

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
October 27, 2020

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

**Phillip V. Brown, Chairman, Dist. 7**  
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1  
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)  
Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

**Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6**  
Moses Gross, Dist. 2  
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4  
Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Others present: Mr. Charlie Hand, 1908 Lake Arthur Dr., Cairo, Georgia

News/Media present: none

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and County Manager Stephenson gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who introduced the Preliminary Plat for the development of an apartment complex located on Constitution Avenue Map 46F, Parcel 83. He stated that Mr. Charlie Hand, contractor, had complied with the Thomas County Code and Ordinances and had met the requirements stipulated by the Thomas County Public Works Department as well as the City of Thomasville Utilities Department. Therefore, he recommends that the Preliminary Plat be approved.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the Preliminary Plat for the development of an apartment complex located on Constitution Avenue Map 46F, Parcel 83 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who presented information on the Taylor Benefit Health Insurance Renewal recommendation. A chart depicting a stabilization in health insurance cost for the last four years was distributed. In order to maintain or continue to hold down cost, John Taylor is recommending that the County increase its renewal liability to \$60,000, as oppose to \$50,000 last year. The employee will not incur an increase in cost.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the Taylor Benefit Health Insurance Renewal rate at \$60,000 as recommended by the County Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

County Manager Stephenson also reported that he will be making his 2021 Budget recommendations at Tuesday's Purchasing Committee meeting.

County Attorney Warren reported that the lawsuit on appeal (HWY 319 S) is moving forward with submissions to be made next week.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the fuel purchase from Coastal Plains Farmers CO-OP for \$1.3800/gal on October 15, 2020 and a diesel fuel purchase from Petroleum Products for \$1.2930/gal on October 15, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Personnel Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on October 28, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The Public Property Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on November 5, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The Purchasing Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on November 3, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Rich who commented that the hours for early voting for Thomas County were posted incorrectly on the State website. He stated that some voters showed up at 6:30 a.m. to vote, only to find different hours posted on the door. The website was corrected, and those citizens voted. However, he hopes that Thomas County will make every effort to notify the community when information changes.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

  
Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:  
  
Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk