

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY APRIL 10, 2023  
4:30 p.m.**

**The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing, Monday, April 10, at 4:30 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201 Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Chairman Elmer Thrift
<b>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT</b>	Commissioner Steve Barnard Commissioner Leonard Burse Commissioner Timmy Lucas Commissioner Jerry Pope
<b>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT</b>	None
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	County Manager Scott Moye; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Dorminey Herzog; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
<b>PRESS</b>	Danny Bartlett - WJH
<b>INVOCATION</b>	The invocation was waived from Work Session
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from Work Session

**Call to Order - Rezoning Request – To Delete Special Spacing Requirements Along US82/SR520-Ware County**

Chairman Thrift called to order the public hearing for the application to delete special spacing requirements along US82/SR520. The applicants are Mr. Gordon Woodard and Signs by Joey.

Planning and Codes Director James Shubert was asked to come forward and give some details on the history of the zoning. Mr. Shubert explained that when Highway 82 was being four-laned in 1982, the Commission adopted the Corridor De-zoning District (CDD) along that route. There were special spacing requirements. Single faced billboards (back-to-back) had to be at least 1,000 feet apart. Billboards that were vertically double-stacked had to be at least 1,500 feet apart. He explained it was a beautification along the corridor. There were landscaping requirements, including the first 10 feet of the right of way had to be grass and houses had to be set back 75 feet.

Commissioner Pope spoke up and said the purpose was to stretch out the distance between the billboards, so that billboards wouldn't be all anyone could see going down the road. Chairman Thrift asked if that stretch of Hwy 520 is the only one with these requirements. Mr. Shubert said the spacing on all of the other highways are 500 feet for single faced, back-

to-back billboards and 1,000 for double stacked, back-to-back. He said those are the current DOT requirements. He also stated that he believes DOT has banned the double-stacked billboards, but he would have to research to be sure. Due to the changes in methods of advertising, he said can't remember when he received the last billboard request.

Chairman Thrift asked Mr. Shubert if he had anything against changing the distance requirements. He replied he would go either way the commission wants. He said he doesn't feel that there will be requests for billboards every 500 feet. He stated that the Planning Commission reviewed the request and recommended approval. Commissioner Burse asked to verify that the County would be in compliance with DOT when making this change. Mr. Shubert said yes. Commissioner Burse then mentioned that he didn't think the City would allow any more billboards. Mr. Shubert said the City inventoried all billboards within the city limit. No new ones will be allowed to go up until one of the existing one is removed. DOT has different regulations on electronic billboards.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any opposition to the change. Mr. Shubert said he had not heard of any

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion or questions on the application.

**CLOSURE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Burse to close the public hearing, with Commissioner Barnard seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

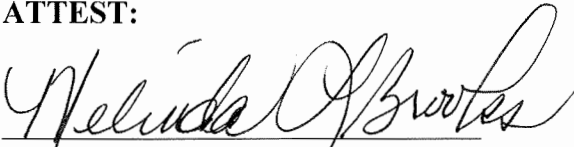
The public hearing was closed at 4:37 p.m.

Date proposed to be approved: May 8, 2022



**Elmer Thrift, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**



**Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk**

5-10-2023  
**Date**