

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
June 14, 2022

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:

Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6
Moses Gross, District 2 (absent)
Donnie L. Baggett, District 5
Zippy T. Vonier, District 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, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Media present: Chris Hurst WPAX Radio

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith declared a public hearing to consider a resolution transmitting a draft Capital Improvements Element 2022 Annual Update report. (9:03 a.m.)

Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Bill Ross of Ross + Associates who explained briefly that the update is required every year relating to the county's impact fee program. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) will review and forward it to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Chairman NeSmith noted that the 2nd phase of Ranges at Oakfield is not in the plan. Mr. Ross commented that he was available to reassess the whole plan when and if the Commissioners are ready, just let him know.

Chairman NeSmith asked if there were any citizens wishing to make any comments. Chairman NeSmith recognized Shirley Jackson of 727 Crowley Rd., Thomasville, GA who expressed that she would like more information on the Capital Improvements Element report and was unaware of the Public Hearing.

With no other comments, Chairman NeSmith closed the Public Hearing (9:11 a.m.)

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Linda and David Poss of 515 Carrington Circle, Thomasville GA who requested approval to put a mobile home on 221 Wiloras Lane, Thomasville, GA. Chairman NeSmith recognized Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert who stated that since 2017 our ordinance doesn't allow a variance on a private lane. County Attorney Warren stated that there needs to be road frontage to be conforming, and there isn't. Commissioner Grady commented that a decision should be tabled until the next Board of Commissioners' meeting (June 28th) allowing the Commissioners time to research the request further. Chairman NeSmith and the other Board members agreed.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adopt the Transmittal Resolution Capital Improvements Element Update for 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Ms. Kay Reynolds of 5796 Ozell Rd., Boston, GA. Ms. Reynolds is the spokesperson for George E. Wyche of 1018 Lower Boston Rd., Boston, GA and would like to appeal the denial of the Land Use Compliance by the Planning and Zoning Department. The petition to the Board is based on hardship. Mr. Wyche's brother and family lost their home and all of their possessions to fire last year in Miccosukee, Fl. He is requesting to put a mobile home on his property for this family.

Commissioner Hickey stated that the State of Georgia, Environmental Health Department would have to approve the site for a septic tank and a well. Commissioner Baggett reported that he went to the property, and it looked to be in good condition.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the request based on hardship. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Alicia Hester, Tax Commissioner who made a recommendation to the Board to no longer require mobile home decals on Homestead and Non-homestead properties. This will not affect the property tax. Senate Bill 193 allowing counties to opt out of the former requirement was passed in the Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly, signed by the Governor, and became effective May 6, 2021.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adopt a Resolution electing not to require mobile home decals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to re-appoint Nicole Gatlin to the Thomas County Public Library Board for a second term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Mrs. Donna Newberry of 10424 GA Hwy 188, Ochlocknee, GA. Mrs. Newberry requested permission for a one-day special event permit for a festival to be held on June 25, 2022 at the Deep South Fair Grounds with proceeds going toward the Devyn Newberry DN9 Scholarship Fund. All required licensures along with the confirmed security detail was submitted to the County Clerk.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the one-day special event permit for Mrs. Newberry. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Public Works Director Tony Bodiford who referenced the CSX invoice for railroad crossing maintenance in the agenda packet. The railroad crossing maintenance was completed at CR 219/County Farm Rd., and was scheduled by CSX to be done in conjunction with an upgrade of lines – a project going from Waycross to Thomas County. Although not customary, County Attorney Warren, recommended the payment of the invoice.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve paying the CSX invoice for \$7,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved

unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on Evergreen Brook Apartments. He hopes to schedule the technical review next week. The City of Thomasville has not reviewed everything, but things are moving forward.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who distributed a copy of an e-mail from Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree that highlighted specifications on a fire truck from Sweetwater, TN. The County Manager recommended the purchase of the truck for \$39,000 plus costs for options deemed necessary by staff, including A/C and delivery fee for truck.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to authorize the County Manager to issue a purchase order for the fire truck for \$39,000 and approve the additional costs for options deemed necessary by staff, including A/C and delivery fee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized the County Clerk who updated the Board on the LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) Renegotiation process. Three more Mayor signatures are needed for completion of the certificate of distribution. The plans are to have everything complete and submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue by June 30th.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$4.9150/gal on June 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

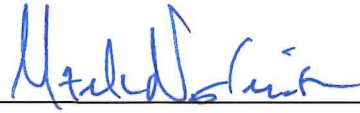
Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify approval for the six-month Aggregate Rock bid from Martin Marietta, the six-month Hydroseeding Materials bid from Delta Landscape, and the six-month Woven Geotextiles bid from Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Vonier made a motion to ratify the annual Road Sign bid from Vulcan for \$13,656.13. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the Public Property Committee will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Historical Courthouse. He also shared that he had received letters and numerous accolades complimenting the work of the Public Works Department and specifically the road grading crew.

The following meetings were announced: the Public Works Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, and the Emergency Services Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 20, 2022. Both meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk