

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
November 24, 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.

News/Media present: none

Others present: Leon Linn and Andrew Crook with Jinright, Ryan, and Lynn and Connie Lane Mumau with Circle K Stores

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and Commissioner NeSmith gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 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 declared a Public Hearing.

Donna Holbert, Zoning Administrator introduced Re-Zoning application 20-11-1. The application requests a zone change on property located on Old Boston Road (Map 46H, Parcel 115 (1.66 acres, more or less). Applicant Jinright, Ryan, and Lynn, agent for property owner Eugene Witherspoon, is requesting to change the zoning from CG (Commercial General) to RM-11 (Residential, Multi Family) to allow for the construction of approximately 18 apartments. The Planning Department Staff recommends approval of this re-zoning application.

Upon a previous request from Commissioner NeSmith, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford conducted a traffic study and supplied the findings to the Board of Commissioners in their agenda packet. Nothing atypical was noted.

With no opposition present, Chairman Brown closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve application 20-11-1 for re-zoning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Connie Lane Mumau of 2067 E. Adams Street, Pavo, Georgia 31778. She requested approval for a 2021 Beer and Wine License for Circle K Stores, Inc., dba Circle K #2723897 located at 10317 Hwy 84 East, Thomasville, Georgia 31757. The request is on behalf of new Manager Sandra Revell of 2424 Quazar Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32311 in order to comply with the local ordinance.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the beer and wine license application for Sandra Revell on behalf of Circle K Stores, dab Circle K #2723897 and located at 10317 Hwy 84 East, Thomasville, Georgia 31757. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier and approved unanimously. Chairman Brown, and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the resolution to submit the grant application for the FY2022 5311 Transit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith and approved unanimously. Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A GRANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.**

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation are authorized to make grants to non-urbanized (rural) areas for mass transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon Applicant, including the provision of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the United States Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act, the applicant gives an assurance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the United States Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that Minority Business Enterprise (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise) be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority business shall have the maximum feasible opportunity to compete for contracts and purchase orders when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment contracts, or consultant and other services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereinafter referred to as the "Applicant",

1. That the Designated Official, Michael Stephenson, County Manager hereinafter, referred to as the "Official" is authorized to execute and file an application on the behalf of the Applicant, a City/County government, with the Georgia Department of Transportation to aid in the financing of public transportation assistance pursuant to Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.

2. That the Official is authorized to execute and file such application and assurances or any other document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation effectuating the purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. That the Official is authorized to execute and file all other standard assurances or any other document required by the Georgia Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation in connection with the application for public transportation assistance.
4. That the Official is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of the Applicant with the Georgia Department of Transportation.
5. That the Official is authorized to set forth and execute Minority Business Enterprise, DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) and WBE (Women Business Enterprise) policies and procedures in connection with the project's procurement needs as applicable.
6. That the applicant while making application to or receiving grants from the Federal Transit Administration will comply with FTA "Circular 9040.IG, FTA Certifications and Assurances for Federal Assistance 2021 as listed in this grant application and General Operating Guidelines as illustrated in the Georgia State Management Plan.
7. That the applicant has or will have available the required non-federal funds to meet local share requirements for this grant application.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24TH day of November, 2020.

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Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson and Planning Director Ken Gay who recommended entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission authorizing the development of a Housing Assessment. The assessment would address the housing issues in Thomas County and would be the first step needed before applying for future grants.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission authorizing the development of a Housing Assessment. 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 Attorney Warren gave an update on a law suit regarding rezoning issues on Hwy 319 South. The Court of Appeals will hear our arguments on December 8, 2020 via Zoom. County Attorney Warren also recommended to the Board to approve the Road Maintenance Agreement between Oil-Dri Corporation and Thomas County. All stipulations and requirements have been met and who shall be notified in order to determine the termination date has been added in the agreement.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the Road Maintenance Agreement with Oil-Dri Corporation. 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.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Purchasing Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on December 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. The Public Property Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on December 3, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

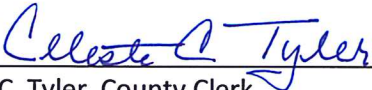
Commissioner Baggett expressed his appreciation for everyone attending the Open House at the new Fleet Shop. Commissioner Rich commented that he would like a Proclamation to celebrate the life of Dr. Donnell Carley, Jr. Commissioner Vonier reminded everyone that Early Voting begins on December 14, 2020.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the purchase of an engine for a 2012 Pearson truck (approx. 23k). 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 Commissioner Wiley Grady who led the discussion on increasing the Commissioners' base pay that would be more in line with neighboring counties and counties throughout the state with a similar population size. Though absent, Commissioner Hickey previously expressed support of the increase. Commissioner Grady made a motion to increase the Commissioners' base pay by \$300.00 per month. 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 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 6:25 p.m.

  
Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:   
Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk