

Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
July 23, 2024

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:

Wiley Grady, Chairman Dist. 6

Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, Dist. 1
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3
Phillip V. Brown, Dist. 7

Donnie L. Baggett, Vice-Chair Dist. 5

Moses Gross, Dist. 2
Mark NeSmith, Dist. 4
Zippy T. Vonier, Dist. 8

Staff present was County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, Sheriff Carlton Powell, Tax Commissioner Alicia Hester, Tax Assessor Daniel Stokes, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler.

Others present: Bill Ross, Ross & Associates

News/Media present: Chris Hurst, WPAX Radio; Layan Abu Tarboush ABC News

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

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Vonier who made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to approve the agenda for the July 23, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

New Business: Chairman Grady recognized Bill Ross, Thomas County impact fee consultant, who announced that the 2024 Capital Improvements Element Annual Update had been submitted and approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The document will be an amendment to the Thomas County Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to adopt a Resolution for the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. Commissioners Hickey and Baggett expressed their appreciation to Mr. Ross for the good work he continually does for the County.

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 the fiscal 2024 Annual Update to the adopted Capital Improvements Element; and

WHEREAS, the 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 Board of Commissioners of Thomas County does hereby adopt the Capital Improvements Element Annual Update, as per the Development Impact Fee Compliance Requirements.

Adopted this **23rd** day of **July**, 2023.

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who requested approval for 2024 Budget Amendment 24-7-1/Capital Improvements Fund. He added that this would be one of the last amendments to the revenues from the 2017 SPLOST.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Brown who made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget Amendment 24-7-1. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

**2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT 24-7-1
SPLOST CPF (329)
July 23, 2024**

Account	Description	Original 2024 Budget	Amended Budget	Budget Difference
Revenues				
329-31-3200	SPLOST	28,000,000	28,400,000	400,000
329-34-3300	LMIG-DOT	5,000,000	6,400,000	1,400,000
329-34-9923	City of Coolidge-Reimbursement	0	109,000	109,000
329-36-1000	Interest	375,000	500,000	125,000
	Total			2,034,000
Net Increase to Revenues				<u>\$2,034,000</u>

Account	Description	Original 2024 Budget	Amended Budget	Budget Difference
Expenses				
329-9010-579000-000	Contingencies	2,048,474	4,082,474	2,034,000
	Total			2,034,000
Net Increase to Expenses				<u>\$2,034,000</u>

Chairman Grady recognized County Manager Stephenson who presented the 2024 Property Tax Levy. His recommendation is to have the Millage Rates stay at the Rollback Rate, thereby bringing in the same

amount of revenue. He also explained the insurance premium tax rollback that affects the Unincorporated district.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to set the Tentative 2024 Millage Rate as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Chairman Grady referenced the letter of interest from Kevin Dennis to serve on the Department of Family and Children Services Board. Mr. Dennis has been employed with the Thomas County Sheriff's Office for 28 years, and over the last decade has been assigned to investigate crimes against children. His qualifications exceed the requirements set forth in the Department's Bylaws.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to appoint Kevin Dennis to the Department of Family and Children Services Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman Grady and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The term of the appointment is July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029.

Open Meeting to Citizens: Chairman Grady recognized Jeanette Dixon of 148 Cindy Drive, Thomasville, Georgia who continued to speak on concerns of animal control/services in Thomasville. She distributed graphic photos of dogs running in packs and cats(pets) killed by roaming dogs. She also briefed the Board on her impressive tour of an animal shelter in Dawson, Georgia and referenced the Terrell County ordinance that stipulates the implementation of stiff fines given to animal owners that are out of compliance.

Committee Reports Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who announced the next Public Property Committee meeting will be held August 1, 2024 at the Historic Courthouse at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Rich who made a motion to ratify the purchase of regular fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.5243/gal on June 18, 2024. Commissioner NeSmith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.


Commissioner Rich made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.5968/gal on June 18, 2024. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to ratify the purchase of diesel fuel from Petroleum Products for \$2.6493/gal on July 11, 2024. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye.

Commissioner Rich also announced the next Purchasing Committee meeting will be held August 6, 2024 at the Historic Courthouse at 4:00 p.m.

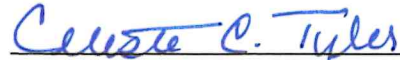
Chairman Grady recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Chairman Grady, Commissioners

Baggett, Brown, Gross, Hickey, NeSmith, Rich, and Vonier voting aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



Wiley Grady, Chairman

ATTEST:



Celeste C. Tyler, County Clerk