

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
August 9, 2022

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:

Mark NeSmith, Chairman, Dist. 4
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)
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, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Transit Director Corey McGee, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order and Corey McGee gave the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman NeSmith recognized Shirley Jackson of 727 Crowley Rd., Thomasville, GA who inquired about the status of the ARPA funding that is earmarked for individual households. She commented that citizens are having trouble paying their utility bills, and they need the money now. Chairman NeSmith recognized Bernard Cannon of 530 Old Cassidy Road, Thomasville, GA who asked for help in addressing the burned house across the road from his property. He stated that the property is all grown up with 2-3 vacant trailers on it and is devaluing the surrounding properties.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Corey McGee who presented for renewal the Transportation Service Provider Contract between the Department of Human Services (Southwest Georgia Regional Commission) and Thomas County Board of Commissioners. He concluded that there were only a few minor changes, and basically it is a continuation of the service already provided.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the renewal of the Transportation Service Provider Contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to amend the Alcohol and Drug Testing Policy to reflect Thomas County employee, Mary Griffin, as the contact person for the Thomas County Area Transit System Drug and Alcohol Program Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye.

Reports:

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Manager Stephenson who recognized Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert. Donna introduced rezoning application #22-7-1. This application was filed by Steve Sykes, agent for property owner, Live Oak Avenues, LLC. The applicant is requesting to rezone property located on Hall Road and Hwy. 319 North located on Thomas County Map 045, Parcels 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, and 137 portion consisting of 35.73 acres, more or less. The request is to rezone this property from Ag (Agricultural) R-2 (Residential, Single Family) and CG (Commercial General) to R-4 (Single Family Residential) for the development of a residential subdivision consisting of approximately 107 single family residential homes. The rezoning application #22-7-1 will be heard at a Public Hearing at the August 23, 2022 Thomas County Board of Commissioners' Meeting. The staff from the Planning and Zoning Department is recommending approval of the application.

Chairman NeSmith expressed his continuous concern with traffic in and out and asked the Planning and Zoning Department to discuss solutions for better traffic flow -- possibly coming out of the subdivision on the north drive only or exploring traffic flow during school hours. County Manager Stephenson asked them to check on maximum density and to do their homework ahead of time if the property should change hands. County Attorney Warren commented that the last zoning classification changes to the ordinance reduced discretion. He stated that any re-zoning should immediately be put in the atlas, board minutes, and ordinances online.

The County Manager recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on the Evergreen Brook Apartments project. Our Planning and Zoning Department is waiting on them to resolve some utility department issues with the city of Thomasville. There is no hold up on our part.

Commissioner Brown inquired about the new hotel located across from Harbor Freight. Ken stated that a Home to Suites, a Hilton property, is coming to Thomasville, and the project is ready to go.

Chairman NeSmith recognized County Attorney Warren who briefed the Board on his conversation with Genesys Health Alliance regarding the healthcare provider agreement for inmate medical care. County Attorney Warren asked for clarification on section 5.2 "Future Years' Compensation" of the proposed agreement. County Attorney Warren was satisfied when learning that any increase would occur after the stipulated timeframe in the agreement and not automatically in January 2023. The agreement will be sent to the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to ratify the purchase of the following vehicles as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved 6-0-1 with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained from voting, citing a work-related conflict.

DEPARTMENT	QUANTITY	VEHICLE TYPE	Initial Price	PO Price
Facilities & Maintenance	1	Ford F-250 Pickup w/ service body	\$55,210	\$43,260
Planning & Zoning	1	Ford F-150 Pickup	\$44,384	\$40,597
Fleet Services	1	Ford F-150 Pickup w/ service body	\$50,472	\$40,357
Public Works	2	Ford F-150 Pickup	\$45,742 x 2	\$89,297
Elections & Registration	1	Cargo High Roof Van	\$47,409	\$47,452

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify approval to purchase the Brindlee Mountain Fire Engine \$82,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The

motion was approved 6-1-0 with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Gross voted nay.

County Manager Stephenson distributed the 2022 Government Management Indicators (GOMI) survey from the Department of Community Affairs.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Grady who announced that the Emergency Services Committee will meet on August 15, 2022 at the Remington Avenue Fire Station at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grady. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk