

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
June 28, 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, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Others Present: Jennifer Fabbri, Southern Circuit Accountability Courts

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. 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 continued to encourage the Board to commit to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. A resolution was distributed for consideration. Chairman NeSmith recognized Jeanette Dixon of 148 Cindy Drive, Thomasville, Georgia who requested the Board to update the County's Animal Control Ordinances. Her family has experienced several alarming incidents involving the neighbor's dogs. Various parties including Animal Control, the Sheriff's Office, and Magistrate Court have been involved trying to resolve this ongoing problem. Ms. Dixon left a copy of the Lowndes County Animal Control Ordinance with the County Clerk for reference.

Unfinished Business: Chairman NeSmith acknowledged the request made by Dave and Linda Poss at the June 14, 2022 Board of Commissioner meeting. They asked for permission to place a mobile home in the same location where one previously existed on Wilora's Lane. Chairman NeSmith commented that according to the building permit timeline and meeting minutes, on July 25, 2017 the Poss's were granted a variance, Section 3.213 for required minimum footage in order to construct a new single family residential dwelling on the property. At the same meeting, the Board of Commissioners instructed the County Attorney to create a text amendment to the Land Use Ordinance that would not allow variances on private lanes. With that acknowledgement Chairman NeSmith stated that the Board is not in a position to grant a variance that is not in accordance with the County's Ordinances.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Library Board applicant, Alfred Carver of 1806 Parramore Rd., Coolidge GA. Mr. Carver has lived in Coolidge for 38 years. He is currently a pastor at Friends of Mt. Zion and employed in the media center at Thomas County Middle School. While attending Mercer University, he also worked in the University's Library.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to appoint Alfred Carver to the Thomas County Public Library Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Jennifer Fabbri, Coordinator for the Southern Circuit Accountability Courts. Ms. Fabbri updated the Board on the newly established Thomas County Accountability Court under the direction of Superior Court Judge Jim Prine. Ms. Fabbri applied for funding that is good until July 2023. The grant is comprised of 88% funding by the State of Georgia with a 12% County match (\$12,918.00). The program currently has 10 active participants; seven of which were in jail when the program started.

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

Chairman NeSmith announced that the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update had been submitted and approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The document will be an amendment to the Thomas County Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adopt a Resolution for the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update. 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.

Georgia, Thomas County

Adoption Resolution
Capital Improvements Element Annual Update
Thomas County, Georgia

WHEREAS, Thomas County adopted a Capital Improvements Element as an amendment to the *Thomas County Comprehensive Plan*; and

WHEREAS, Thomas County has prepared a 2022 Annual Update to the adopted Capital Improvements Element (including financial data for fiscal year 2021); and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Capital Improvements Element Annual Update was prepared, submitted and reviewed in accordance with the “Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements” and the “Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning” adopted by the Board of Community Affairs pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update, as per the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements.

Adopted this **28th** day of **June**, 2022.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Public Works Director Tony Bodiford who requested that the concrete pipe from Egg & Butter Road, Newton Road, and Airline Road be declared surplus and sold on GovDeals. The concrete pipe is 160+/- joints of various sizes and lengths.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to declare the concrete pipe from Egg & Butter Road, Newton Road, and Airline Road as surplus and authorize the sale of the pipe on GovDeals online auction. 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.

Tony Bodiford also announced that the bridge on Whitney Camp Road is out, and he anticipates road closure for approximately two weeks.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who referenced a Request for Proposals (RFP) draft for a CAD System. The RFP is scheduled to go out on July 8, 2022. He encouraged all comments to be submitted to him and/or Nisha Thurman, Purchasing Agent before the 8th deadline.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who announced the next Purchasing Committee meeting will be held on July 5, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the next Public Property Committee meeting will be held on July 7, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify authorization for the County Manager and staff to negotiate a contract with Falcon Design Consultants for Jordan Oaks. 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 Grady 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 6:32 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk