

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
May 9, 2023

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:

Zippy Vonier, Chairman, Dist. 8

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)
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 Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Project Superintendent Jay Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio and Jill Holloway Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the May 9, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman Vonier recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg & Butter Road South, Thomasville, Georgia who spoke on her mission of 100% renewable energy for Thomas County by 2035 and referenced Carl Sagan, astronomer and the Pale Blue Dot.

Reports: Chairman Vonier recognized County Manager Mike Stephenson who reminded the Board of the 5- year Comprehensive Plan with revisions and the upcoming Public Hearing on May 23rd. A link to the draft can be found on the County's website.

County Manager Stephenson recognized Donna Holbert, Zoning Administrator who Introduced rezoning application #23-5-1 from Thomas Akins, property owner, who has applied for a zoning change. The subject property is located on Ga. Hwy. 122 (Map 045, Parcels 062 and 062D) consisting of 49.39 acres, more or less. The request is to rezone the subject parcels from (AG) Agricultural to R-4 (Single Family Residential) to allow for the development of a residential subdivision consisting of approximately 125 lots.

Donna also introduced rezoning application #23-5-2 from Mark L. Manley, Managing Member of 319 North, LLC, agent for the property owner, Margaret Ragin. The subject property is located on Twin Acres Drive (Map 045B, Parcel 016) consisting of 4.71 acres, more or less. The request is to rezone this property from R-3 (Residential, Mixed Use) to CG (Commercial General) to allow for the use as a Real Estate/Auction

Business Office/Warehouse. Both applications will be on the agenda for the May 23rd Board of Commissioners' Meeting Public Hearing.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner NeSmith who announced that the Finance Committee meeting will be held on May 18, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.4615/gal on May 8, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept low bidder, Deep South Drainage for \$50,139 for metal drainage pipe (Public Works Pipe Yard). The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept low bidder, Kevin's Fine Outdoor Gear and Apparel for archery targets for \$33,371.08. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept sole bidder, Foley Products for Concrete Drainage Pipe for \$56,213.87 (Animal Services facility). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

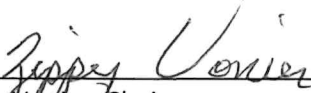
Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify approval to accept bidder, Consolidated Pipe and Supplies for \$40,291.10 for sewer and downspouts material (Animal Services facility). It was noted that another bidder did not meet the specifications listed in the bid package. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify the purchase of three new 2023 Crew Cab 1500 trucks from Thomasville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram for \$138,859. The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved 5-0-1 with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained due to a professional conflict.

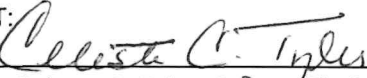
Commissioner Baggett made a motion to ratify the purchase of eight new V8 pursuit Chargers from Cass Burch for \$39,997 each plus upfitting. Commissioner NeSmith noted that ½ of the vehicles purchased were for this year and ½ are for next year. The V8 pursuit Charger will no longer be made. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved 5-0-1 with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, and NeSmith voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained due to a professional conflict.

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, and NeSmith voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.



Zippy Vonier, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk