions, and also going back and taking a look at the minimum acreage to be considered a subdivision. Lindsey stated we will get the Health Department more involved in the drafting process as we go, but we do want to take a look once we get the Subdivision Ordinance in a little better place. Next

we want to look at the Mobile Home Ordinance and the Mobile Home Park regulations as those have long been in need of an update. This item was tabled.

### **New Business**

- A. Harold McClendon- Harold McClendon was not present at this monthly meeting. Therefore, no discussion or action was taken.
  
- B. Johnson County Development Authority Board Appointment- Reappoint Dr. Justin Ragan- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. presented to the board a letter from the Development Authority of Johnson County on reappointing Dr. Justin Ragan to serve on the Board of Directors for another six-year term. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board that Dr. Ragan's current term expires March 31, 2024, and the next six-year term will begin April 1, 2024 and run through March 31, 2030. Chairman McAfee stated to the board we don't have to wait a month on reappointments. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. made a motion to reappoint Dr. Justin Ragan to serve on the Board of Directors for the Development Authority of Johnson County for a six (6) year term. Commissioner Felice Pullen seconded the motion. The vote to reappoint Dr. Justin Ragan to serve on the Board of Directors for the Development Authority of Johnson County for a six (6) year term was approved unanimously 5-0.
  
- C. Approval of Needed Repairs to Case Tractor-Road Department- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. presented to the board a copy of a bill from Tidewater Ag & Construction from Brooklet, Georgia. County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board that the Road Department had one of the Case tractors that had some issues and had Tidewater Ag & Construction Company look at the tractor. Lindsey stated the issue was with the PTO, and it had a leak around the shaft. Investigating the situation, they found where the seals were cracked, as well as the housing that holds the PTO on the tractor, so they replaced all of it. Lindsey stated the price amount of the repairs is the main reason for bringing it before to the board for approval. Lindsey stated to the board the amount of the repairs totals ten thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars and one cent (\$10,425.01). Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. asked for a motion to approve the needed repairs to the Case tractor. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw made a motion to approve the needed repairs to the Case tractor. Commissioner Larry Pope seconded the motion. The vote to approve the needed repairs to the Case tractor in the amount of ten thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars and one cent (\$10,425.01) was approved unanimously 5-0.
  
- D. Approval of Annual Donation to Johnson County Rural Volunteer Fire Departments- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated to the board that we customarily every year give the Johnson County Rural Volunteer Fire Departments a thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each station. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. made a motion to approve the annual donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to each of the Johnson County Rural Volunteer Fire Departments. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The vote to approve the annual donation of one thousand

dollars (\$1,000.00) to each of the Johnson County Rural Volunteer Fire Departments was approved unanimously 5-0.

- E. Approval of Two New Patrol Vehicles- Sheriff's Office- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated to the board the Johnson County Sheriff's Office sold off some old Dodge Chargers and needed to replace them with two new patrol vehicles. Both new vehicles are 2023 Ford F-150 pickup trucks from Riverside Ford in Macon. One truck totaled \$52,000.00, while the other cost \$55,000.00. Chairman McAfee stated that Major Jeff Coleman saved the county over twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00) on these vehicles and wanted to thank him. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw had a question were there any grants for the new patrol vehicles, and County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated the new patrol vehicles would be paid by SPLOST funds. Chairman McAfee stated by selling those Dodge Chargers, it would pay for half of one of the new patrol vehicles. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. asked for a motion to approve the two new patrol vehicles. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw made a motion to approve the two new patrol vehicles for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Larry Pope seconded the motion. The vote to approve the two new patrol vehicles for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office was approved unanimously 5-0.
- F. Courthouse Update- County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board the window installation on the second floor of the building has been completed, and contractors began work last week on installing the new windows on the first floor. Due to weather it slowed them down today, but it is supposed to be dry tomorrow and they will pick back up on the new windows on the first floor. Also, they will begin this week refinishing the flooring. They will start in the second story first, and as they complete that they will move down to the bottom floor. Once they get done with flooring, the final piece of the puzzle would be the installation of the new carpet upstairs in the courtroom and balcony, as well as the stairwells and the Marcus Street entrance on the incline that leads up to the security check point. Lindsey stated that everything remains on track for work to be completed by the end of March, or first of April. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated the elevator in the courthouse is torn up and does not work, and Lindsey confirmed it was tore up. Chairman McAfee stated that the elevator is tied to the alarm system, so he suggested to the board to go ahead and approve some funds for the elevator and alarm system so the board wouldn't have to wait on the elevator contractor to come in. EMA/Fire Director Shawn Wombles stated to the board that the alarm system is outdated, and they came and looked at it about a couple of months ago due to some issues. Wombles stated their suggestion was to disable the system until we got done with renovations, and then they will come back in and basically redo the alarm system, due to it being so old. Wombles stated we just need to replace the whole thing. Also the sensors and motion detectors were suggested to be replaced with more updated stuff. Wombles stated he wasn't sure if they could replace what we have already since the systems are tied together. When the Fire Marshal inspector came by to do their inspection, he made us tag out the elevator so that no one would be able to go into the elevator.

Only we can go in there with a fire key and operate it if there was some type of emergency. Commissioner Mike Keene asked once we get everything done with the alarm system, will the elevator go back to working. Wombles stated there is some kind of repair, but not sure what kind needs to be done on the elevator. Commissioner Keene stated he had seen where we paid the elevator company nine thousand eight hundred dollars (\$9,800.00), and he was wondering if that was a regular monthly bill or was that part of the contract. Lindsey stated they have been continuously billing the county, and we have told them that the elevator wasn't in service due to the building being not in use. Commissioner Keene asked will the regular maintenance contract cover what needs to be fixed, or will it cost the county more. Lindsey stated it all depends on who we go with. The alarm system was installed by EMC Security. The issue with them is they are no longer based in Sandersville but are now based out of Atlanta. Lindsey stated we had ran into an issue because they had the alarm system here in the Annex Building, due to us trying to get a tech to come down. That is why we switched to FEMAC. Lindsey stated what he would like to do is give FEMAC a shot, but also want to give Southeastern Fire & Burglar, which is Pineland Telephone, a chance to quote. Lindsey stated he wanted them come look at it, and let them quote it and see if we might be better off with them. Lindsey stated he can also ask FEMAC, but he is not super crazy as to what he has seen out of them so far based on the service. He thought that Southeastern Fire & Burglar was quite frankly better from his experience, but he thought it would be fair if they both come and look. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. made a motion to approve the elevator and alarm to get fixed once the renovations are done. Commissioner Larry Pope seconded the motion. The vote to approve the elevator and alarm to get fixed once the renovations are done was approved unanimously 5-0.

- G. Development Authority Report- Hugh Darnley, DAJC Executive Director stated to the board that La Palmas Mexican Restaurant opened January 29, and have been doing pretty well. They have been open every day from the time they started, but until last Sunday they announced they will no longer open on Sundays. Darnley stated this will give their employees a day off. He also has the graduation banners for Main Street available for high school seniors, and those orders need to come in by this week so he can get them ordered, and can get them put up around downtown. Darnley stated since the La Palmas Mexican Restaurant has opened up, he has had more calls about buildings downtown that he has had in the previous year.
- H. EMS Report- County Administrator Bill Lindsey stated to the board the EMS report. Lindsey stated that Johnson County EMS responded to one hundred sixty five (165) calls in the month of January. Lindsey stated they had a collection total of thirty six thousand nine hundred seventy-eight (\$36,978.00) dollars for the month of December, and that was down a good bit from last month. Lindsey stated Congratulations to Jehrico Pinkston, who has been in paramedic school and has graduated. Lindsey stated he has passed both his state and national exams, and he is now both a state and nationally accredited paramedic.

- I. Fire Report- EMA/ Fire Director Shawn Wombles presented to the board a copy of the fire report for the month of January. Wombles stated they had thirty-five (35) calls for the month of January. Wombles stated they had three (3) structure fires, and we had five (5) wrecks. We finished up with forty-nine (49) wrecks last year, and it looks like we are going for another record year. Commissioner Mike Keene asked about the Jaws of Life, and Wombles stated we have not ordered them yet. He stated we are trying to work some kind of deal to obtain them. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated that out in his district, there has been some type of arson last month, and we have had three fires that are deliberately set beside the highway. Chairman McAfee stated one was on Hwy 319 South, and then they got a call for Hwy 57 West, a fire was set in two places. When they got through at those fires, they got another call on Tucker's Grove Church Road. Chairman McAfee is asking the general public if they see anything to please report it.
  
- J. Stoney Birt Appearance Planned for March 23, 2024 at Courthouse Square- County Attorney Joseph Sumner stated to the board that Stoney Birt is coming to town on March 23, 2024 and will be on the Courthouse square. Sumner stated if you ever listened to the podcast "In the Red Clay", it is a very interesting podcast and he recommends everyone to listen to it. Sumner stated it was the number one podcast on Apple and iTunes. Sumner stated Stoney Birt has agreed to come here. Netflix is working with him on a contract, and they are looking to make him a deal for a mini-series. Once they do that, he will not be able to make public appearances anymore. Sumner stated Stoney Birt is the son of Billy Sunday Birt, who is referred to as the most dangerous man in the history of Georgia. He was directly responsible for fifty-six murders, with a trail itinerary of two hundred. Sumner stated Billy Birt was convicted and sentenced to the death penalty in Jefferson County. He was the Dixie Mafia's Hit Man. Sumner stated the podcast is about the story of what happened. He thought it would be good for Birt to come, and it would get lot of people coming from out of the area to see him. Sumner stated he knows Birt will be bringing one of the cars that his father used to run boot leg whiskey in, and it's a 429 Cobra Cyclone. He thought it was clocked doing two hundred twenty mile per hour somewhere on a liquor run. Sumner stated there is a local connection here, and the beginning of the podcast starts out with the prosecutor that was killed in Cherokee County that was bombed with dynamite. Billy Sunday Birt was the hit man that the hit was first offered to but he turned it down, due to him having a policy of not killing judges or prosecutors because he thought it was bad for business. Sumner stated Birt had a backup crew that did it, and his name was Floyd Hoard. It was an amazing turn of events that the bombers were caught in Johnson County, and they were overheard discussing the bombing at Sid's Diner, which is now Sumner Pharmacy. Sumner stated he will have the cars parked at the courthouse square, and he didn't think it needed a permit per say, but just wanted to let the board know that is what they would like to do. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. asked Sumner if the board needed to approve this, and Sumner stated no. He will have them park the cars on the end where Sumner Pharmacy is. Sumner stated he will keep everyone posted, and he thought Stoney Birt will do a book signing from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Sumner

