

**Village of Jacksonville  
Special Council Meeting  
August 6, 2025 7:00 PM**

The Village of Jacksonville met in special session with Council President Angela Strock presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Council members present were Angela Strock, Jay Chapman, Cameron Lowery, Rachel Gratz and Butch Chapman. Also present were Solicitor Andrew Grillo and Fire Chief DJ Henry.

Councilperson Lowery motioned to excuse Eric Clift from the August 6, 2025 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Butch Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Gratz motioned the approval of the June 25, 2025 Regular Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Butch Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Gratz motion the approval of the July 7, 2025 Special Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Butch Chapman. All Council members voted "yes", except Councilperson Lowery who abstained due to being absent from the July 7, 2025 special meeting. Motion carried.

Council President Angela Strock asked on behalf of Mayor Smathers if Hunter Harp took the firefighter class or passed the test. Floyd Conkey responded on behalf of Fire Chief Henry that Hunter Harp took the class and passed the test. Conkey reported that Hunter Harp's fire certification is under investigation by the State. Harp has been issued an EMT certification and is allowed to work as an EMT. Any further information would need to be obtained from Fire Chief Henry. Gratz asked if he is working as an EMT for Jacksonville because Jacksonville does not have Emergency Medical Services. Conkey responded Harp is not working as an EMT for Jacksonville. Gratz asked if Harp is allowed to be working for the fire department while the investigation is conducted. Conkey stated that Harp is not responding on fire runs and cannot until the investigation is complete and his certification is issued.

Strock also reported that Mayor Smathers would like to cancel the regular August meeting as it will be during the Old Settlers Reunion. Councilperson Gratz stated she thinks the meeting should be held to get updates on the grants because residents are asking her about the grants and she does not have the specific information. Councilperson Butch Chapman stated Gratz could get the information from Rockwell without holding a meeting. Chapman stated the last he spoke with Rockwell the grants were all waiting for award announcements and there was no new information available. Strock said she has been getting questions regarding the specific work being done with the grants as well and would like an overview. Chapman stated it will be very busy during the meeting and parking will be an issue. Chapman stated he would rather reschedule the meeting for early September and doesn't understand why the meeting needs to be held to get information they could obtain by calling Rockwell or emailing her. Chapman provided items he could recall being in the grants and stated that the restrooms have to be moved. Chapman expressed concerns about moving the restrooms up by the park entrance. Chapman stated he will make a motion every spring to rent portable restrooms for the summer to place closer to the ball field if the new restroom is placed by the entrance. Chapman also expressed concerns regarding how to prevent vandalism of the new facility. Gratz stated she wants to get in the habit of knowing what grants are in progress and having more input on them. Council agreed to hold the regular August Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at the regular time. Gratz stated this will also give Council the opportunity to see the Old Settlers setup and address any issues before the festival begins.

Fire Chief Henry requested adding Bill Ray to the fire roster now that he passed the test and is carded. The primer failed on the engine and Johnsons EVS will be working on it next week. Henry attended the Homer Township Trustee meeting in June and all issues were worked out. Homer Township has ordered items for Jacksonville's new brush truck and they should be received in the next two weeks. Henry stated

he met with the Old Settlers Reunion Committee earlier this evening and the parade route will be the same as previous years with a few minor adjustments. Queens will be brought down Eighth and Palmer Street, dropped off at the stage and the parade will continue through and park on Palmer Street past the stage. Old Settlers does not want to parade to go to Kroger to turn around and would prefer to drop down Eighth Street. Henry stated pump testing is scheduled for September 8. Training for August will be chainsaw safety and awareness and will be held at the Trimble Park. Henry asked if there is a time limit to get purchase order back when requested. Henry stated he turned in a purchase order request on July 8 and didn't receive the purchase order for 4 weeks. Henry stated getting invoices paid is becoming a problem. Gratz asked if there is a timeline established and stated she is not familiar with the process. Henry explained that they must be signed by the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer has to check that funds are available. Henry stated he would like to have authority to just make the purchases. Councilpersons Jay and Butch Chapman clarified that everyone is required to have a purchase order. Gratz asked if there would be a Resolution or Ordinance setting a timeline for purchase orders. Grillo stated it would follow the State's rules. Henry reported that the department has taken 30 runs since April 2025.

Councilperson Butch Chapman stated that "Desirae Hart" should be updated to reflect "Desirae Harp" in the June 25 Council Minutes. Councilperson Butch Chapman stated the purchase order issue should probably go to the Finance Committee. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for before the August 27 Council Meeting at 6:00P. Henry stated the Durango is still on the insurance even though it has been sold. Councilperson Lowery stated if the title hasn't been transferred then the Village still has possession of the vehicle. Councilperson Butch Chapman stated that Rockwell was directed to remove it from insurance when it sold. Council President Strock stated that new information was received and the title will be transferred next Friday and the insurance will be cancelled at the same time.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motion to appoint Francisco "Bill" Ray to the fire roster. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Solicitor Grillo had nothing to report.

Council President Strock reported on behalf of Fiscal Officer Rockwell. Strock stated the insurance certificate for the Old Settlers still does not reflect the Village as the certificate holder. Council was satisfied with the certificate provided. Proof of insurance has not yet been provided for the helicopter.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned the approval of April and May financial statements and bank reconciliations. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Strock. All Council members voted "yes", except Councilperson Gratz who abstained due to being absent from the June 25, 2025 meeting when the reports were presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Henry requested a Fire Committee meeting. A Fire Committee meeting was scheduled for August 27, 2025 at 5:30P.

Council President Strock requested on behalf of Fiscal Officer Rockwell a water leak credit due to failure of Village equipment. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned the approval of a water leak credit for the full cost of water above average usage due to failure of Village equipment over the course of seven months. The credit is for account 01260-001 in the amount of \$267.49. Motion was seconded by Council member Gratz. All Council voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Gratz reported that she spoke to Kelly Herbert, owner of Corner Deli & Pizza, who is okay with vendors being front of her business during Old Settlers Reunion.

Councilperson Strock stated she spoke to Rockwell regarding the culvert that was removed at the Grove Park. Strock stated the culvert is going to be left as an open ditch and she would like to see barricades put up during Old Settlers Reunion to prevent damage to cars pulling into the Grove. Councilperson Chapman stated he thinks it is easier to pull in without the culvert. Chapman stated there are future improvements

planned for the area, but he doesn't want to waste money on it now. Chapman stated there haven't been that many people at the Grove and he doesn't think it's a concern. Council would like the ditch cleaned out.

Councilperson Butch Chapman stated at the corner of Palmer Street by his home there is a hole in the yard. Chapman stated he will send the bills to have his vehicle realigned to the Village if the holes aren't repaired. Hot mix needs to be ordered and holes in town need repaired.

Strock stated she received a complaint about Brown Alley needing graded. Fiscal Officer Rockwell was asked by Strock to notify the workers about Brown Alley.

Councilperson Butch Chapman stated he spoke to resident Clinton Augustine regarding a bush on his property that Fire Chief Henry requested be trimmed back. Augustine stated he will not trim the bush and the Village is not to touch anything on his property. Chapman said that Augustine owns half of the road. The road only exists because of Athens Metropolitan Housing being built. Chapman stated that Augustine has done his homework and if the Village pushes the issue about the bush, he will likely install a fence down the middle of the road, which he feels would be his right. Chapman stated the railroad owns the remainder of Tenth Street near the Augustine residence. Chapman stated he thinks it is best to let sleeping dogs lie and drop the bush issue. Chapman stated another piece of guard rail should be installed at the old Dog Trekker residence because the original one was stolen.

Councilperson Lowery stated something should be done about the truck that damaged the new pavement on Palmer Street. The individual responsible for the damage no longer lives in Jacksonville. Lowery presented photos of the truck on jack stands digging into the new pavement. The truck was moved during paving, but it was put back on the new blacktop. Councilperson Chapman stated that Fiscal Officer Rockwell reached out to the landlord of the truck owner, but he does not know the outcome of the call. Council discussed how to enforce the removal of abandoned vehicles on the Village streets.

Councilperson Gratz stated a resident complained about vehicles trying to outrun buses via the alleys when school lets out. Gratz asked if the Sheriff could be asked to monitor this. Councilperson Butch Chapman said they will not enforce local ordinances; they can only enforce state statutes.

Acting Mayor Strock entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilperson Butch Chapman and seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman to adjourn. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

  
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Acting Mayor Angela Strock

  
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Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell