

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
March 9, 2021

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a regular scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.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 (absent)
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
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, Building Maintenance Tech Waymon Stapp, Facilities and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX radio

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

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert who introduced Application 21-3-2 by Brian Lameier, agent for property owner, Ashley Stephens, to appeal decision of Zoning Administrator on property located on U.S. Hwy 319 North (Map 45, Parcel 25 consisting of 18.65 acres, more or less) for building placement. The subject parcel does not have the minimum required road frontage of 150 feet for the placement of a building (Section 3.216, Table 1 of the Land Use Standards Ordinance). The Public Hearing for this application will be held on March 23, 2021.

Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert introduced Application 21-3-1 by Gerald Pionessa, Jr., agent for property owners, James R. Clanton, Jr. and Beverly Clanton Wilford requesting a zone change for property located on Patterson Still Road (Map 045, parcel 259 consisting of 44 acres, more or less) from R-1 (Residential, Single Family) to RM-11 (Residential, Multi-Family) to allow for the development of a subdivision consisting of approximately 84 single family residential homes. The Public Hearing for this application will be held on March 23, 2021.

Commissioner Grady asked if it was possible to put restrictions or conditions on a zone change. County Attorney Warren stated that restrictions or conditions could be allowed but would have to be recorded in the Thomas County Zoning Atlas. County Manager Stephenson clarified that Thomas County does not currently have a reversion clause in our ordinance, although it has been talked about, and we may want to look at that again.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who recommended appointing BJ Vonier to the Georgia Pines Board to fill the vacancy left by his recent resignation. BJ is well qualified with 45 years as an LPN. Commissioner Baggett shared his sentiments that BJ would be an excellent board member.

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Commissioner Grady made a motion to appoint BJ Vonier to the Georgia Pines Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and NeSmith, and voting aye. Commissioner Vonier abstained (6-0-1).

County Manager Stephenson sadly announced the tragic death of Shelby Rhymes, daughter of Thomas County Transit employee, Gladys Silas.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to accept quote from NTS for 3 servers in the Board of Commissioners' Office (\$52,932.13). The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to accept \$12,148.00 as the settlement for a wrecked, unreparable Dodge Charger and apply it toward a replacement vehicle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval to accept Dudley Moore's proposal for Remington Station flooring (\$39,921.55). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Emergency Services Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on February 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. The Public Works Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on February 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.


Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk