

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
February 13, 2024

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1 (absent)

Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3

Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5

Moses Gross, Dist. 2 (absent)

Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4

Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Planning Director Ken Gay, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Tax Assessor Daniel Stokes, Transit Director Corey McGee, Capt. Jerome Burgess, Capt. Steve Jones, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Others present: Sharon Edwards, Director of Community Outreach Training Center

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX radio and Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise

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

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 13, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady asked all Commissioners to meet him down front and then proceeded with having Sheriff Carlton Powell to join them. Chairman Grady acknowledged his 60 years with Thomas County with 48 of those years as Sheriff. He eloquently spoke of his dedication and contributions to the citizens of Thomas County and concluded with the befitting biblical reference to Matthew 25:23 "well done good and faithful servant". A rendering of the newly renamed "R. Carlton Powell Public Safety Complex" was revealed. A humbled Sheriff Powell expressed his appreciation to the citizens of Thomas County and the Thomas County Board of Commissioners. Many colleagues, family, and friends were in attendance.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to approve the special event request for the 2nd Annual Polo Classic, benefiting the non-profit 501c3 Pebble Hill Preservation Fund. All licensing and adequate security documentation was provided. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who presented the 2017 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund—expenses for the 2024 Budget. Commissioner NeSmith made a motion to approve the 2017 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund as presented. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Grady recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg and Butter Road, Thomasville, Georgia who continued to ask the Board to consider committing to the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. She specifically asked for the County to gradually begin reducing its fleet from fuel to electric or at the very least hybrid. She gave an overview of the carbon footprint and referenced giga tons (billions) amount of fossil fuels that are already available. Chairman Grady recognized Nate Tyler, President of the local NAACP, who requested a meeting with commissioners to discuss the drug squad and chase policies within the Thomas County Sheriff's Department. Chairman Grady recognized Woodward Parker and Chance Trammell of 7 Sunny Lane Ochlocknee, GA and 72 Sunny Lane, Ochlocknee, GA respectively. They asked for help dealing with the recklessness of the young men who are racing/speeding down the road, primarily Friday through Sunday at all hours of the day and night.

Reports: Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to ratify the adoption of the 2023 End of Year Budget Amendment 24-21-1. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.752/ per gal approved on January 23, 2024. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$3.019/ per gal and unleaded fuel for \$2.6144/per gal approved on February 13, 2024. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify the decision to cancel Purchase Order #99233 for a F150 Pick-up truck from Wade Ford, Inc. According to Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, the truck has never been built. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Baggett also made a motion to ratify authorization to purchase a new engine for Unit 13-242 / a 2014 Mack dump truck from Cummins for \$25,350.98. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-1 with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioner Brown abstained from the vote stating a conflict of interest.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify bid approval for 2024 Road Resurfacing from Reames and Sons for \$1,598,150.20. Commissioner Vonier seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to go into Executive Closed Session. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. (9:29 a.m.)

The Board returned to the Regular Session of the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner NeSmith who made a motion to adopt a \$22 booking fee and a \$50 per day inmate housing per diem at the jail effective March 15, 2024. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye.

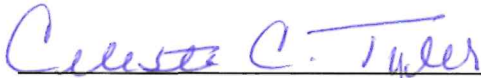
Chairman Grady recognized Ms. Sharon Edwards, Executive Director of Community Outreach Training Center. Ms. Edwards gave an update on the ARPA funding earmarked for Individual Household Assistance. To date 1,428 Thomas County residents living in the unincorporated areas and 606 applicants in the incorporated areas of the County (minus the City of Thomasville) have been received. The monetary assistance is primarily used for mortgage and rent assistance, utilities, and eviction prevention. Commissioner Hickey complimented Ms. Edwards on a job well done. Commissioner Brown echoed his sentiments.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Hickey, NeSmith, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.



Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk