



A Resolution Confirming the Levy of an Existing 3% Occupancy Tax, Increasing the Levy of Occupancy Tax by 1%, and Creating the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority

WHEREAS, Jackson County, by resolution, is authorized under Session Law 2011-170, House Bill 96, to continue assessing and collecting the current 3% occupancy tax, to levy an additional 3% occupancy tax, and to create a single Tourism Development Authority (“Authority”); and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners now authorizes the continuation of the current three percent (3%) room occupancy tax; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of Jackson County , effective January 1, 2013, to levy an additional one percent (1%) room occupancy tax which would increase the current occupancy tax of three percent (3%) to four percent (4%); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with HB96 (effective January 1, 2013) the Jackson County Board of Commissioners creates the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority (“Authority”) and dissolves the existing Jackson County Travel and Tourism Authority and the Cashiers Travel and Tourism Authority and transfers all remaining funds from the TTAs on December 31, 2012 to the Authority; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with HB 96 at least one-third of the members of the Authority shall be individuals who are affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the County and at least one-half of the members shall be individuals who are currently active in the promotion of travel and tourism in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners as follows:

Section 1: Jackson County Tourism Development Authority

A Jackson County Tourism Development Authority is created.

Section 2: Appointment of Membership

- A.** The Jackson County Tourism Development Authority shall consist of fifteen (15) members who shall be appointed and approved by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. They shall also be voting residents and/or taxpayers of the County or employees of a Jackson County business that collects Jackson County Occupancy Tax or pays Jackson County Property Tax.

Group One – (5) Lodging Properties – south Jackson County; (3) medium properties – 25 rooms and up, (1) B&B, B&B Inn/Country Inn-25 rooms or less; and (1) Home Rental/Condo/Timeshare/Vehicular Campsite (if they collect tax),

Group Two – (5) Lodging Properties – north Jackson County; (3) medium properties – 25 rooms and up, (1) B&B, B&B Inn/Country Inn-25 rooms or less; and (1) Home Rental/Condo/Timeshare/Vehicular Campsite (if they collect tax),

Group Three- (3) Retail/Tourism related business representatives to include (1) from south Jackson County, (1) from north Jackson County and (1) Jackson County At-Large,

Group Four – (1) representative from the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director from the Cashiers Chamber of Commerce. The Executive Director will be an ex officio member with no term limit.

Group Five – (1) representative from the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director from the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. The Executive Director will be an ex officio member with no term limit, and

- B.** The Jackson County Finance Officer shall serve as an ex officio member of the Authority and serve as the Finance Officer of the Authority. In addition, a county commissioner or designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the Authority.

Section 3: Terms of Appointments.

The initial terms of the members of the Authority shall be as follows:

A. One year term: two members from Group One, two members from Group Two and one member from Group Three.

B. Two year term: two members from Group One, two members from Group Two, one member from Group Three and one member from Group Four.

C. Three year term: one member from Group One, one member from Group Two, one member from Group three, one member from Group Five.

Thereafter, all terms shall be for three years. Reappointment to the Authority shall be limited to two consecutive terms with eligibility for another reappointment after sitting out for one year.

Any member of the Authority may resign by filing a written resignation with the Chairperson of the Authority.

Section 4: Vacancies/Compensation

Members of the Authority shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in connection with the performance of their duties in accordance with such rules as the Authority may from time to time adopt.

Vacancies within the TDA Authority shall be filled and appointed by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. The TDA may submit board member recommendations for consideration of the Commissioners.

Section 5: Meetings

The Authority shall meet as deemed necessary by the Chairperson but in any event it shall hold a meeting at least quarterly. Special meetings of the Authority may be called at any time by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. At least forty-eight (48) hours written notice of the time and place of Special Meetings shall be given by the Secretary or by the Chairperson to each member of the Authority.

All Authority meetings are to be held in accordance with Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, commonly referred to as the Open Meetings Law.

The Secretary of the Authority shall keep a record of its member's attendance, of the Authority's resolutions, discussions, findings, and recommendations. The Authority may adopt its own rules of procedure or in absence thereof, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall apply.

In order to allow action between meetings, a vote may be taken by e-mail by call of the Chairperson. The vote shall be verified at the next regularly scheduled Authority meeting.

Section 6: Attendance/Removal.

Faithful attendance at all meetings of the Authority and conscientious performance of the duties required of members of the Authority shall be a prerequisite of continuing membership on the Authority. Any member, who misses more than two (2) consecutive meetings without an excused absence or for any good cause related to performance of duties, may be replaced at the recommendation of the Authority, in the manner of vacancies set forth in Section 4 above.

Section 7: Voting/Rules of Conduct for Members.

No voting member shall be excused from voting, except upon a matter involving consideration and determination in which a member has a direct personal or financial interest.

