

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
April 25, 2023

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:

Zippy Vonier, Chairman, Dist. 8
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3 (absent)
Wiley Grady, District 6

Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, Dist. 5
Moses Gross, District 2
Mark NeSmith, District 4
Phillip V. Brown, District 7

Staff present was County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio

Chairman Vonier called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Rich gave the invocation.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier declared a Public Hearing to consider a resolution transmitting a draft Capital Improvements Element 2023 Annual Update report.

Chairman Vonier recognized Mr. Bill Ross of Ross + Associates who explained that an annual report on impact fees is required, as well as, a new fifth year schedule of improvements, and any changes to or revisions of previously listed CIE projects, including alterations in project costs, proposed changes in funding sources, construction schedules, or project scope. A financial report is included in the document, and Mr. Ross described the financials as “stellar”. The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC) will review the document and forward it to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Chairman Vonier asked for comments or questions. Hearing none, Chairman Vonier closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adopt the 2023 Capital Improvements Element Transmittal Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve a proclamation for a National Day of Prayer on May 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Ken Gay who presented the Preliminary Plat for Grand Park Apartments, Phase II. This plat is an additional 80 units for the Grand Park Apartments complex. Ken stated that the preliminary plat has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Department, the Public Works Department, and Fire Inspection. Commissioner Rich commented on the additional traffic. Ken stated that it is being addressed along with pedestrian friendly options.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the Preliminary Plat for Grand Park Apartments, Phase II. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman Vonier recognized Ucher Dent of 408 Pine Street, Ochlocknee, Georgia who asked for support for the local Juneteenth celebration--the observance honoring the end of slavery. As founder and organizer of the local chapter. Ms. Dent stated that the annual event will be held at the Deep South Fairgrounds and invites all races to come and celebrate the enslaved people of America. She asked for monetary sponsorship and consideration for the County to observe Juneteenth as a holiday. Chairman Vonier recognized Earl Williams, III of 211 Yorkshire Crescent, Thomasville, Georgia who echoed the sentiments of Ms. Dent. Along with a personal testimony he described the Freedom Festival as impressive, welcoming, friendly, and great camaraderie among citizens.

Reports: Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel for \$2.7304/gal on April 19, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the approval to accept the bid from ATMAX Equipment Company for \$248,089 for a self-contained mower. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the approval to accept the bid from Adam Equipment for \$283,988 for a pothole patching truck. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

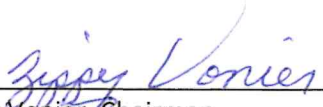
Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the approval to purchase camera installation and service for 1 Collection Site from Focus Communications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Commissioner Grady announced the Purchase Committee meeting will be held on May 8th at 8:30 a.m.

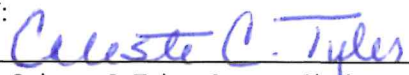
Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the Public Property Committee meeting will be held on May 3rd at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Rich who announced the Personnel Committee meeting will be held on May 4th at 4:00 p.m.

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



Zippy Vonier, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk