

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 25, 2022

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:

Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Phillip V. Brown, District 7

Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6

Moses Gross, District 2

Donnie L. Baggett, District 5

Zippy T. Vonier, District 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX and Pat Donahue, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Rd. South, Thomasville, GA who encouraged the Board to commit to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. She referenced an editorial written by Dr. Linda Walden promoting sustainable energy. Chairman NeSmith recognized Shirley Jackson of 727 Crowley Rd., Thomasville, GA who inquired about the publicity for the upcoming ARPA Community Meetings to be held on March 15 and March 29th.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Zoning Administrator who recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat for Pinetree Place Phase III on Pinetree Boulevard. Planning Director Ken Gay and Public Works Director Tony Bodiford have approved the plat.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approved the Preliminary Plat for Pinetree Place Phase III. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren who updated the Board on the Evergreen Brook project on 319 South. Through a Summary Judgement the R-11 zoning has been confirmed. A conceptual drawing for the residential apartments has been submitted. Moving forward with the project, the plan will go through a technical review, incorporate plans with suggestions and come back with a Preliminary Plat for review, and then Final Plat Approval.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Gary Hunter, of 119 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida. and attorney for the developer, who stated that they agree with moving forward with the format laid out by County Attorney Warren.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Gross who made a motion that the County accept the conceptual drawing for Evergreen Brook Residential Apartments which provides for up to 11 units per acre which can be used for rental purposes with the understanding that as presented, the drawing does not contain all of the information required for preliminary plat approval, and they will be resubmitted for preliminary plat approval after incorporation of the changes provided by the County staff during the technical review process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the Re-districting Map for Thomas County that is reflective of the 2020 census data. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The Re-districting Map will go in front of the General Assembly next week for Local Legislation approval.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve the 2022 Financial Authorization Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to amend the SPLOST 2017 Budget to include pipe replacement for the resurfacing project that includes Arline Road, Newton Road, and Egg and Butter Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree who briefed the Board on the FY2022 Ground Ambulance UPL. Authorized by House Bill 271, the new program allows the Department of Community Health to offer supplemental payment to ambulance providers.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the FY2022 Ground Ambulance UPL – Notice of Intent to Transfer Form. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Bruce Warren who stated that he has submitted a proposal to County Manager Stephenson for the YMCA and its operation of the Scott Senior Center. He asked that it be put on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the fuel purchase from Petroleum Products for \$2.65/per gal. on January 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the approval of the Application for Payroll Deduct Membership for the Ranges at Oakfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey also made a motion to ratify the approval to participate in GDOT's 2024 Off System Safety Project (Metcalfe Road 10.58 miles; 100% Federal Funded). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Purchase Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on February 1 at 8:30 a.m., and the Public Property Committee will meet at the Bobby Hines Jail-Justice Center on February 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk