

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
April 26, 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
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, Project Superintendent Jay Knight, Planning Director Ken Gay, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

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

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Ken Gay who introduced a preliminary plat for Bloomfield Lakes Subdivision. The subdivision is on Old Cassidy Road, and a plat was approved a few years ago with a different property owner. The plat was modified with very little changes and has been approved by Public Works, Utilities, and Emergency Services.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for Bloomfield Lakes Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hickey. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith introduced a requested Proclamation for 2022 Thomas County National Day of Prayer. Commissioner Grady made a motion to approve the 2022 Thomas County National Day of Prayer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, 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. She stated that 47% of Georgia's croplands are under conservation tillage and increasing that to 90% would impact the quality of water and reusable energy. Chairman NeSmith recognized Jeanette Dixon of 148 Cindy Drive, Thomasville, Georgia who asked the Board to review the County's animal control ordinances in light of more people homesteading. She also shared a recent experience of her child's 4-H chicken being killed by a neighbor's dog.

Reports: Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who distributed information on Barracuda Email Protection, a new e-mail platform that is recommended by NTS. A firm proposal will be presented in the near future. This information comes on the heels of the County Clerk's e-mail being compromised.

County Manager Stephenson also commented on the recent Fire Department ISO inspection. The staff felt good about the inspection. They were satisfied to learn that there are multiple ways to determine certification for firefighters. Additional information was requested on 10 items. The overall assessment of the inspection will be complete in 4 months.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to authorize the application submission for the Georgia Trauma Commission Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the approval for new Summer Hours for the Ranges at Oakfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Warren who stated that interest has been expressed for purchasing the land where the Merryville voting precinct was located. He suggested that it could be discussed at the next Board of Commissioners' meeting.

The upcoming committee meetings were announced. The Purchasing Committee will meet on May 3, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m., and the Public Property Committee will meet on May 5, 2022 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST: 

Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk