



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

T. PAGE THARP GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING
102 STARKSVILLE AVENUE NORTH, LEESBURG, GEORGIA 31763

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022 6:00 P.M.
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES
WORK SESSION

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Billy Mathis, Chairman	District 3
John Wheaton, Vice-Chairman	District 1
Luke Singletary, Commissioner	District 2
George Walls, Commissioner	District 5
	District 4

COUNTY STAFF

Christi Dockery, County Manager
Kaitlyn Sawyer, County Clerk
Jimmy Skipper, County Attorney

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present were Chairman Billy Mathis, Vice-Chairman John Wheaton, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer. Commissioner Luke Singletary and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper were absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Pastor Matthew Schluckebier, Life Church, led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the audience said the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (A) **Consideration to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 28, 2022.**
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 28, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.
- (B) **Consideration to approve the minutes from the Special Called Joint Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, City of Leesburg, and City of Smithville for June 21, 2022.**
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the Special Called Joint Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, City of Leesburg, and City of Smithville for June 21, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Mrs. Trish Batten to address the Board regarding the Observance of Juneteenth Project.**
Mrs. Trish Batten introduced herself as longtime employee of the County as well as a citizen and woman of faith. Ms. Batten summarized the history and significance of Juneteenth, adding that it was declared a federal holiday, but is not recognized fully on the state or local levels. Mrs. Batten also summarized additional

important and relevant historical events, including the Leesburg Stockade Girls and the bombing of Shady Grove Baptist Church. Mayor Billy Breeden of Leesburg signed a Proclamation for Juneteenth, however, neither the City of Leesburg nor the County observed Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Mrs. Batten wishes to raise public awareness about this holiday and respectfully requests that the Board consider acknowledging this holiday and adding it to the 2023 holiday calendar.

Chairman Mathis stated that we have 10 holidays and asked County Manager Christi Dockery to check the holiday schedule to look into making this one of those 10 holidays.

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) **Proposed abandonment of a portion of Carter Place Road. The Board of Commissioners of Lee County, Georgia, has determined that a portion of Carter Place Road, a dirt road with entrance and exit on Hwy 195 at parcel 045 030 and parcel 053 017. That which has been proposed for abandonment is that portion of a county road right of way known as Carter Place Road, which traverses property operated at Southern Hills Orchards for approximately two (2) miles. Said property is located in Land Lots 075 and 105 of the 14th Land District of Lee County, Georgia.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that letters had been sent to all citizens on Carter Place Road and in that letter was a map and plans for cul de sacs at either side of the proposed closure so as to allow for school busses, garbage trucks, public safety entities, etc. to safely turn around without impacting anyone's driveways. Additionally, Public Works scrape the roadway approximately twice a month. Commissioner Walls asked if that portion of the roadway was even used.

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing.

The following citizens spoke in opposition of the proposed abandonment:

- William Simmons
- Dennis Roland
- Wallace Daniel
- Roosevelt Carter
- Cecil Daniel
- Eddie Daniel
- Rosie Batten

A citizen signed petition was also made available for the Board.

Eric Miller, General Manager of Southern Orchard Farms, addressed the Board, speaking in favor of the abandonment, stating that he understood the concern and opposition of the citizens. Mr. Miller stated he was informed of the process to close the portion of the roadway by Public Works and helped with the design process of the cul de sacs, upon request of the County.

With no further comments or questions from the Board or audience, the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Mathis spoke about the importance and benefit of holding Public Hearings and stated that the Board typically does not continue with a road abandonment if there is opposition at the Public Hearing, adding that he was personally opposed. A final vote will take place at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting, July 26, 2022.

- (B) **Amanda Wiley (Z22-002) has submitted an application requesting to rezone a total of 3.937 acres from C-2 (General Business District) to C-4 (Traditional Office District). The property owner is Southland Restoration, LLC. Parcel Number: 029B 182. The property is located in Land Lot 281 of the Second Land District of Lee County, Georgia. Planning Commission members and Planning Department staff recommend approval.**

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing.

The following citizens spoke in support of the rezoning, but would prefer R-1:

- Greg Daniel, neighbor
- Brad Sorenson, neighbor

Applicant Amanda Wiley addressed the Board stating she was told the property needed to be zoned C-4 as it was next to a lot zoned as I. There are neighboring lots and lots across the street zoned C-2 and R-1. The lot cannot be C-2 because C-2 does not allow residential uses and the primary use of this property will be as a residence. Ms. Wiley also stated that in this rezoning process, it has become evident that a few more properties in the area may need to be rezoned as well.

With no further comments or questions from the Board or audience, the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Mathis asked County Manager Christi Dockery to collect names and contact information from everyone. A final vote will take place at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting, July 26, 2022.

