

Summary Minutes
Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Board Street
February 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:

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

Staff present: County Manager Michael J. Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, Planning Director Ken Gay, Public Works Director Tony Bodiford, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Fleet Services Director Jamie Parrott, Sheriff Carlton Powell, and County Clerk Celeste Tyler

Media present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise, Chris Hurst WPAX

Chairman Vonier opened the meeting, and Commissioner NeSmith gave the invocation.

- Approved minutes from the January 24, 2023 meeting
- Greg Thweatt representing Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4995 presented EMT and Law Enforcement awards to Michael J. Bennfield and Sgt. Brandon Hill
- Approved Beer and Wine License for Mayurbhai Patel, Jenshir, LLC dba Summerhill Food Mart located at 1555 Summerhill Road, Thomasville, Georgia
- Approved Resolution for Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10 – Animal Control, removing Humane Society verbiage
- Appointed Commissioner Rich to the Land Bank Authority Board (term expiring 12/31/2024)
- Re-appointed Commissioner Gross to the Land Bank Authority Board (term expiring 12/31/2026)
- Appointed Jason Giddens to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Board
- Re-appointed Terry Hurst to the Recreation Advisory Board
- Appointed Bob Brettel to the Animal Control Board
- Open Meeting to the Citizens: Chairman Vonier recognized Candee Henderson of 1453 Egg & Butter Road South, Thomasville, Georgia who spoke on her mission of 100% renewable energy for Thomas County by 2035. Chairman Vonier recognized Judy Bradshaw of 314 White Oak Trail, Thomasville, Georgia who referenced conversations with County Manager Mike Stephenson and Commissioner Phillip Brown. She commented on the Commissioners' reasons of not contracting with the Humane Society; inquired about vetting animal shelters and asked questions regarding the intentions of the County to continue implementing the no-kill shelter standards. Chairman Vonier recognized Sharon Johnson of 476 Newton Road, Thomasville, Georgia who spoke in favor of a continued working relationship between the Humane Society and the County and presented a petition of 100 plus names of like-minded folks. She came representing neither side but pled for common ground, mediation if necessary, and negotiating the differences between the two parties. Chairman Vonier recognized Dale Nasinovich of 155 Lake Shore Drive, Thomasville, Georgia who referenced good conversations held with County Clerk Celeste Tyler, Commissioner Ken Hickey, and Chairman Vonier. She asked if the contract could be shorter than ten years. She

is concerned about the safety of animals and citizens, stray dogs, and adoption. Chairman Vonier recognized Kathy Vignos of 2508 S. Pinetree Boulevard, Thomasville, Georgia who stated she was dismayed at the status of the County and the Humane Society's relationship. She had several questions including: when will the taxpayers know the cost of the proposed new shelter and operating costs; is the county sticking with the 5-day holding period/ Georgia State law for owners to re-claim their lost animals; and who does the public call. Stephanie Dodson Dougherty, Board of Directors President with the Thomasville-Thomas County Humane Society at 180 Big Star Drive, Thomasville, Georgia addressed the Board and stated that the Humane Society is willing to negotiate.

- Update given on Evergreen Brook Apartments
- County Attorney Warren announced that the first contribution from the Opioid Settlement has been received
- Ratified diesel fuel purchase from Petroleum Products for \$2.9859/gal on 2/9/2023
- Ratified bid approval for Roadside Spraying Chemicals for \$112,283.75 from Coastal Plains
- Ratified bid approval for Water Well Installation for \$20,700 from Gainous Well Drilling for the Five Forks Station
- Ratified recommendation to approve the Thomas County Field Operations 2023 Budget for \$150,795
- Ratified recommendation to approve the Thomas County Shelter Operations 2023 Budget for \$222,750
- Ratified approval to adopt 2023 Budget Amendment 23-2-1 for Thomas County Animal Services Shelter for \$960,000 out of the SPLOST 2017 Capital Projects Fund
- Ratified approval of the Thomas County Services Shelter plans as submitted.
- Ratify authorization to apply for the Georgia Trauma Commission Grant (\$8,071.56)
- Announced the Public Works Committee meeting on February 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.
- Announced the Emergency Services Committee meeting on February 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
- Adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.