Village of South Jacksonville

Mayor Richard Samples *Trustee Paula Belobrajdic-Stewart* *Trustee Tom Jordan*

Deputy Village Clerk Mindy Olson *Trustee Michael Preston* *Trustee Steve Retzer*

Attorney Roland Cross *Trustee Vacant* *Trustee Vacant*

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday August 20, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Samples.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with all Trustees in attendance. Also in attendance were President Richard Samples, Village Clerk Bentely Landess, Police Chief Eric Hansell, Public Works Superintendent Brian English, Code Enforcement Officer Cindy Beddingfield, and Treasurer Mindy Olson. Attorney Rob Cross and Fire Chief Richie Evans were not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda: President Samples asked the Board for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Trustee Jordan, second by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken approving the agenda as presented unanimously.

Comments from the Floor: None

Action Items

1. *Approval of Benton & Associates, Inc. as the Grant Administrator for the Village's 2026 Water Main Replacement Project in Accordance with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Community Development Block Grant:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve Benton & Associates, Inc. as the grant administrator. Treasurer Olson advised the Board that we did post the request for proposals and Benton & Associates, Inc. was the only proposal received.

Motion to approve the grant administrator was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Retzer. Roll call was taken with all approving the grant administrator as presented unanimously.

2. *Approval of the Grant Administrator Agreement with Benton & Associates, Inc. for the Village's 2026 Water Main Replacement Project in Accordance with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Community Development Block:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Treasurer Olson said the fees in the agreement will be paid out of the grant if it is received. Motion to approve the agreement as presented was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken with all approving the agreement as presented unanimously.

3. *Approval of Fair Housing Ordinance for the Village of South Jacksonville, Morgan County, Illinois:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Treasurer Olson advised the Board this ordinance was required to apply for the grant. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Trustee Jordan, seconded by Trustee Preston. Roll call was taken with all approving the ordinance as presented unanimously.

4. *Approval of Council Resolution of Support to Pursue State of Illinois Community Development Block Grant:* President Samples asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Jordan. Roll call was taken with all approving the resolution as presented unanimously.

Discussion Items

1. *Tourism Grant – Rotary Club Oktoberfest:* President Samples introduced Kim Brogdon from the Rotary Club. Mrs. Brogdon said the grant directly offsets some of the costs for Oktoberfest. She also told the Board about several events the Rotary Club supports including running the Ferris wheel, 4th of July parade, sponsoring camps, giving scholarships, helping food pantries and playgrounds. The club is also working on the pavilion at Lake Jacksonville to give a better area for the bass tournaments. Rotary has partnered with South Jacksonville School since November 2020 with reading. President Samples asked how many members are in the club. Mrs. Brogdon said there are 89 enrolled and 10 honorary.

   Trustee Retzer said he was confused because the grant is for Oktoberfest but she has listed all the other items Rotary Club does. Mrs. Brogdon said the money raised from Oktoberfest goes back into the club and supports all the programs she listed. Trustee Retzer asked how many hotel stays will be generated during Oktoberfest. Mrs. Brogdon said she does not have that information, but she does know there are people from outside the area that do attend the event. Trustee Retzer asked if there is an admission fee. Mrs.

Brogdon said there is. Trustee Stewart confirmed they are asking for $7,500 this year and the money raised does go back into the club to support the other events that do bring people to the hotels. Mrs. Brogdon said the expense for Oktoberfest cost about $12,000-14,000. They do receive other donations and sponsorships. Last year there were about 1,200 in attendance. They did start a kid's corner last year which has made it more of a family event.

Treasurer Olson provided the Board with the current Hotel/Motel Tax ordinance and pointed out the language for how the funds are to be spent. She also provided a spreadsheet for the Board showing the trends for hotel stays over the past several months. President Samples said if we limit it to only what Oktoberfest brings in would not apply but the funds do go into what Rotary does as a whole and other events bring in hotel stays. Trustee Stewart agrees. Trustee Retzer asked how much the Village gives to Rotary. Treasurer Olson said the Village gives for the Bass Fishing Tournament and Oktoberfest. Trustee Stewart suggested maybe the Board asked Rotary Club to present one grant request for the year rather than for the two separate events.

Mrs. Brogdon said they could communicate when they advertise the events that there are hotels available. President Samples said we have the banners we would like to have at the event. Mrs. Brogdon would like to use the banners. Trustee Retzer said since it is presented as not strictly Oktoberfest, he could support the grant. He encourages the club to present one grant request next year and then the club uses the funds for what they need. Trustee Retzer would like this to be an action item at the next meeting.

2. *New Trustee/Election:* Deputy Clerk Olson advised the board and those in attendance that the documents relating to the April 25, 2027, consolidated election will be available August 25, 2026. There are 3 trustee positions on the ballot. Packets are available at Village Hall for anyone interested. Petitions require 7 signatures and filing dates are between November 16, 2026-November 23, 2026.

   President Samples introduced Jodith Lewis who has expressed interest in one of the vacant trustee positions. Trustee Retzer asked Mrs. Lewis to tell the Board a little about herself and why she is interested in being a trustee for the Village. Mrs. Lewis said she is an implant in South Jacksonville. She was originally from Springfield but moved to Peoria for 20 years and Oklahoma for 4 years. They moved here to be closer to family and have been here for about 3 years. She said she is bored so she needs something to do. Trustee Jordan asked if she is interested in the well-being of the Village and she is not just wanting something to do. She said she is interested in the well being of the Village.

   President Samples reminded Mrs. Lewis that it is a slow-moving machine and things do not always happen quickly. We are also a small Village with limited income. Trustee Retzer encouraged Mrs. Lewis to come to the meetings and get involved. She is involved

with other organizations in the community. Trustee Stewart asked if she had ever run for a position at a municipality. Mrs. Lewis said she ran for a treasurer position in Canton. Trustee Stewart said we encourage the public to come to them but sometimes it can be unpleasant. Mrs. Lewis said she would listen to people and then work together for a solution. Trustee Retzer said some people will try to make you take it personally but don't.

Adjournment: President Samples asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Jordan, second by Trustee Retzer. All in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Richard Samples, Village President

Attest:

Mindy Olson, Deputy Village Clerk

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

(SEAL) VILLAGE OF SOUTH JACKSONVILLE CORPORATE SEAL 1911 ILLINOIS