

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023  
5:40 P.M.**

**The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, November 13, 2023, at 5:40 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 Herzog; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
<b>PRESS</b>	EJ Pond, WJH and Myra Thrift, Waycross Express
<b>INVOCATION</b>	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from the Work Session

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Lucas 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

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:**

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

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

### **A. Resolution 2023-30: Award Bid for Asbestos Abatement Project**

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

Commissioner Barnard made a motion approve Resolution 2023-30 for asbestos removal. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Commissioner Burse asked that the amount of the bid to be noted which is \$15,980. The Chairman reiterated that after the asbestos is removed, the Public Works department will be taking down the building.

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.

### **B. Resolution 2023-31: Authorize Annual Rate Adjustment for Solid Waste Collection & Disposal**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to accept the rate adjustment resolution to authorize the rate adjustment. Commissioner Pope 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-no; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

### **C. Resolution 2023-32: Approve Increase of Pay for Ware County Volunteer Firefighters**

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-32 to increase volunteer firefighter pay to \$25 per call and \$25 per training session. 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 2023-33: Approve Second Half Agreement for FY2024 Indigent Services**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas accept Resolution 2023-33 for approve the second half of the contract for indigent services. Commissioner Barnard seconded 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 2023-34: Approve Employee Incentive Pay**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to accept Resolution 2023-34 to approve employee safety incentive pay with Commissioner Burse seconding the motion.

Commissioner Burse clarified that the pay is for employees (staff) as well as all elected officials.

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. Ware County Purchasing Policy Revision**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to accept the Ware County Purchasing Policy Revision as read earlier 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.

**G. Cancellation of Lien for a Bond Issue**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to accept the lien cancellation of the bond 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.

**H. Tax Refund Under Authority of O.C.G.A. 48-5-380 for Larry Barber for Veterans Exemption**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to accept the tax refund for Mr. Barber 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.

**I. Rezoning Application – Parcels 055B-211, 055B-212, & 055B-212A**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard approve the rezoning application. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion for sake of discussion

Roll Call Vote:

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

**J. Road Closing Application – California Avenue (from Connecticut Ave. to New York Ave.)**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to approve the application to close California Avenue from Connecticut Ave. to New York Ave. 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.

**K. Road Closing Application – New Jersey Avenue (from New Mexico Ave. to Arizona Ave.)**

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to approve the application to close New Jersey Avenue from New Mexico Ave. to Arizona Ave. 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: None**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Chairman Thrift asked the County Manager to give the update on the Albany Avenue Overpass Bridge progress report from PDP. They are working on bridge design and utility coordination. Soil survey has been completed, PDP has revised the railroad right of way and is to meet with CSX because CSX does not have ROW across Albany Ave (the ROW stops on each side of Albany Ave.). They will continue with design of roadway.

Chairman Thrift asked County Engineer Brandon Wallace for an update on the US1 (Kettle Creek) bridge. The process of right of way acquisition has been started. The bid date has been moved from June 2024 to 2025 due to issues with ROW acquisition.

Commissioner Barnard asked the County Manager to address the Fire Department Social Media issues. CM Moye stated he decided to pull back use of firetrucks due to misinformation on his part. Down the line, he will be addressing how the trucks are used. He will bring before the Commission when and how to use the trucks for community events as a point of discussion. Per the commission, when the fire trucks are out at events, make sure that all areas of the County have (firetruck) coverage. It was pointed out that GSAR is handled jointly between the City and County. CM Moye advised that the insurance company does cover the trucks to be at these events. Commissioner Lucas asked about the specialty GSARS (County) truck being parked in a City fire station and wanted to know if insurance would cover that. Commissioner Pope explained that the GSAR program is a joint City and County program.


**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:16 p.m., with Commissioner Burse seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: December 11, 2023

**ATTEST:**

  
**Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk**

  
**Elmer Thrift, Chairman**  
12-12-2023  
**Date**

**[SEAL]**