- (C) **CANCELLED Lanier Engineering, Inc. (GD22-001) has submitted an application for a General Development Plan requesting approval for residential development (Sawtooth Farms, Sec. 1 - 6) on 354.751 acres. Property is zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential District). The property owner is Lexwig, LLC. Parcel Number: 039D 121. The property is located in Land Lots 209 and 210 of the Second Land District of Lee County, Georgia. Planning Commission tabled this item at their July 7, 2022 meeting.**

Chairman Mathis explained that this Public Hearing was cancelled as the item had been tabled by the Planning commission at their July 7, 2022. This item may come back before the Board at a later date.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Building Inspection/Business Licensing

- (A) **Consideration to approve an alcohol license for Wal-Mart (change of license holder).**
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve an alcohol license for Wal-Mart (change of license holder). Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

Planning, Zoning, & Engineering

- (B) **Review of the minutes from the May 5, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.**
The minutes were reviewed as presented.
- (C) **Review of the minutes from the July 7, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.**
The minutes were reviewed as presented.

Public Safety

- (D) **Consideration to approve annual support agreements with Southern Software.**
County Manager Christi Dockery stated that these were annual renewal agreements that were budgeted. Chairman Mathis stated that because these agreements were already budgeted, the Board did not need to take action.

Public Works

- (E) **Discussion of putting out a bid for an extension to the Landfill wall. HANDOUT**
County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the project, stating it was the last phase of the Landfill retaining wall, and was budgeted. Commissioner Walls asked if the first phase of the project was completed, to which Ms. Dockery replied that it had been completed. Chairman Mathis stated that because the project was already budgeted, the Board did not need to take action and asked that staff bring the resulting bids for the project to the Board for approval.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

- (A) Consideration to appoint one member to the Aspire Behavioral Health and Development Disability Services Board for a term of three (3) years. Current term expires 07/31/2022. New term expires 07/31/2025. Letter of interest in reappointment received from Mike Sabot.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to reappoint Mike Sabot to the Aspire Behavioral Health and Development Disability Services Board for a term of three (3) years, expiring 07/31/2025. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

- (A) Updates on County projects.

County Manager Christi Dockery and Chairman Mathis discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) Consoles have been full installed in the E-911 Center; (2) the E-911 Center provides emergency medical dispatch (*EMD) and **Texty capabilities; (3) there has been a delay in the Gymnasium window replacement project due to supplies availability; and (4) regarding the future medical center, Phoebe has filed another objection resulting in an additional 30 day delay.

*EMD: Dispatchers are trained to aid individuals on the phone until first responders arrive on scene (e.g. talking an individual through CPR)

**Texty: Individuals may text 911 for help, primarily if in a situation where it is unsafe to speak on the phone

- (B) Discussion of the FY2023 LMIG application.

Chairman Mathis asked that staff put together a list by district of the worst roads in the County for possible resurfacing as well as a list of the most populated dirt roads. The commissioners will review and discuss at a later meeting. The grant application is due February 1, 2023.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

- (A) Discussion of a proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Article V, Section 14-171 of the Code of Ordinances of Lee County Relating to the Cruelty and Neglect of Animals.

Chairman Mathis summarized the ordinance stating that he knows our Animal Control officers act with sound judgment and will continue to do so with this ordinance.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to waive the second reading of the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to adopt the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Article V, Section 14-171 of the Code of Ordinances of Lee County Relating to the Cruelty and Neglect of Animals. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Chairman Mathis voting yea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens will be allowed to address the Board of Commissioners regarding any issues or complaints. Individuals should sign up prior to the start of the meeting.

Margo Clayton – Old Leslie Road – Request for paving, concerns about ditching and grass

Paul Clayton – Old Leslie Road – Request for paving, concerns about ditching and grass
Lonzie Jimmerson – Questions and concerns relating to the Comprehensive Plan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) A fast, more reliable internet connection with Kinetic Fiber is coming soon to Lee County! Visit GoKinetic.com or call 229-985-8000 to pre-register for Windstream Broadband.
- (B) The next **Summer Food Distribution** will be **Thursday, July 21, 2022** at **10:00am** at the Lee County Parks & Recreation Office, located at 141 Park Street in Leesburg.
- (C) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, July 26, 2022** at **6:00pm**.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/410393457779154>

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
COUNTY CLERK

Lee County is a thriving vibrant community celebrated for its value of tradition encompassing a safe family oriented community, schools of excellence, and life long opportunities for prosperity and happiness without sacrificing the rural agricultural tapestry.

Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language interpretation should contact the ADA Coordinator at (229) 759-6000 or through the Georgia Relay Service (800) 255-0056 (TDD) or (800) 355-0135 (voice). This person can be contacted at the T. Page Tharp Building in Leesburg, Georgia between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice of seven (7) working days.
The meeting rooms and buildings are handicap accessible.