Pharmacy just because of the connection there, and then go across the road at ten. Then he will give a little presentation about the history, the cars, and who his daddy was. Sumner stated this is generally available to anyone, and it's free to everybody. Sumner stated that Sheriff Greg Rowland worked courthouse security where they tried Billy Sunday Birt in Jefferson County, and it was one of the most famous trials in Georgia history. Sumner stated it almost bankrupted Jefferson County, due to the expense of the trial for Billy Birt. Sumner stated he thought it would be good for the community with all the connections here. Commissioner Mike Keene asked the board do we need to make sure to coordinate with McKinstry to make sure we don't have any issues all of sudden. Sumner stated he thought about just corner off one section on the side where Sumner Pharmacy is located.

- K. Chamber Annual Banquet- Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated the Chamber banquet will be held at the College Street March 28<sup>th</sup>, and County Administrator Bill Lindsey needs to know how many tables we will need. Chairman McAfee stated that the tables have gotten more expensive, and it holds eight people. Lindsey stated that each table has gone up about a hundred dollars from last year when it was \$450 per table. Lindsey stated this year it is five hundred fifty dollars per table, and last year the county paid nine hundred dollars for two tables. Lindsey stated if we get two tables again it will cost eleven hundred dollars (\$1,100.00). Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. asked the board do we need to go with one or two tables. Lindsey stated normally the order is that we offer it to commissioners first, and then it goes to Constitutional Officers and elected officials. Lindsey stated if we still don't have two tables full, then we will open it up to department heads. Last year we were down to two department heads and some staff to just get two tables filled. Lindsey stated to the board this was his concern that this year with the cost of the tables going up, do we want to spend that much money on two tables, but it really depends on who all wants to go. Lindsey stated that Ms. Betty Williamson needs to know by the first of March, and you don't necessarily have to make a decision tonight. Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated to the commissioners to let Lindsey know if you're going to not. Commissioner Mike Keene asked could there be a sign-up sheet to the people that normally go, and Lindsey stated he will get one done.

Public Comment(s) **Limit Five Minutes**- No public comments were made.

### **Executive Session**

Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr. stated that the board needed to have an Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation.

Commissioner Felice Pullen made a motion to close Regular Session. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded that motion. The vote to close Regular Session passed unanimously 5-0. Regular session was closed at 6:52 p.m.

Commissioner Larry Pope made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Felice Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to enter into Executive Session passed unanimously 5-0. The board entered into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.

After the Executive Session was completed, Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw made the motion to close the Executive Session. Commissioner Felice Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to close Executive Session passed unanimously 5-0. Executive Session was closed at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioner Larry Pope made a motion to re-enter into Regular Session. Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw seconded the motion. The motion to re-enter into Regular Session passed unanimously 5-0. Regular Session resumed at 7:08 p.m.

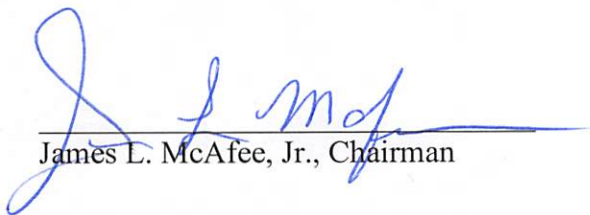
### **Resume Regular Session**

As a result of Executive Session, no action was taken.

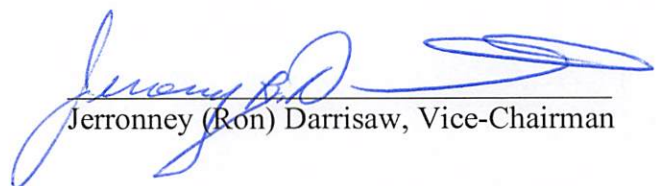
Commissioner Larry Pope made a motion to adjourn this Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Felice Pullen seconded that motion. The vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioners present for this Regular Monthly Meeting: Chairman James L. McAfee, Jr., Vice-Chairman Ron Darrisaw, Commissioner Larry Pope, Commissioner Mike Keene and Commissioner Felice Pullen.

Commissioners absent from this Regular Monthly Meeting: None



James L. McAfee, Jr., Chairman



Jerronney (Ron) Darrisaw, Vice-Chairman