However, ownership of a tourism-related business and/or serving as a board member of a non-profit tourist attraction/organization shall not constitute a sufficient reason to be excused if an equal degree of general financial interest applies to other members and no direct personal or financial interest is gained.

Each member shall maintain the confidential nature of confidential material to which members may become privy to as a member of the Authority. No Authority member shall directly or indirectly solicit any gift, or accept or receive any gift, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that the gift was intended to influence him/her in the performance of his/her duties, or was intended as a reward for any official action on his or her part.

Section 8: Officers.

The Chairperson of the Authority shall be designated by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and shall be subject to annual reappointment by the Commissioners. The Authority shall annually elect from the membership a Vice-Chairperson to serve in the absence of the Chairperson and a Secretary to record the actions of the Authority. The Finance Office of Jackson County shall be the ex officio Finance Office of the Authority.

Section 9: Quorum.

A quorum shall consist of eight (8) voting members of the Authority. Any question coming before the Authority shall be determined by a majority of those present.

Section 10: Committees:

The Chairperson shall have the authority to appoint such committees as deemed appropriate.

Section 11: County Government and the TDA

- A. Jackson County shall retain 3% of the first \$500,000 in gross occupancy tax proceeds and 1% of the remaining gross proceeds to offset the cost of administering and collecting the tax.
- B. Funds shall not be used to create and pay positions from TDA funds unless approved in advance by the TDA Board and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.

At the request of the Authority, the County Attorney shall also serve as the Authority attorney and the Authority will be responsible for related costs.

Section 12: Powers and Duties of the Jackson County Tourism Development Authority.

- A.** To select appropriate goals for the enhancement and development of the tourism industry in Jackson County;
- B.** To develop a strategic marketing plan to enhance the tourism industry in Jackson County through market research as it deems necessary in order to devise and develop the goals and plans necessary to create an effective marketing plan to promote travel and tourism in the County;
- C.** To seek, evaluate, and choose proposals from appropriate organizations which will address the establishment and approved goals of the Authority;
- D.** To promote travel, tourism, and conventions in the County relating to overnight tourism events and activities in the County;
- E.** To advertise or market an area or activity, publish and distribute, pamphlets and other materials, conduct market research, or engage in or sponsor similar promotional activities that attract tourist or business travelers to the area;
- F.** To contract with other related agencies for services in support of tourism activities. All contracts shall be in writing and shall include a description of services and related compensation;
- G.** All funds must be used strictly for the promotion of tourist overnight visits to our county. Funds may be used for capital expenditures with recommendation from TDA Board and with approval by County Commissioners;
- H.** To submit financial reports monthly and at the close of the fiscal year to the Jackson County Commissioners of its receipts and expenditures for the preceding month and for the year in such detail as the Commissioners may require;
- I.** To submit a proposed annual budget to the Jackson County Commissioners for their review and comment prior to the Authority's formal budget adoption; and
- J.** To at least once annually hold a joint travel and tourism planning/goal setting session with the Jackson County Commissioners.

Section 13: Fiscal Year/Expenditures

The fiscal year of the Authority shall run from July 1 through June 30.

Beginning January 1, 2013, the Authority shall adopt a six month budget based on revenue estimates provided by the Jackson County Finance Officer. In addition, the unspent funds from the Jackson County Travel and Tourism Authority and the Cashiers Travel and Tourism Authority shall be transferred to the Authority and shall be available for appropriation.

Beginning July 1, 2013, the Authority shall use at least two thirds of occupancy tax funds to promote travel and tourism in Jackson County. The Authority may expend one-third of the occupancy tax funds for capital-related expenditures with the approval of the Jackson County Commissioners.


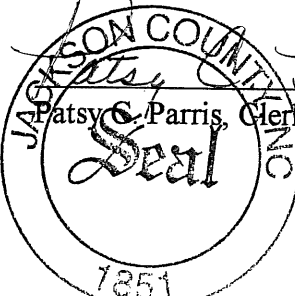
For the purpose of allocating expenditures, the Authority shall apply the following definitions:

- A. Promote travel and tourism – To advertise or market an area or activity, publish and distribute pamphlets and other materials, conduct market research, or engage in similar promotional activities that attract tourist or business travelers to the area; the term includes administrative expenses incurred in engaging in the listed activities.


- B. Tourism-related expenditures – Expenditures that, in the judgment of the Authority, are designed to increase the use of lodging facilities, meeting facilities, and convention facilities in the County by attracting tourists or business travelers to the county. The term includes tourism-related capital expenditures

ADOPTED the 19 day of November, 2012.

ATTEST:


Patsy C. Parris, Clerk of Board
The seal of Jackson County, North Carolina, is circular with the text "JACKSON COUNTY, NC" around the perimeter and "Seal" in the center. The number "1251" is at the bottom.

APPROVED:


W. J. Debnam, Chairman


APPROVED
11/19/12
COUNTY ATTORNEY