

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023
5:19 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, February 13 2023, at 5:19 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, and Commissioner Jerry Pope
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	None
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager Scott Moye; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog
PRESS	Danny Bartlett, WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from the Work Session

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Moye advised the Commission that Item A was removed from the Work Session Agenda and therefore would not be heard at the Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to approve the agenda as presented, with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye, Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

GUEST SPEAKER: None

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session	January 9, 2023
Public Hearing	January 9, 2023
Regular Meeting	January 9, 2023
Called Meeting	January 23, 2023

Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to approve the meeting minutes as presented, with Commissioner Barnard seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye, and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Waresboro Volunteer Fire Station Building

This item was removed until further notice.

B. Request to Approve – Dirt Road Paving Project List

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Pope made a motion to instruct the Manager and Engineer to prepare documents to go out for bid Priority Items 1-8 on the 2023 Local Funds Proposed Projects List as the first part of this project and bring it back to the Commission Board. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion. Commissioner Barnard asked about Astoria Road. Commissioner Pope stated he would accept an amendment to add that road to the bid list. Commissioner Barnard made an amended motion to submit for bid Paving Priority 1-8 and Resurfacing Priority 2. Commissioner Pope accepted the amended motion with Commissioner Burse seconding it.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

C. Request to Add Juneteenth to Ware County Approved Holidays

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to add Juneteenth to the Ware County Approved Holidays. He felt it would be a great move on the part of the County and would following suit behind other counties and cities in Georgia. Commissioner Lucas asked to clarify that one-third of the State has already adopted this holiday. Commissioner Burse stated that thirty-three cities and thirteen counties have already elected to add this day, but this was as of last year.

Commissioner Pope said that if Juneteenth is added, he wants the Commission to think seriously about adding Veteran's Day to the holiday calendar as veterans are often overlooked. There is no paid holiday for them. Commissioner Burse asked Commissioner Pope if that had ever come before the Commission because he knows a lot of employers use Veteran's Day to give extra time at Thanksgiving or Christmas and wondered if it used to be a holiday and if it had been moved. Commissioner Pope said he believed it had and then asked CM Moye if there had been any comments from employees (about holidays). Mr. Moye replied that the employees who have spoken with him stated they like having the extra day off at Thanksgiving and Christmas which is a result of switching some days, and they want to keep it like that. This switch was done many years ago.

Chairman Thrift said he felt the item should be voted upon by taxpayers. Commissioner Burse said that elected officials are to make decisions in the best interest of the citizens. Commissioner Lucas then stated he seconded Commissioner Burse's motion as moved.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope asked how Veteran's Day could be added. Commissioner Lucas said he thought Veteran's Day was observed on the day after Thanksgiving. Commissioner Barnard said that President's Day is observed on that Friday after Thanksgiving. Commissioner Lucas said that maybe Veteran's Day can be brought up at a later date. Commissioner Burse agreed that would be a good idea. He said he believes veterans are important. His son is a veteran, and two of his granddaughters are in the Navy.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-no (*After his vote, Commissioner Barnard stated the reason he voted no was because Veteran's Day was not included*); and Chairman Elmer Thrift-no.

D. County Road Right of Way Mowing Contract Extension

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to accept the Right of Way Mowing Contract Extension for one (1) year, with mowing being done three (3) times a year and trash pickup being done twice a year. Commissioner Burse seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion then he stated the only change being made is adding one more trash pickup. Commissioner Lucas then asked County Engineer Brandon Wallace if the trash pickup can be done after the mowing has been done because there always seem to be more trash afterwards. Chairman Thrift and Commissioner Barnard responded that there would be a bigger mess if the pickup occurred after the mowing. Mr. Wallace stated that after mowing, the trash that is left behind is more visible. The contractor will have the subcontractor come in and then start mowing right behind the pickup. If the County requested another pickup after the mowing, there would probably be an additional fee. Commissioner Barnard added that another reason for mowing before trash pickup is to remove items like tires and wood before the mower runs over them and endangers the workers. Chairman Thrift reiterated that the trash pickup would occur before the first and last mowing cycle.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

E. Purchase Request – HVAC Units (3) for Courthouse

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to approve the purchase of the (3) HVAC units for the courthouse, with Commissioner Burse seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

F. Ordinance 2023-01: Establish Maximum Speed Limit in Augusta Springs Subdivision

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to establish a maximum speed limit in the Augusta Spring of 25 miles per hour with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Pope asked how the speed limit was determined. CM Moye answered that the Sheriff set it. The Chairman thought that was low. Commissioner Lucas explained that is the maximum speed limit for a residential area.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

G. Appointment to the Ware County Board of Assessors

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to reappoint Darrell Roberson to the Board of Assessors with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

H. Appointment to the Waycross – Ware County Land Bank Board

Chairman Thrift asked if the appointee has to be a Commissioner. CM Moye responded that it does not have to be a Commissioner, but can be a citizen that lives out in the County. Commissioner Barnard asked if the item could be tabled to give the Commission time to come up with a name. Commissioner Burse asked if the person has to be from the County. He is the person being replaced, and he lives in the City. CM Moye stated that he would verify the qualifications and put the item on next month's agenda.

This item was tabled.

I. Appointment to the Waycross-Ware County Development Authority

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to reappoint Candice Moody Rice to the WWDA
Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

J. 4th of July Fireworks Event

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to for the County to participate in the 4th of July
Fireworks up to \$5,000 matching corporate sponsorships dollar for dollar. Commissioner Lucas
seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

CM Moye told the Commission that he left the zoning request off of the agenda, but that item needs
to be voted on.

Rezoning Request – 2301 W. Jackson Street.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Barnard made a motion to rezone as was discussed in the public hearing.
Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner noted that the rezoning does not
include the 600 feet x 20 feet wide strip that the Planning Commission recommended not to rezone.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Barnard made a motion to go into Executive Session to talk about personnel.
Commissioner Pope seconded the motion.

Close Executive Session

Commissioner Burse made a motion to close the Executive Session which was seconded by Commissioner Lucas.

All were in favor to close the session.

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

ADJOURN

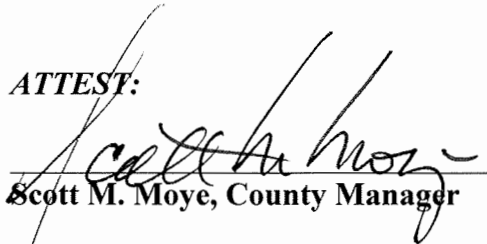
A motion was made by Commissioner Pope to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:18 p.m., with Commissioner Burse seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

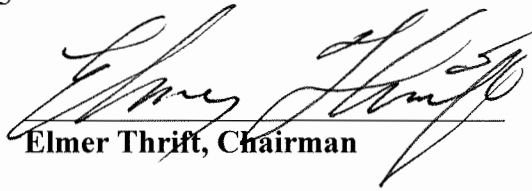
Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

Date proposed to be approved: March 13, 2023

ATTEST:


Scott M. Moye, County Manager

[SEAL]


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

03-14-2023
Date

