

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
October 23, 2018

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a public hearing 9:00 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

Wiley Grady, Chairman, Dist. 6	Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Chair, Dist. 7
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4, Absent
Hershel P. Ansley, Dist. 5	Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, and County Clerk Twink Monahan. Media present was Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio and Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise.

Chairman Grady declared a public hearing to give citizens the opportunity for input on rezoning applications 18-10-1, 18-10-2, 18-10-3 and 18-10-4.

Chairman Grady announced Application 18-10-1 is deferred until the next meeting and 18-10-4 has been withdrawn.

Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert read Application 18-10-2. She stated the combined properties of 18-10-2 and 18-10-3 are going to be used as an outdoor storage for boats and other recreational vehicles. Both parcels are currently AG and asking to change to Commercial General Conditional Use. The surrounding areas are compatible with the requests and staff recommends approval.

Application 18-10-2 Gerald J. Pionessa, Jr., agent for property owner, Vonier DeSantis Commercial Property, LLC, requests a conditional use zoning for property located on Ga. Hwy. 122 as identified on Map 45, Parcel 62 from Ag (Agricultural) to CG C.U. (Commercial General, Conditional Use) on a 3.654 acre, more or less, portion of this property to allow for the storage of recreational vehicles and boats.

Application 18-10-3 Gerald J. Pionessa, Jr., agent for property owner, Hugh Produce, LLC Commercial Property, LLC, requests a conditional use zoning for property located on Ga. Hwy. 122 as identified on Map 45, Parcel 62 from Ag (Agricultural) to CG C.U. (Commercial General, Conditional Use) on a 3.654 acre, more or less, portion of this property to allow for the storage of recreational vehicles and boats.

Chairman Grady asked Mr. Pionessa if there was anything he would like to add. Mr. Pionessa stated Ms. Holbert had covered the applications well.

Chairman Grady asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor or in opposition to the applications. Being none the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve application 18-10-2 Gerald J. Pionessa, Jr., agent for property owner, Vonier DeSantis Commercial Property, LLC, requests a conditional use zoning for property located on Ga. Hwy. 122 as identified on Map 45, Parcel 62 from Ag (Agricultural) to CG C.U. (Commercial General, Conditional Use) on a 3.654 acre, more or less, portion of this property to allow for the storage of recreational vehicles and boats. The motion was seconded by

Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried 6-0; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, and Ansley voting aye. Commissioner Vonier abstained from voting due to a partnership in the property.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve Application 18-10-3 Gerald J. Pionessa, Jr., agent for property owner, Hugh Produce, LLC Commercial Property, LLC, requests a conditional use zoning for property located on Ga. Hwy. 122 as identified on Map 45, Parcel 62 from Ag (Agricultural) to CG C.U. (Commercial General, Conditional Use) on a 3.654 acre, more or less, portion of this property to allow for the storage of recreational vehicles and boats. Motion carried 6-0; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, and Ansley voting aye. Commissioner Vonier abstained from voting due to ownership of the property.

Mr. Stephenson explained to the board the following resolution has the same language as the resolution adopted by the City of Thomasville in 2016 that earmarked 3% for the Event Center. Thomas County has not received the information requested from the City of Thomasville.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion to approve the resolution amending Section 86-140 of the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

#### **Resolution to amend Section 86-140 of the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance**

Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia that the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax Ordinance is hereby amended by substitution as follows:

Section 86-140. Allocation of the Tax. The funds collected pursuant to the tax shall be allocated as follows:

1. 62.5% returned to Thomas County for promotion of tourism, conventions, trade, and other purposes (5%)
2. 13.25% to Destination Thomasville Tourism Authority for promotion of tourism and conventions (1.5%)
3. 13.25% to Destination Thomasville Tourism Authority for tourism product development (1.5%)

Effective Date: The first day of the second month finalization of the local act referred to in O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(4).

ADOPTED this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2018.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve an indefinite moratorium for Solar energy facilities defined as the area of land devoted to solar energy system installation. A solar energy facility may include an interconnection with the local utility power grid for distribution to more than one (1) property or consumer in the electricity market as a commercial. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier.

Discussion. Commission Gross affirmed the one facility on the table will be treated under the current ordinance.

Motion carried 6-0; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Ansley voting aye. Commissioner Vonier abstained.

Mr. Stephenson stated the moratorium does not apply to panel on houses, only those as a commercial use.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the contract for tree thinning to Balfour Pole Company for \$37,618. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Brown. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the 10/23/2018 purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products at \$2.3890 per gallon. 2 brown Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady thanked all the county employees and the Public Works Department for their actions during Hurricane Michael. The road department had all the county roads cleared by Thursday night. During the storm all crews, road and fire, with chainsaws were clearing the roads.

Chairman Grady recognized Vice-Chairman Brown who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

  
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Wiley E. Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk