

Minutes  
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
225 North Board Street  
January 23, 2024

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:

**Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6**

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

**Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5**

Moses Gross, Dist. 2 (absent)

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Fire Chief Chris Jones, Derek Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX radio and Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman Grady called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Jeremy Rich gave the invocation.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve the agenda for the January 23, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree who highlighted the first Street to Station class and gave an overview of the program; how it came into existence, and the ongoing partnership with Southwest Regional College. The program officially started on September 12, 2023, and 280 fire training hours later, this team of seven was present and acknowledged with a pinning ceremony. Assisting with the Pinning Ceremony were Fire Chief Chris Jones and instructor Derek Knight. Those recognized were:

Jesse Boatwright

Austin Luna

Brandon Dean

Michael Morton

Fabian Hernandez

Joshua Roberts

Shakima Lawson

Dr. Jim Glass, President of Southwest Regional College, Emergency Services Colleagues, and Family and Friends were in attendance for this notable occasion.

Chairman Grady declared a Public Hearing and recognized Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert who introduced rezoning application #24-1-1. Robert Hopkins, CFO of Askay Enterprises, Inc., property owner,

has applied for a rezoning for property located at 156 and 174 Myrick Road (Map 053, Parcels 114A and 114B) with each parcel consisting of one acre, more or less. The request is to rezone the subject parcels from Ag (Agricultural) to CG C.U. Storage (Commercial General, Conditional Use, Storage) to allow for the expansion of the existing storage business located at 96 Myrick Road. If approved, Mr. Hopkins will combine all 3 parcels into 1. Mrs. Kay Hopkins of 96 Myrick Road and spouse of applicant was recognized and stated that the expansion would allow RV and boat storage.

With no questions or opposition, Chairman Grady closed the Public Hearing. Commissioner Hickey was recognized and made a motion to approve rezoning application #24-1-1. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady also stated that the Public Hearing for rezoning application 24-1-2 had been canceled.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to adopt the 2024 Financial Authorization Resolution. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Mark NeSmith who made a motion to approve the 2024 Public Defenders contract with the strikeout of the rollover of the county's surplus funds from the previous calendar year budgets to be retained on behalf of the Public Defender Program. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Grady recognized Mrs. Cynthia Evans of 10369 Springhill Rd., Thomasville, Georgia who asked for clarification on rezoning application 24-1-2. Chairman Grady stated that the request for rezoning had been canceled and in order to move forward with that project, the applicant would have to reapply.

Reports: Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who announced a Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for January 25, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the Georgia Power Easement Requisition for property defined as 101 BN N Norton St., Boston, Georgia 31626 (Tax Parcel ID No. BN 007003). Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey also made a motion to declare a truck and roll-off containers as surplus and authorized the sale of such items on GovDeals online auction. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Hickey made a motion to ratify the purchase of a 2024 VOLVO VNR64T300 Model semi tractor from Nacarato Truck Centers for \$170,500 (includes all full warranties). Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

  
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Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk