

**MINUTES
CALLED MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, March 27, 2023, at 5:00 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	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

Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to approve the agenda as presented, with Commissioner Pope 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.

PROCLAMATION – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

County Manager Moye read the proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ware County. Tess Aldridge of Satilla Advocacy Services explained the agency saw 664 children last year for child abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. She again thanked the Commission for bringing awareness to this issue in hopes of strengthening the families She also thanked CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and Called to Care for their support.

GUEST SPEAKER: None

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Albany Avenue Overpass Design Services

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

Commissioner Steve Barnard made a motion to accept Practical Design Partners (PDP) as the design engineer for the Albany Avenue Overpass. Commissioner Leonard Burse seconded 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.

B. Resolution 2023-06: Selection of a 2023 CDBG Engineer

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

Commissioner Leonard Burse made a motion to select Statewide Engineering as the 2023 CDBG Engineer. Commissioner Steve Barnard seconded the motion.

Commissioner Pope stated during the Work Session discussion it was mentioned that this is contingent upon the Commission receiving the grant. County Manager Moye stated that was correct, and the preliminary engineering report is part of the application that has to be submitted.

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. Resolution 2023-07: Accept a GDOT Contract for the Airport Perimeter Fence Construction

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Jerry Pope to accept a GDOT Contract for the Airport Perimeter Fence Construction as discussed. Commissioner Timothy Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Burse asked if the amount the county needs to provide should be included. Commissioner Lucas stated it is highlighted on the agenda page. Chairman Thrift and Commissioner Pope spoke up to say that it is included (*on the Contract*).

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-no; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-no.

D. Resolution 2023-08: Approve Work Order with Passero Associates

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Leonard Burse to approve a work order with Passero Associates with Commissioner Jerry Pope seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. There was no 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.

E. Storage Facility Lease Agreement – 378 Ossie Davis Parkway

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Timothy Lucas to approve a lease agreement with LHC Group, Inc. in the amount of \$750 per month with Commissioner Jerry Pope seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope stated for the record this lease is for the home health care business right behind the building being leased, LHC Group. Commissioner Lucas asked the County Manager if the lessee is aware that the amount of the lease is being increased. Mr. Moyer stated the company is aware.

Chairman Thrift if he understood correctly that the building was being rented to another firm. CM Moyer advised the current business, which is based out of Louisiana, has purchased the previous company. The Chairman clarified the name is being changed and the rates are being raised as the the current owner has bought out the previous renter. Mr. Moyer said this is true. The rent has been in effect for 10 years and has never been changed. The Chairman asked if the company knew about this change. Mr. Moyer responded that the company notified the County of the change.

Commissioner Barnard asked if the lessee would be responsible for the insurance. Mr. Moyer stated that the company is maintain insurance.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Appointments

A. Resolution 2023-09: Appoint Melinda Brooks as County Clerk

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to appoint Melinda Brooks as the County Clerk. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope stated that the record needs to reflect that she is also being appointed as the official keeper of County records and the County seal as this is a part of her official duties. He stated she is in charge of all record keeping in Ware County and the seal. County Manager Moyer stated it is a state requirement that the County names a records custodian. He further stated that he has drawn up the resolution, and that wording is included.

Chairman Thrift asked Mrs. Brooks if she has completed all of her training. She explained that she has completed the training required by the state to be a clerk, and she is now working on becoming certified.

Commissioner Pope said that this appointment will give the County a good management team consisting of Scott Moye, Melinda Brooks, Jennifer Dorminey-Herzog, and Tony Rowell. He feels the County is in good hands.

Commissioner Burse added that Mrs. Brooks has been addressing whatever needs the Commission has. With her assuming mores of the clerk's duties that the Manager had been covering, he will be able to get in the field more.

Commissioner Lucas thanked Brandon Wallace for being the Assistant County Manager. He also thanked Gene Thomas and Michael Books. He stated that he has called on all three of them. If they can't answer his call, they always call him back. He stated he can't thank the County employees enough for the work they do. He is proud of the Commission and feels it's a blessing to be a part of it. Commissioner Burse and Pope agreed.

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: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

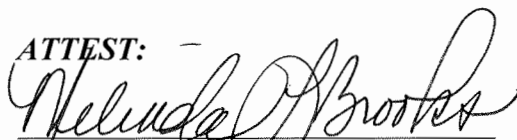
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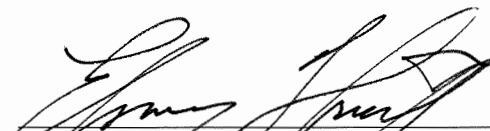
A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 5:16 p.m., with Commissioner Barnard seconding the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Date proposed to be approved: April 24, 2023

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Elmer Thrift, Chairman
4/25/2023
Date

[SEAL]