

Summary Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
March 25, 2025

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, Dist. 4, Chairman	Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, Dist. 5
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1	Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, Dist. 6
Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7	Zippy Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Public Works Director Jay Knight, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

Media present: none

Others present: Pastor Markeith McCarthy, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church

Chairman NeSmith opened the meeting, and Pastor Markeith McCarthy gave the invocation

- Approved minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting
- Approved the March 25, 2025 Agenda
- Recognized Elections and Registration Supervisor Frank Scoggins for being awarded the prestigious Eagle Award by Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. The award honors the innovations, achievements, and best practices of county election offices to ensure safe, secure, accessible, and accurate elections provided transparently to Georgia's voters.
- Held Public Hearing for application 25-3-1; a request by Thomas County to amend the Land Use Standards Ordinance for lot size requirements in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 Land Use Districts so that the lot sizes align with the State of Georgia regulations. Also, amend the minimum size of the rezoning sign that is required to be posted on the property
- Approved request 25-3-1 to amend the Land Use Standards Ordinance
- Approve a proclamation recognizing April 6th – 12th, 2025 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week
- Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Mr. Tommy Patel who asked the Board to allow the citizens of Thomas County to vote on the approval/disapproval of Sunday beer sales. He stated that all surrounding areas have this.
- Approved monthly stipend of \$200 for Chief Magistrate Matt Shiner
- Authorized application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant (approx. \$8,000)
- Ratified the purchase of major replacements/repair parts for the rifle range from Mr. Target (sole vendor) for \$24,732.65
- Approved new lease agreement with Trailhead Media for \$2000 per year for six-years for the billboard on the Northside Fire Station property
- Ratified the purchase of a Data Collector from Carlson for \$25,694.00 (Public Works)
- Approved the 2025 Budget Amendment 25-3-1 for a Data Collector purchase for \$25,694.00 / 2017 SPLOST CPF (329)
- Approved the appropriation of \$418,764.18 from the 2025 LMIG surplus to the Colonial Square Project; 30% match requirement

- Approved the declaration of Surplus and authorized its sale on GovDeals online auction
- Announced the next Purchasing Meeting will be held on April 1st at 4:00 p.m. and the next Public Property Meeting will be held on April 3rd at 8:30 a.m. Both meetings will be conducted at the Historic Courthouse
- Adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.