

Thomas County Board of Commissioners
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
February 24, 2026

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, District 4, Chairman	Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, District 5
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, District 1	Moses Gross, District 2 -
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, District 6
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8 Absent

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes

Media present: None

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and offered the invocation.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve minutes of the February 10, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to approve the agenda for February 24, 2026, Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Rich voting aye.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to appoint Charles J Pettus to the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Rich voting aye.

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County Manager:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Michael Stephenson, County Manager, who reported that Chris White, City Manager for the City of Thomasville, has requested letters of support from the Board of Commissioners to Senator Jon Ossoff and Senator Raphael Warnock supporting a grant application of the City of Thomasville for Congressional Directed Spending, a Thomasville/Thomas County Emergency Communications Improvement project.

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to authorize letters of support to Senator Jon Osoff and Senator Raphael Warnock for the City of Thomasville's FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending request for an emergency communications project. Commissioner Grady seconded the motion. The motion was approved in a 6 to 1 vote with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Rich voting aye and Commissioner Gross voting nay.

County Attorney:

Attorney Bruce Warren stated that he has documentation showing how Ms. Edwards distributed the ARPA funds that were awarded to her nonprofit organization during the COVID-19 period. He further stated that the lawsuit has been filed, which is in the discovery phase, and he plans to file a motion to settle the judgment.

Committees:

Public Property:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Baggett who made a motion to ratify the approval of the seven-year Landfill Performance Audit with Law Redd CPA's and Auditors for \$45,000. Commissioner Hickey seconded the motion. The motion was approved in a 6 to 1 vote with Chairman NeSmith, Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, and Gross voting aye and Commissioner Rich voting nay.

Public Works:

Chairman NeSmith recognized Commissioner Hickey who made a motion to ratify the approval of the 2026 Fireworks Tax Grant with a 10% match of \$1,994

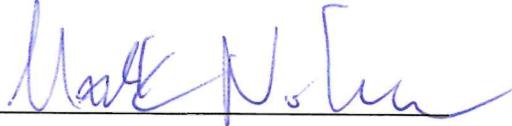
Chairman NeSmith and Commissioner Baggett met with Thomasville Mayor Scott Chastain and Mayor Pro-Tem Lucinda Brown to discuss several matters between Thomas County and the City of Thomasville. Chairman NeSmith reported that the following items were discussed:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement for the 911 Radio System – Per the 911 Radio System Intergovernmental Agreement dated February 13, 2018, Thomas County and the City of Thomasville are required to jointly execute all contracts for services and/or capital outlays. No contract becomes effective without the signatures of both parties.
2. Jointly Owned Building at 110 S. Crawford Street – The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is moving into the building. The City of Thomasville has expressed interest in purchasing the building. There has been discussion of Thomas County potentially deeding a portion of the bay area to the City of Thomasville, while the building itself would be deeded to Thomas County.
3. Landfill Operations and Fees – Discussion was held regarding landfill operations, including overage fees charged to Thomas County. The closure of the landfill on Saturdays and Sundays and the associated costs to Thomas County were also discussed.
4. TSPLOST – Both Thomas County and the City of Thomasville expressed interest in pursuing a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST). The Public Works Director will research the matter further and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Baggett commented that the meeting with the City of Thomasville was productive and went well.

With there being no further business Chairman NeSmith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Chairman NeSmith and Commissioners Baggett, Brown, Grady, Hickey, Gross, and Rich voting aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

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