

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY January 9, 2023
4:30 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing, Monday, January 9, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201 Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.

CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Elmer Thrift
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Commissioner Steve Barnard, Commissioner Leonard Burse, Commissioner Timmy Lucas. Commissioner Jerry Pope
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager Scott Moye; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Dorminey Herzog
PRESS	Danny Bartlett - WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from Work Session

Call to Order:

Chairman Thrift called to order the public hearing for the application for Road Closure/Abandonment.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Leonard Burse - aye
Commissioner Jerry Pope – aye
Commissioner Timmy Lucas - aye
Commissioner Steve Barnard - aye

Presentation of Public Hearing Title – Road Closure/Abandonment

Chairman Thrift repeated that this public hearing is for a road closure/abandonment for portions of Country Club Boulevard and East Waring Street. He then asked CM Moye to explain the situation. Mr. Moye responded that Planning and Codes Director, James Shubert, could better explain. He explained that he had added pictures to give a better idea of the what the area looks like off of East Waring and Dorothy Street. Chairman Thrift asked if this would affect any of the landowners in the back. Mr. Shubert responded that it would not. He explained that this is at the request of Michelle Strickland, daughter of Ms. Brenda Ardoyno, for approval to abandon Country Club Boulevard as it extends off East Waring Street for approximately 283 feet and also to close and abandon a portion of East Ware Street that extends off of Country Club Boulevard. These are unopened roads that

have never been used since that subdivision was platted many years ago. The purpose of the application is to obtain one-half of the ownership of the right of way of these roadways which are located in Land Lot 120 of the 8th Land District. Portions of County Club Boulevard has a length of 283 feet with the apparent right of way of 50 feet. East Ware is 129 feet with a right of way of 40 feet.

Mr. Shubert stated that per his discussion with Public Works Director, Michael Brooks, there is no issue with closing the road in relation to drainage. Ms. Strickland is requesting to build a house in on this property; however, in order to obtain the land she needs, she has to close the rights of way. He explained that certified letters have been sent to all of the adjoining property owners. There have been no responses although all of the signed receipts have been returned. The matter is before the Commission for review.

Commissioner Barnard asked if northern part of Ware St was closed, wouldn't the right of way have to be split between the landowners. Mr. Shubert said that the County would abandon half of the right of way to each landowner. He had explained to Ms. Strickland that if the other landowners give up their part, that will be have to be worked out between them.

Commissioner Lucas asked what Director Shubert recommended. He responded that it is his recommendation to close and abandon. In the future, he feels the County should go in and close the other rights of way. He doesn't see a significant need for them.

Commissioner Pope asked to verify that Public Works would not need a drainage easement on this closure. Mr. Shubert said that was correct.

Commissioner Barnard asked if she would be building on 052B10 006, to which Mr. Shubert responded that she would build on 052B10 004. Commissioner Burse asked if it would be right behind the building on that property. Commissioner Barnard stated that is her mother's house.

Chairman Thrift asked if closing would affect the people at 052B10 006. Mr. Shubert said that property owner, Mrs. Guy, owns property all the way to Cherokee Avenue which is the road she uses. The Chairman asked if that property owner was agreeable to the closure. Mr. Shubert stated they are as Ms. Strickland has spoken to them personally. When Commissioner Lucas asked if this area had ever been a used road, he was told no. Ms. Strickland's mother and brother have used it as a driveway and mowed and maintained it for years as part of their yard.

Commissioner Burse asked if all adjoining property owners were sent a certified letter and signed receipts received. Mr. Shubert stated that only one letter was returned unable to be delivered. The address was for a brown mobile home facing Dorothy Street which sits in the direct path of this roadway.

Chairman Thrift asked if the applicant, Michelle Strickland, was present and in agreement of the closure. He was assured she wants this closure. He then asked if anyone else was for it or against it. There was no response. He then asked for a motion to close. County Attorney Herzog responded that the public hearing can be closed, and the matter can be added to the regular meeting agenda.

Commissioner Burse then asked if signs had been posted for the public. Mr. Shubert told him signs were put at the end of each proposed section for closure. He also ran the item in the newspaper.

Commissioner Pope asked if the applicant pays the deed. Mr. Shubert said that is part of the application process.

Chairman Thrift asked if there were any public comments. Commissioner Lucas asked Ms. Strickland if she was interested in addressing the Commission. She was not.

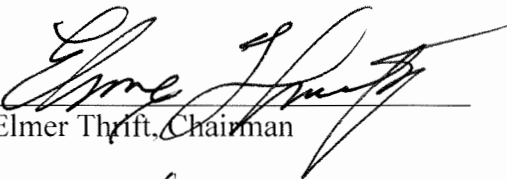
Chairman Thrift asked if there were any Commissioner comments. Commissioner Lucas stated he was fine with it. Commissioner Pope said he was good. Commissioner Burse said he was fine with it.

CLOSURE

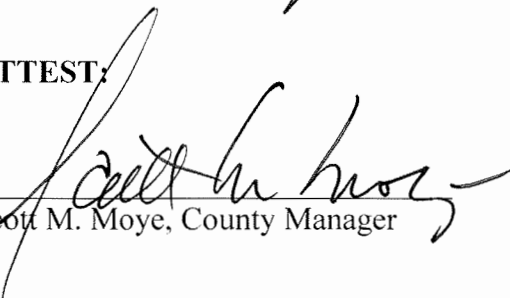
Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to close the public hearing, with Commissioner Lucas seconding.

All Commissioners vote aye. Chairman Thrift closed the public hearing at 4:40PM.

Date proposed to be approved: February 14, 2022


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:


Scott M. Moye, County Manager

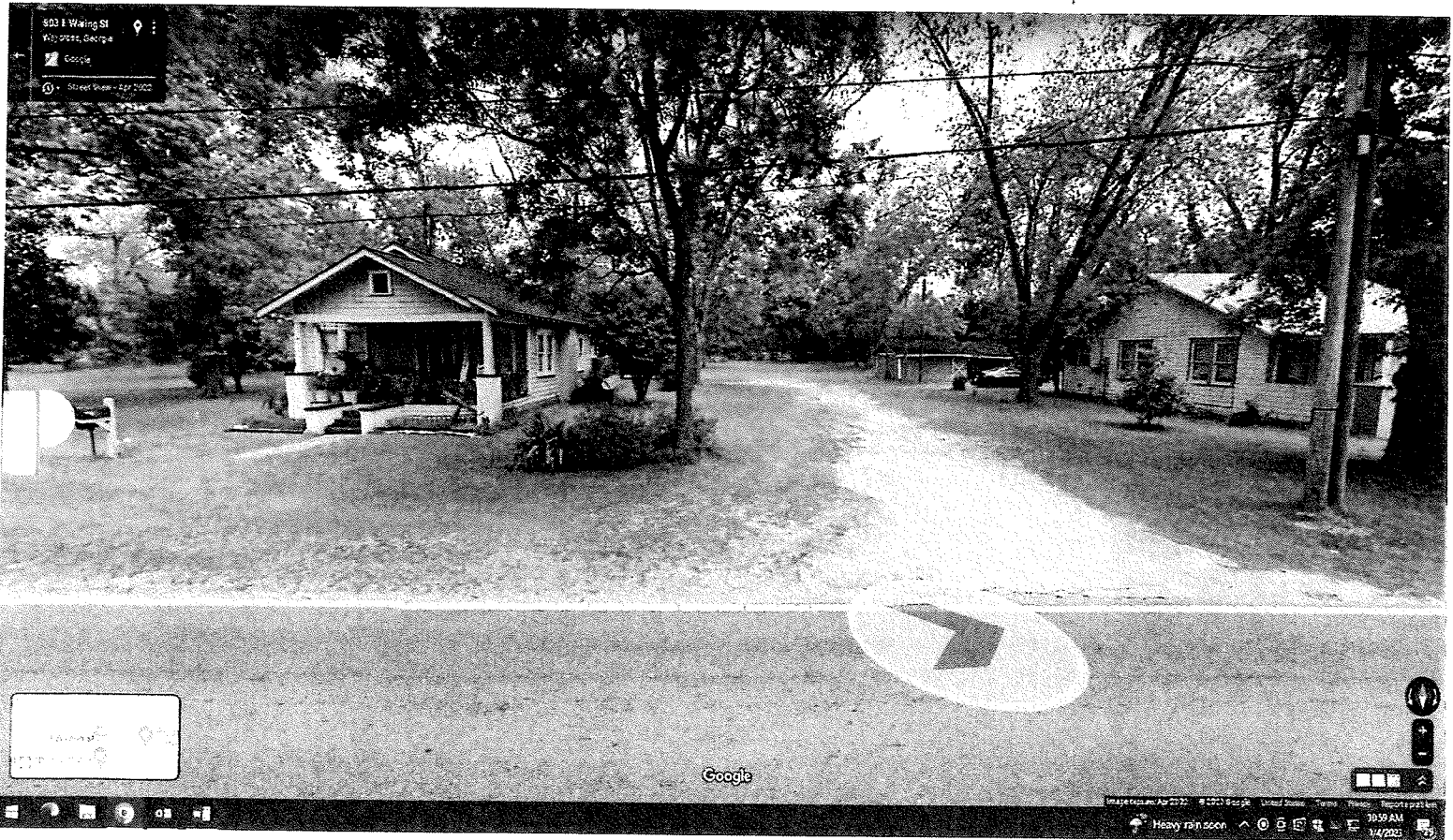
02-15-2023
Date



**Proposed Road Closures
Country Club Blvd and
East Ware St.
Aerial Map**

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VIEW FROM E. WARING STREET



VIEW FROM DOROTHY STREET

