

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
July 27, 2021

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:

Phillip V. Brown, Chairman, Dist. 7(absent)

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist.

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

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

Moses Gross, Dist. 2

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 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, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX

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

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice Chairman Grady declared a public hearing and recognized Donna Holbert, Zoning Administrator. Donna Holbert introduced application 21-7-1 by the Thomas County Board of Commissioners to amend the Thomas County Land Use Standards Ordinance, Section 3.000 Land Use Standards, Section 3.260 Supplemental Regulations, Section 3.269 Solar Energy Facility.

With no further questions, comments, or opposition, Vice Chairman Grady closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to approve application 21-7-1 and amend the Thomas County Land Use Standards Ordinance, Section 3.000 Land Use Standards, Section 3.260 Supplemental Regulations, Section 3.269 Solar Energy Facility. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to remove the Solar Moratorium. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who reported on the 2021 Property Tax Levy. He is recommending a reduction in the property tax rate for the eighth year in a row. The recommendation is as follows:

2021 Millage Rates - Recommended

	Digest by District	Millage Rate	Net Taxes
Incorporated	752,367,675	8.633	6,495,190
		less insurance premium tax rollback - 1.903	
Unincorporated	850,202,647	6.730	5,721,864
Erner. Services	1,602,570,322	1.669	2,674,690
Fire District 1	180,536,911	2.939	530,598
Fire District 2	203,033,454	2.901	589,000
Fire District 3	482,853,527	2.285	<u>1,103,320</u>
			17,114, 662

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the 2021 Tentative Millage Rate as recommended by the County Manager and staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice Chairman Grady, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Vice Chairman Grady recognized Lucinda Brown of 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, GA who presented the Board with information regarding the American Rescue Plan. She also expressed concern over a picture posted on qpublic.net that has since been removed.

Vice Chairman Grady also announced two Community Meetings scheduled for September 7th and September 21, 2021 that will allow citizens and organizations the opportunity to request future American Rescue Plan funding.

Reports: Vice Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who referred to Tony Bodiford, Director of Public Works, to discuss the Rocky Ford Road Bridge repair project. The engineer working on the repair recommends installing a 48 ft. pipe in lieu of the box culvert as previously discussed. The cost would also be less. The Board approved the recommendation.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the fuel purchase from Coastal Plains Farmers Co-op for \$2.75/per gal. on July 23, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice Chairman Grady, and Commissioners Baggett, Gross Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Purchase Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on August 3, 2021 at 8:30 a.m., and the Public Property Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on August 5, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

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

Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



Wiley E. Grady, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk