

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
November 23, 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)	Wiley E. Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist.	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5	Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Facilities and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Pat Donahue, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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 November 9, 2021 Board Meeting. 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.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Planning Director Key Gay who gave an update on the status of the Residential Re-zoning Moratorium. He is requesting an extension to the Moratorium until March 31, 2022 which would allow him more time to work through some of the wording. Upon completion, Ken will provide a summary with layman's terms and what has changed in the last 3 years. No applications have been received that are currently affected by the current moratorium.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to extend the Moratorium to March 31, 2022. 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 recognized County Manager Stephenson and Facilities and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight who spoke about the recent Veterans Day Program. The event had a good turnout, and Lyndall attributes that to the endorsement from the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners. They are requesting the County to co- sponsor the event next year with the Veterans of Foreign Affairs. This would allow staff to provide in-kind services to the aging organization. The County would also help with advertising the event.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to jointly sponsor the Veterans Day Program with the Veterans of Foreign Affairs. 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.

Vice Chairman Grady asked for any questions or comments on the Thomas County Transit Title VI Plan. Hearing none, Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion approve the update and adopt Title VI Plan to include the concurrence letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation. 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 stated that the Board of Commissioners have had multiple opportunities to review the suggested re-districting map based on the 2020 Census data. He asked for additional questions and comments. Hearing none, Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the proposed re-districting map as presented and to forward the new map to the Congressional Reapportionment Office for technical review. 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 Public Works Director Tony Bodiford who presented the Board with a proposed list of roads for 3rd round resurfacing which would be included in the 2017 SPLOST. Tony reported that he had talked with Scruggs who assured him that the prices would increase substantially going into 2022.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to proceed with the 3rd round resurfacing list as presented. 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 County Manager Stephenson who proposed for consideration a Broadband Ready Community Ordinance. A few counties in Georgia have received this designation from the State of Georgia and are afforded opportunities to compete for economic growth and development as well as enhance access to educational opportunities and healthcare. To be considered for the designation, the County must approve a Broadband Ready Community ordinance and include the initiative in the Comprehensive Plan.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to adopt the Broadband Ready Community Ordinance as presented and to move forward with the application process for the designation. 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 Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Rd. South, Thomasville, GA who spoke on her previous request for the consideration of a joint resolution between the City of Thomasville and Thomas County that would show commitment to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. Questions and comments regarding the agricultural workforce, solar farms, residential solar panels, and questionable data were brought up by Commissioner Hickey and Commissioner NeSmith.

Reports: Vice Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who updated the Board on the quest for a new auditor since the recent resignation from Darrell Mills. The new auditor will pick up the work load after the preliminary audit in January. The preliminary auditor/consultant is also up in the air, but County Manager Stephenson hopes to have a consulting plan by the December 14th meeting.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the fuel purchase from Petroleum Products for \$2.4922/per gal. on November 11, 2021, and also the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.4805/gal on November 19, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. 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 December 7, 2021 at 8:30 a.m., and the Public Property Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on December 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Vice Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Vice Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Wiley E. Grady, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk