

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023
5:26 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, August 14 2023, at 5:26 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

Commissioner Barnard made a motion to amend the agenda by moving Item H to be the top of the agenda and approve as amended. Commissioner Pope seconded 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

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – Sharon Radford

Human Resources Director Theresa Bailey and County Manager Scott Moye presented Sharon Radford of the County Commission Office as Employee of the Month. Mrs. Radford was given a \$100 check in appreciation of her dedication.

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Work Session

July 10, 2023

Public Hearing
Regular Meeting

July 10, 2023
July 10, 2023

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

H. Rezoning Request – 251 County Line Road

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to deny the rezoning request of 251 County Line Road 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.

A. City of Waycross – Facility Request for Midnight Basketball League at Trembling Earth Gym

Discussion occurred before a motion was made. Commissioners Burse and Lucas reiterated that the City would be responsible for everything during this pilot program. The County would not incur any cost. Commissioner Barnard asked County Manager Moye if a Recreation Department staff member is supposed to be on site when the facility is in use. CM Moye said that is typically the case. Commissioner Barnard asked if the City would pay the cost for that employee. CM Moye said the City would have to. He said the only issue he sees is security because the police department will be outside of its jurisdiction. (At this time there were simultaneous comments being made by the Commissioners.) Commissioner Burse asked Recreation Department Director Lance Adamson if he foresaw a problem with the City taking care of everything. He said when the Recreation Department uses the school system's building, they have to clean up the building and have it operational for the school staff. He would expect no less from the City. He said when the Recreation facility is rented out, the renter has to pay for a staff person to be on site. He would need to know if their custodial person would be there during those same hours to clean up and have the building ready when the Recreation staff reports to work the next day.

Commissioner Pope said that is standard procedure for travel ball and everything. Director Adamson said that was correct. Commissioner Pope said that the Trembling Earth facility has never been turned over to another government, and he is opposed to it. Director Adamson agreed that had never happened before. Commissioner Pope said that representatives of Trembling Earth need to be on the property at all times. The Chairman agreed. Commissioner Burse added that whatever their compensation would be for being on site needs to be included in the contract. Commissioner Pope

said there should be a written contract that it is only for two times if it passes. He doesn't want to set a precedent for this because there are other options for the City to offer this program.

County Manager Moyer asked if the Commission wanted to have a Memo of Understanding in place with the City for this event. They responded that they did. Commissioner Burse said it definitely is necessary for the security aspect as well as the janitorial, County staff, etc. Commissioner Barnard asked that the Commissioners review the MOU before it is sent to the City.

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the Midnight Basketball League pilot program for two weekends contingent on the Memo of Understanding being agreed upon by the Commission. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

B. Purchase Request – Life-Pak 15 Ambulance

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to approve the purchase of the Life-Pak 15 Ambulance. He amended the motion to state the purchase amount would be \$341,708.19. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. County Manager Moyer strongly advised that the purchase be made with ARPA funds. Commissioner Barnard amended his motion again to state the purchase of the Life-Pak 15 Ambulance would be made with ARPA funds. .

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. Purchase Request – Planning & Codes Pickup Truck

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to purchase the pickup truck for Planning and Codes in the amount of \$47,621. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Barnard stated he felt that a good used truck could be found like the one Director Shubert drives. Commissioner Burse asked if his truck was purchased new. Commissioner Barnard said no that it was a 2014 model. Commissioner Lucas stated he feels like the new truck would last the director 12-15 years, so he doesn't think there will be another truck purchase after this one for a while.

Roll Call Vote:

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

D. Pashcall Road Right of Way Acquisition & Road Improvement

This item was moved to be discussed in Executive Session.

E. Lien Cancellation – CHIP Grant Property

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Pope to cancel the lien with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion.

Commissioner Burse asked if there was a cost to the County when the home was taken down and was it satisfied. Assistant County Attorney Herzog said if there was a lien attached to the cost of the demolition, it would be a separate issue than this CHIP Grant Lien Cancellation. SHE stated her office has not done any title work on this property. She was only asked if it was appropriate to cancel this particular lien, and due to the passage of time and the previously discussed issues it is appropriate. Commissioner Pope spoke and said he had talked with the owner who said there are no other liens on this property. Assistant County Attorney Herzog told Commissioner Burse that the house had burned, so the demolition may not have been a big cost to the County. It would have been more of a cleanup than a demolition.

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. CSRA Probation Services Contract Renewals

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to renew the CSRA Probation Services Contracts 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.

G. Appointment to the Waycross – Ware County Planning Commission – Post 3

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to reappoint Kristy King Foreman to the Board of Assessors with Commissioner Burse 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.

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:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:52 p. m. with Commissioner Burse seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board of Commissioners, County Manager, Assistant County Attorney, and County Clerk entered into Executive Session at this time.


After the Commissioners and County Staff returned to the Commission Chambers, Commissioner Barnard made a motion to come out of Executive Session with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the Executive Session was ended at 6:40 p. m.

ADJOURN


A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:42 p.m., with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: September 11, 2023

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Elmer Thrift, Chairman


Date

[SEAL]

