

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
March 14, 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
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
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, Planning Director Ken Gay, Zoning Administrator Donna Holbert, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Sheriff Carlton Powell, 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 Hickey gave the invocation.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who introduced Justin Rogers, the new Thomas County Central High School Football Coach. Coach Rogers is from Greenville, Alabama and a graduate from Troy State University. He shared his "Pyramid of Success" with the Board, not only relating it to football, but to living your best life.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adopt a Resolution for the Deannexation of 229 Clark Road, Thomasville, Georgia. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adopt a Resolution for amending the Thomas County Comprehensive Plan to include Broadband Internet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman Vonier recognized Kristin McGregor of 410 Norias Road, Thomasville, Georgia who spoke in opposition of the road closing of Winterpast Way. She stated that she just heard about it and was not aware of the Public Hearing. She and her husband, Bill, have enjoyed the road for over 30 years. They are concerned about the Emergency Service access should the road be closed. They ask for a reconsideration and reversal on the decision to close the road. Chairman Vonier recognized Kay Cromartie of 323 Norias Road, Thomasville, Georgia. She too opposes the road closure of

Winterpast Way. She feels that the families residing on Norias Road, within one mile of Winterspast Way, should have been notified. She also acknowledges that her sister is the only resident on Winterpast Way, and approved the closure.

Reports: County Manager Stephenson recognized Zoning Administrator, Donna Holbert who introduced application 23-3-1. Anna Carroll, managing member of Southeast Creative, LLC, property owner, has applied for the rezoning of property located on Heatherway Lane (Map 047, 016J) consisting of 4.33 acres, more or less, from Ag (Agricultural) to R-1 (Single Family Residential) to allow for the construction of a single- family residential dwelling. The proposed dwelling will accommodate the owner’s elderly parent. The Planning Staff recommends approval of this application.

County Manager Stephenson recognized Planning Director Ken Gay who gave an update on the status of Evergreen Brook Apartments. The Planning Department is still waiting to receive drawings that are in compliance with the County’s standards.

Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.0018/gal on March 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.


Commissioner Grady made a motion to ratify bid approval for the Base and Paving of Wade Chastain Road by the Scruggs Company for \$793,690.88The motion was seconded by Commissioner NeSmith. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Rich who noted that he had attended a litter pickup event on Dillon Road organized by Samuel Gelabert. Also, he and Commissioner Brown attended the ACCG Legislative Breakfast last Thursday.


Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Hickey who announced that the Public Works Committee meeting will be held on March 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Gross who announced that the Emergency Services Committee meeting will be held on March 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Historic Courthouse.

Chairman Vonier recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Vonier and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, and Rich voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.



Zippy Vonier, Chairman

ATTEST:


Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk