

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
May 25, 2021

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:

Phillip V. Brown, Chairman, Dist. 7

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Donnie L. Baggett, Dist. 5

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

Moses Gross, Dist. 2

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

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, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: none

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Grady gave the invocation.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown declared a public hearing and recognized Donna Holbert, Zoning Administrator. Donna Holbert introduced application 21-5-1. Applicants Shane and Patricia Booker are requesting to rezone their property located at 626 shady Lane (Map 046, Parcel 032A) consisting of 2.03 acres, more or less, from Ag (Agricultural) to R-3 (Residential, Mixed Use) to allow this parcel to be divided into two parcels. The Planning Staff recommends approval of this application.

With no question, comments, or opposition, Chairman Brown closed the Public Hearing. Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve application 21-5-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Awards and Presentations: Chairman Brown recognized Collin Dillard, a graduating senior at Thomas County Central High School and the son of Ronald and Asha Dillard. Commissioner Rich read a Proclamation that highlighted Collin's academic and athletic achievements and declared Collin an Honorary Commissioner. Collin will continue to pursue his educational and athletic goals as a student at Berry College and as a member of the Berry Swim and Dive Team.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the 2021 Budget Amendment 21-5-1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT 21-5-1				
GENERAL FUND (100)				
May 25, 2021				
Account	Description	Original 2021 Budget	Amended Budget	Difference
Expenses				
329-4263-54-1405	Rocky Ford Road/Box Culvert	0	70,000	70,000
329-9010-57-9000	Contingencies	2,720,750	2,650,750	-70,000
	Total			0
Net Increase to Expenses				\$0

.....

Chairman Brown acknowledged the submission of the Capital Improvements Element 2021 Annual Update submitted by Bill Ross of Ross & Associates. Commissioner Gross commented on actual numbers versus projected numbers of the financial report.

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

Georgia, Thomas County

Adoption Resolution
Capital Improvements Element Annual Update
Thomas County, Georgia

WHEREAS, Thomas County adopted a Capital Improvements Element as an amendment to the *Thomas County Comprehensive Plan*; and

WHEREAS, Thomas County has prepared a 2021 Annual Update to the adopted Capital Improvements Element (including financial data for fiscal year 2020); and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Capital Improvements Element Annual Update was prepared, submitted and reviewed in accordance with the "Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements" and the "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning" adopted by the Board of Community Affairs pursuant to the Georgia Planning Act of 1989;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update, as per the requirements of the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements.

Adopted this 25th day of May, 2021.

Chairman Brown recognized County Manager Stephenson who reviewed the tentative budget by major category for the American Rescue Plan – Act of 2021. He emphasized that the drafted plan remains fluid and subject to change as new information is released.

County Manager Stephenson also highlighted information from a recent webinar on the Thomas County Defined Benefit Actuarial Review. The Thomas County Funding Ratio for 2021 is \$109%. Other county plans in our state average 85%. The Funding Ratio has been identified to monitor the long-term financial stability of the Plan. The annual expense of the Plan is \$780,000, and assets of the Plan total 8.8 million.

County Manager Stephenson also reported that \$623,000.00 had been received from the Forestry Land Protection Grant.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to ratify the Library Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign the Resolution for Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the approval to proceed with bidding out the pond construction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Hickey also asked Tony Bodiford and Jay Knight to compile a local list of vendors and email the list to all the Commissioners.

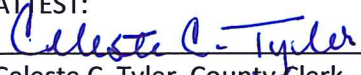
Commissioner Hickey also made a motion to authorize staff to apply for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program and Recreation Trails grants. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners, Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Purchase Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on June 1, 2021, and the Fleet Services Committee will meet at the Historic Courthouse on June 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Brown recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Brown and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Phillip V. Brown, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk