

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
January 11, 2022

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:

Phillip V. Brown, Chairman, Dist. 7

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)

Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

Wiley Grady, Vice-Chair, Dist. 6

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, County Clerk Celeste Tyler, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Planning Director Ken Gay, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Building and Maintenance Director Lyndall Knight, and Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX radio and Pat Donahue, Thomasville Times Enterprise

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and County Manager Mike Stephenson gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 Board Meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown welcomed all those in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also expressed his appreciation for the Board's support over the past year and commented on the success of handling the challenges that emerged with COVID-19 through effective teamwork. He then turned the meeting over to County Attorney Bruce Warren who asked for nominations for 2022 Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Grady made the nomination to elect Commissioner Mark NeSmith. With no other nominations forthcoming, County Attorney Warren ceased the nominating period. Commissioner Grady made the motion to elect Mark NeSmith as Chairman. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Brown, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. County Attorney Warren asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Brown made the nomination to re-elect Wiley Grady. With no other nominations forthcoming, County Attorney Warren ceased the nominating period. Commissioner Brown made the motion to elect Wiley Grady as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to re-appoint Bruce Warren as the County Attorney. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith thanked the Board for having the confidence in him to serve as Chairman and commended Commissioner Brown on a job well done leading the Board and navigating the County through unchartered territory dealing with COVID-19. He also thanked and recognized his wife, Melany, for her support.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the 2022 Public Defender Contract with the Southern Judicial Circuit. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, and Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to set the 2022 Qualifying Fees as presented. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, and Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree who made the recommendation to declare the old recliners from the Remington Station as surplus and donate them to the Thomasville Fire Department to be used for props in the search and rescue trailer.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to declare the old recliners from the Remington Station as surplus and donate them to the Thomasville Fire Department. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, and Commissioner Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Board Appointments: Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to reappoint Forrest Sumner to the Recreation Advisory Board. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Grady, and Vonier voting aye. Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to re-appoint Donnie Baggett, Elaine Mays, and Al Bryan to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Board. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Chairman Nesmith, Commissioners Brown Grady, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Baggett abstained from voting.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Road, Thomasville, Georgia who asked the Board to consider committing to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. She re-iterated the need to stop burning fossil fuel.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who commented on the concern over the possible property annexation on Hall Road. The applicants for the rezoning and annexation are on the agenda for the City of Thomasville's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on January 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. We will continue to monitor the process.

County Manager Stephenson also recommended setting two Community Meetings on March 15th and March 29th to receive input from the public regarding non-profit funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the two Community Meetings as presented. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith, and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.3446/ gal approved on 12/13/2021. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.55/ gal approved on 1/7/2022. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who thanked Chairman Brown for his leadership during the past year. He also announced the Public Works Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19th.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to go into Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, and Vonier voting aye. (9:28 a.m.)

The Board of Commissioner returned to the regular meeting at 10:07 a.m. No action was taken.

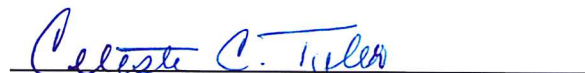
Chairman NeSmith stated that he would like to have the Preliminary Platt Review for the property on 319 South on the January 25th Board of Commissioners' Meeting Agenda.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk