

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, May 8 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; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
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 Steve Barnard-aye, Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

GUEST SPEAKER: None

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session	April 10, 2023
Public Hearing	April 10, 2023
Regular Meeting	April 10, 2023
Called Meeting	April 24, 2023

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

AGENDA ITEMS

A. 2023 CDBG Conflict of Interest Statement

CM Moye told the Chairman that each Commissioner can announce whether or not he has a conflict of interest. The Chairman asked Commissioner Lucas if he had a conflict. Commissioner Lucas said he did not. He asked Commissioner Barnard if he had a conflict. Commissioner Barnard said he did not. Commissioner Burse said he did not, and Commissioner Pope stated he had no conflict of interest concerning the CDBG application. Chairman Thrift said he did not either.

B. Resolution 2023-11: Authorize 2023 Community Development Block Grant Application

CM Moye told the Chairman that a motion and second is needed to approve the resolution.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Pope to accept Resolution 2023-11 as presented.

Commissioner Lucas seconded 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-no; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

C. Resolution 2023-12: Approve Contract with SGRC for 2023 CDBG Administration

Chairman Thrift asked CM if this gives SGRC the right to administer for BOC. He said yes.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to accept Resolution 2023-12. Commissioner Burse seconded 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.

D. Resolution 2023-13: Approve Contract with CrowderGulf for Disaster Debris Removal

Chairman Thrift said this was an extension of an existing contract and asked for a motion on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to accept Resolution 2023-13, with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

E. Resolution 2023-14: Approve Agreement with YMCA Bailey Street Park Pool Operation

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14 agreement with YMCA for Bailey St pool operations. Pope seconded the motion. He said his 2nd is contingent upon the City helping with the security costs.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. He then asked CM Moyer what the costs would be. CM Moyer said the YMCA would be paid \$12,000 for pool management and lifeguards. The cost to have a police officer there would be about \$9,500. This is the amount that the County is asking to split with the City. Commissioner Barnard asked if the County would have to go to a different plan if the City isn't willing to help. Asst. County Attorney Herzog said if Commissioner Burse would amend his motion as requested. Commissioner Burse said he agreed to amend his motion and would be optimistic that the City will help. The Chairman confirmed that the County would pay \$12,000 and half of the security with the City paying the other half. He then said the County would agree to do it if the City will agree to do it. CM Moyer told him that is how the motion was stated.

Roll Call Vote:

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

F. Resolution 2023-15: Approve Purchase of Weather Tracking System for Recreation Department

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve resolution to purchase the Weatherstem weather tracking system for the recreation dept. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Commissioner Pope stated that it was brought out in the work session that this would not only be used by the recreation department but also by other public safety offices. EMA Director Jonathan Daniell confirmed this. Chairman Thrift stated this was confusing to him as to why the County would buy a new weather system when it already has one at EMAC. He asked why the County would pay another \$20,000 per year just because the current system doesn't cover the whole county. Commissioner Burse said the current EMA system is outdated compared to the

Weatherstem system. Mr. Adamson came up and explained that the EMA system is DTN. The Rec. Dept. has Weather Thorough, and it's outdated. The Chairman asked if the Rec. Dept. could use EMA's system. Mr. Adamson said no, and EMA Director has recommended that the County go with the new system. EMA could also use the system. The Chairman then asked if the County would be able to drop the system currently being used by EMA. Mr. Adamson responded that at some point, that could happen. The Chairman said he was still confused as to why there would be two weather systems. Commissioner Burse explained the system that EMA has is out of date. The Weatherstem system is ready to go. EMA Director Daniell came up front and told the Commission that if the Commission will approve the new system then he would not renew the system that he is currently using and would transfer over to the new system at the Rec. Dept. He said the County would save the money currently being spent at EMA. He also pointed out that the Weatherstem system is much more detailed and up-to-date. He pointed out that this is not to be confused with the CODE RED system that is jointly funded by the City and County. It is used for Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, and other emergency notifications. He said it does have a weather component with it which is activated by the National Weather Service during inclement weather, but it is a different system that what is used at the Rec. Dept. CM Moye spoke up and explained that the Rec. Dept. uses a lightning warning system when the ball teams are on the field, and it gives notice of how far away lightning is. This notification needs to be received in time to get people off the fields and out of the stands. Mr. Daniell pointed out that some of the rulings in sports is that there has to be certain number of minutes without lightning in the area in order to resume playing on the field. Commissioner Burse asked Mr. Daniel if the EMA system has that feature. He responded that it does not. The Chairman said he understood now.

Roll Call Vote:

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

G. Resolution 2023-16: Approve MOU with the Georgia Recreation Parks Association

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the MOU with the GRPA as recommended by the Rec. Dept. Director. He said it was for a grant to help the children of the community and is a wonderful thing. Commissioner Barnard 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.

H. Appointments: Ware County Board of Elections, Post 1, 2, 3, & 4

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

The Chairman said this is to reappoint the committee that is already there or to change it. Commissioner Burse made a motion to reappoint Dr. Rodney Brown to Post 1, Shawn Taylor to Post 2, Danny Bartlett to Post 3, and Ludeane Whitfield to Post 4 on the Board of Elections. The Chairman said before he asked for a second to the motion, he wanted to know if there were any changes. Commissioner Barnard said he felt they should make nominations for each individual post instead of all four at one time. The Chairman asked Asst. County Attorney Herzog if that could be

done. She responded that was up to the Commission. She said the motion is in proper order, so a second is needed. If it dies for lack of second, then the Commission can proceed with the posts one by one. She said at this point there was a motion on the table for all four posts together with the names read by Commissioner Burse and a second is needed. The Chairman asked if there was a second. There was no response, so the motion died for lack of a second.

Post 1: Chairman Thrift asked for a motion to Post 1. Commissioner Barnard made a motion to make appointments to the Election Board; each post individually voted on instead of all at one time. Asst. County Attorney said that didn't require a motion. The motions can be made by naming the post and person to appoint. The Chairman asked if the Commission could make only one change if that's all they wanted, just take one off. ACA said yes. CM Moye said they would need to mention the name for each post.

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion to Post 1. Commissioner Barnard made a motion to appoint Rodney Brown to Post 1. Commissioner Pope seconded. After this ACA Herzog clarified that when the board votes to appoint someone that they intend for the terms to remain as scheduled. Commissioner Barnard added that Dr. Brown's term would expire June 30, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Post 2: Commissioner Barnard made a motion to appoint Michael Hargrove through the end of the term ending June 30, 2025. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Post 3: Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on Post 3 for Danny Bartlett.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to appoint Danny Bartlett. Commissioner Burse seconded. After voting, Commissioner Barnard pointed out his term would expire on June 30, 2023. He then asked about reappointing him in June. ACA Herzog said that the appointments are being made today due to the new bill. She further stated that because the term will expire in a few weeks, the Commission may want to do both appointments this date. The first appointment will be through June 30, 2023, and the next appointment would be from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. Chairman Thrift then asked for a motion to appoint him for the remainder of the term and also to reappoint him for the new term. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to accept what the Chairman said, and Commissioner Barnard 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.

Post 4: The Chairman asked for a motion on Post 4. Commissioner Burse made a motion to appoint Ludeane Whitfield for the remainder of this term ending July 30, 2023 and reappoint her for four years. Lucas 2nd.

Roll Call Vote:

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

I. Appointment: Unison Board of Directors

The Chairman stated that Carlos Nelson said he would accept the appointment, and asked for a motion. Lucas made a motion to appoint Mr. Nelson back to the Unison Board of Directors for another full term. Commissioner 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.

Rezoning Request – 206 Short Street

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to approve the rezoning request with Commissioner Lucas 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.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT:

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Barnard asked for an update on paving projects. County Engineer Brandon Wallace said the Osborn/R. C. Davis Rd project is pretty much finished. Drainage boxes are being installed at Emerson Park Project. The previous week’s rain event put the bridge on the Tanner Lane project under water and slowed progress. He said otherwise it was moving along pretty well.

Commissioner Pope asked Public Works Director Michael Brooks to explain the project on Central Avenue. Mr. Brooks told the Commission that a liner was added to the 48’ storm drains that were leaking, and beaver management would begin to prevent the new pipes from being blocked. He said within the next week, grout filling will be added to section of road that has started to cave. Commissioner Lucas asked about Elmer Thrift Rd. Mr. Brooks responded that he sent a crew out to flag the area the same day email was received. The following Monday a crew went out to regrade the road. He said he will have to look at some drainage issues there. It appears to be a design issue when the area was developed. Commissioner Barnard asked when mowing would begin. Mr. Brooks said the contract mowers should be in the area in the next week. He then asked about the

donut area that is mowed by Public Works employees. Mr. Brooks stated they would get started on that shortly.

Chairman Thrift asked County Engineer Wallace for an update on the right of ways on the paving list. Mr. Wallace said he has been in discussion with some surveyors to get some help with that. He added that Astoria Road is on the list to have right of ways checked. The Chairman said he had spoken with the County Manager and would like to get Paschall Road added to the list. The citizens are having a hard time seeing around that curve. He said the only thing he knows to do is to purchase the right of way, so it can be cleared. Mr. Wallace said the right of way would have to be purchased because the County is actually beyond the right of way that is there now.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:39 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Pope seconded the motion.

After coming back into the Commission chambers, Commissioner Barnard made a motion to leave Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

ADJOURN


A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:26 p.m., with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion.

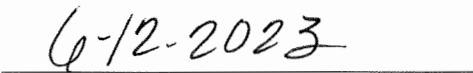
Motion passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: June 12, 2023

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Elmer Thrift, Chairman


Date

[SEAL]