

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
May 24, 2022

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:

Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4

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

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Phillip V. Brown, District 7

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

Moses Gross, District 2

Donnie L. Baggett, District 5

Zippy T. Vonier, District 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith declared a Public Hearing, and Donna Holbert presented Application #22-5-1. Thomas County Board of Commissioners is the applicant, requesting to amend the Land Use Standards Ordinance, Section 3.000 Land Use Regulations. County Attorney Warren commented that he collaborated with the Planning Department, and the recommended amendment provides more flexibility, provides categories that everything can fit in, and removes RM-11.

With no opposition present, Chairman NeSmith closed the Public Hearing. Commissioner Grady was recognized and made a motion to approve amending the Land Use Standards Ordinance, Section 3.000 Land Use Regulations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to lift the Moratorium for rezoning applications in the following land use standards districts in unincorporated Thomas County: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, RM-11, R-87, and MHP. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to re-appoint Carolyn Simmons to the Department of Family and Children Services Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith introduced a Resolution for the 2022 Local Option Sales Tax. He gave an overview of the first 2022 LOST Renegotiation Meeting held with the Thomas County city mayors on May 19, 2022. The recommended resolution leaves the percentages of distribution to what they were in 2012.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the 2022 Local Option Sales Tax Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

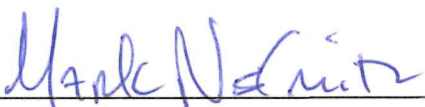
Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Rd. South, Thomasville, GA who continued to encourage the Board to commit to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. With high gas prices serving as a daily reminder, she hopes the County will consider converting their fleet to all electric motor vehicles. Chairman NeSmith recognized Lucinda Brown of 103 Halcyon Way, Thomasville, Georgia who asked the Commissioners to reconsider the role of the County Manager as Personnel Manager and create a Human Resources Department that would be bipartisan and work bilaterally with employees.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who updated the Board on the recent bid opening for the Southside Station. Some trades did not receive bids and an extension to receive bids was given until June 3, 2022.


Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the next Public Property Committee meeting has been rescheduled for June 16, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$4.7294/gal on May 19, 2022 and the purchase of fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.9835/gal on May 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

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



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk