

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
October 9, 2018

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman, Dist. 6	Phillip V. Brown, Vice-Chair, Dist. 7
Merrill E. Baker, Jr., Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Hershel P. Ansley, Dist. 5	Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, Bruce County Attorney Warren, County Clerk Twink Monahan and Assistant Clerk Thelma Maxwell. Media present was Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio and Patti Dozier, Times Enterprise. Other staff present were Tony Bodiford, Public Works Director, Ken Gay, Inspections, Planning and Zoning Director and Lyndall Knight, Building Maintenance Supervisor.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 open and closed sessions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansley. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

The Lives Without Limits representative was not present.

Jack Hadley, Jack Hadley Black History Museum, concerning funding for a memorial to be added to the museum. The memorial is for those slain because of racial violence. Chairman Grady stated the board would review the request and let him know.

County Manager's Report

Memo to the Record

At a Joint City-County Meeting on November 18, 2015, the Thomasville City Council requested that both the City and the County increase the Hotel/Motel tax from 5% to 8%, the additional 3% increase dedicated to the development of an event center on the old Roses property. The County Commission agreed and adopted an ordinance on December 8, 2015, enacting the requested increase. It was understood the City Council would enact a complementary ordinance.

Recent developments in the city have raised concern about their commitment to follow through with the event center project. In order to put the County Commission in a better position to ensure that the event center is developed as expected, I am recommending Board approval of the attached resolution. The amendment will increase the amount of Hotel/Motel tax under the direct control of the Board. If the project moves forward as originally understood, the Board will have the discretion to increase its contribution to the event center.

Upon adoption, the ordinance will be turned over to the County Attorney to determine if the amendment can be implemented immediately or it would require local legislation approved by the General Assembly.

(Recommended) Resolution to amend Section 86-140 of the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance

Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Thomas County, Georgia that the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax Ordinance is hereby amended by substitution as follows:

Section 86-140. Allocation of the Tax. The funds collected pursuant to the tax shall be allocated as follows:

1. 62.5% returned to Thomas County for promotion of tourism, conventions, trade, and other purposes (5%)
2. 13.25% to Destination Thomasville Tourism Authority for promotion of tourism and conventions (1.5%)
3. 13.25% to Destination Thomasville Tourism Authority for tourism product development (1.5%)

Effective Date: The first day of the second month finalization of the local act referred to in O.C.G.A. Section 48-13-51(b)(4).

Commissioner NeSmith asked the board to consider the adoption at the next meeting, stating there will be additional information forthcoming concerning the tax collection and distribution.

Mr. Stephenson reported to the board that county administrative office will be closed Wednesday October 10, 2018 will be closed for the safety of the employees due to the approach of Hurricane Michael.

County Manager Michael Stephenson asked Donna Holbert, Zoning Administrator, to review the 4 applications to be presented at the next Planning and Land Use Standards meeting on Monday October 15, 2018.

Application 18-10-1, AG to AG CU - Staff is recommending approval with a condition to either 1) remove the residence on the adjoining property since it is within the 500 2) move the position of the solar panels to comply with the 500' set back 3) Since both parcels have the same owner, combine the parcels.

Application 18-10-2, Vonier DeSantis Commercial Property LLC, AG to CG CU - outside storage of boats and recreational equipment. The request is recommended by staff since it adjoins Commercial Use property.

Application 18-10-3, Hugh Produce, LLC, AG to CG CU, outside storage of boats and recreational equipment – Staff is recommending approval. The property adjoins Commercial Use property.

Application 18-10-4, Joey Collins, R1 to AG, The request is recommended by staff since the rezoning from AG to R1 the AG use has continued.

Mr. Stephenson stressed the setback and buffer requirements in regard to Application 18-10-1. He told Ms. Holbert that the board wants the solar company and landowners are aware they are firm on this requirement.

Purchasing Committee

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the Purchasing Committee's recommendation to award the contract for thinning the pines at the County Farm Road and

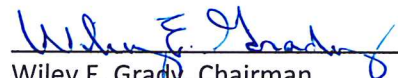
October 9, 2018

Page 2 of 3

Woodruff Farm Road locations to Balfour Lumber Company for approximately \$37,618. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the diesel fuel purchase on October 5 from Petroleum Products at \$2.4611 per gallon, 7,500 gallons. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Hickey recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. Motion carried unanimously; Chairman Grady, Vice-Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baker, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Ansley, and Vonier voting aye.



Wiley E. Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk