

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023  
5:00 p.m.**

**The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, December 11, 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.**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Chairman Elmer Thrift
<b>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT</b>	Commissioner Steve Barnard Commissioner Leonard Burse Commissioner Timmy Lucas (via telephone) 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>	Danny Bartlett, WJH
<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 Barnard to approve the agenda 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.

**GUEST SPEAKER:   None**

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Called Meeting	November 3, 2023
Work Session	November 13, 2023
Public Hearing	November 13, 2023
Regular Meeting	November 13, 2023
Called Meeting	November 30, 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnard to approve the meeting minutes 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.

## AGENDA ITEMS

**A. Resolution 2023-36: Adopt a Revised Language Access Plan (LAP for 2023 CDBG Project**  
Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-36. 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-aye; Commissioner Steve Barnard-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

**B. Resolution 2023-37: Approve GDOT LMIG Road Resurfacing Project List**  
Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Barnard made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-37 the approval of GDOT LMIG Road Resurfacing Project. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion

Commissioner Barnard reiterated that he wants Jamestown Road and Swamp Road on it. Chairman Thrift wanted to verify which part of Jamestown Road was being resurfaced, County Engineer Brandon Wallace explained that it is the section closest to Jamestown by US 1 North and going towards to the river (from Ternest Road to Sandy Bottom Road).

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 2023-38: Approve Amended and Restated Consent Order with Georgia D.O.R.**  
Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Pope made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-38 as presented by County Manager Moye. 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. Appointment – Waycross-Ware County Development Authority**

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to accept the appointment recommended by the WWDA, Mr. Thomas Wesley. Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope asked WWDA Director Jason Rubenbauer to tell the Commission about the nominee. Mr. Rubenbauer stated that Mr. Wesley has extensive experience with GE at CSX. He has been at Coastal Pines Technical College for at least 8 years and is now the Dean of Technical Industrial Programs. He already works with the WWDA with the Workforce Development Initiative. Commissioner Burse also thanked Mr. Rubenbauer for the work he is doing with WWDA.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**E. Money Market Investment Proposal**

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to accept the money market proposal with Commissioner Barnard seconding the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope stated that as he understands the proposal, the County Manager will be permitted to move funds to Waycross Bank and Trust to earn interest. Commissioner Barnard asked where would the earned interest be put. The County Manager stated it would be left with the funds. Ultimately all of the money would come back to the general fund. Any changes would be presented to the Commission.

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. Road Closing Application – Dyson Road**

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to deny the request to close Dyson Road due to the circumstances presented by the citizens. Commissioner Lucas 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.

**G. Road Closing Application – Pond Avenue**

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

Commissioner Barnard made a motion to close a portion of Pond Avenue to put in a Dollar General Store. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Commissioner Pope noted that Pond Avenue is an unopened road. It has never been opened and has never been used.

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. Road Closing Application – Unnamed Road (Between Varnadore Road & Waters Road)**

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to close the road as requested. Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

**Employee of the Month**

Human Resources Director Theresa Bailey and County Manager Scott Moye presented Senior Delinquent Tax Clerk Teresa Morgan as the County Employee of the Month. She was given a \$100 check in appreciation for her dedication and loyalty.

**Consider a Motion to Enter into an Executive Session**

Commissioner Pope made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters at 5:41 p. m. Commissioner Barnard seconded the motion.

Commissioner (*inaudible*) made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 6:44 p.m. 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.

**Approve Retirement Payout**

Commissioner Pope made a motion to approve a payment of \$50,400 to the Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor upon his retirement for his earned PTO time and resolution of all claims and to give authority to the County Manager and Assistant County Attorney to draft paperwork with these terms. Commissioner Lucas 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.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: Merry Christmas**

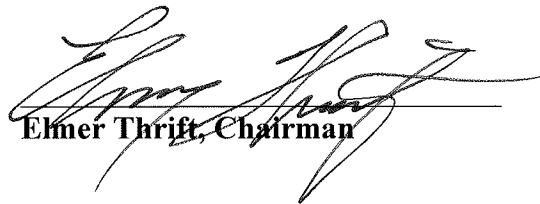
**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Merry Christmas**

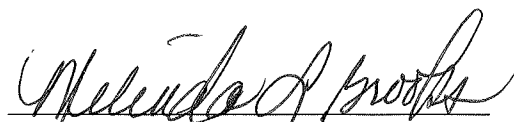
**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Commissioner Burse to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:47 p. m., with Commissioner Lucas seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: January 8, 2024

**ATTEST:**

  
Elmer Thrift, Chairman

  
Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

  
Date

**[SEAL]**

