



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 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
Luke Singletary, Vice-Chairman	District 2
Dennis Roland, Commissioner	District 1
Chris Guarnieri, Commissioner	District 4
George Walls, Commissioner	District 5

COUNTY STAFF

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

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a work session on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. 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 Luke Singletary, Commissioner Dennis Roland, Commissioner Chris Guarnieri, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Attorney Jimmy Skipper, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Good. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Apostle Malden Batten, The Church of Leesburg, 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 March 28, 2023.**
Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for March 28, 2023. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Patsy Shirley, Executive Director of Lee County Family Connection, to present the mid-year review.**
Patsy Shirley and County Clerk Kaitlyn Good summarized the Junior Leadership Lee Academy and thanked the Board for their support with the program. Ms. Shirley and Ms. Good were commended for their work with the Junior Leadership Lee Academy.

Ms. Shirley then provided the mid-year update for Lee County Family Connection.

- Backpack Blessings: 3,296 bags were delivered providing weekend nutritional support to students and families – A sample bag of what is included was shown to the Board
- Christmas Store: 51 families and 179 children served

- Book Club: 1, 057 books delivered
- Family Literacy Nights: 5 programs involving 30 families, 90 students, 35 TAP students, and 25 retired educators
- Lee Junior Ambassadors will commence Fall 2023
- Other Collaborative Projects: Costumes with a Cop, Distinguished Alumni Program, 'Burg Bash

The Board thanked Ms. Shirley for everything she does within the community.

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) **Deer Trace Development, LLC. (Z23-003) has submitted an application to the Lee County Planning Commission requesting to rezone a total of 1.69 acres from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to C-1 (Neighborhood Business District). The property owner is Deer Trace Development, LLC. The subject property, located at 100 Bermuda Lane, lies in Parcel 029D 104 in Land Lot 266 of the Second Land District of Lee County, Georgia. Planning Department staff and the Planning Commission recommend denial.**

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing. The applicant was not present.

Public Opposition

Stephen Allen and Ted Johns, on behalf of Albany Bible Church: Voiced disapproval of this rezoning request, stating that the church is surrounded by residential properties with the exception of the Grand Island property, there are no commercial properties in that area of Fussell Road, and rezoning to C-1 would open up the lot to many more options for future development.

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

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

E-911

- (A) **Consideration to adopt a Proclamation declaring April 9-15, 2023 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.**

E-911 Director Nikkie Celinski spoke on the importance of Telecommunicators and voiced pride in the dispatchers at our E-911 Center.

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to adopt a Proclamation declaring April 9-15, 2023 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering

- (B) **Review of the minutes for March 2, 2023 Planning Commission meeting.**

The minutes were reviewed as presented.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

- (A) **Elections & Registration – Discussion of the need for additional storage, voting, and office space.**
Commissioner Roland summarized the provided drawings and asked the Board if the County could move forward with finding cost estimates to complete some renovations to the existing office space. Commissioner Walls suggested that the space be properly inspected by a building inspector and engineer. Commissioner Singletary and County Manager Christi Dockery stated that Chief Building Official Joey Davenport could examine the space. The Board will await Mr. Davenport's assessment and then move forward.
- (B) **Consideration to appoint one (1) member (resident) to the Housing Authority Board for a term of one (1) year. Current term expired 03/31/2023. New term expires 03/31/2024. Letter of interest in reappointment received by Latrisha Bell.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to reappoint Latrisha Bell to the Housing Authority Board for a term of one (1) year, expiring 03/31/2024. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION**

was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

- (C) **Magistrate Court – Consideration to award the bid for Indigent Defense Services. *HANDOUT***
Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to table this item. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.
- (D) **Sheriff's Office – Consideration to purchase software and licensing from Southern Software.**
Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the purchase of software and licensing from Southern Software at a cost of **\$107,382.00** to come from Sheriff's Office departmental funds. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

- (A) **Updates on County projects.**
County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) renovations to the gym are almost completed, with only minor things remaining; (2) the County is exploring an opportunity to apply for the next CDBG, with a public hearing scheduled for the Board's April 25 meeting; and (3) Cedric Street and Lumpkin Road west will be temporarily shut down for a day or two as the crews resurface the road and work with the railroad schedule. Commissioner Walls asked if there was a possibility of having another day similar to the Great American Cleanup to which County Manager Christi Dockery replied that she would look into that as it was a great idea.
- (B) **Consideration to approve an annual renewal rental agreement with UGA for the property at 695 Jordan Road.**
Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve an annual renewal rental agreement with UGA for the property at 695 Jordan Road. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

NONE

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.

Mr. Wilcox – Drainage issue pertaining to County property near Hillside Ct

David Dixon – Final report from the Flint Riverkeeper regarding Silicon Ranch Phase I

Paul Clayton – State of Old Leslie Road

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:00pm.**
- (B) Chairman Mathis reminded citizens of the change in garbage servicers, stating that over the next few weeks, the cans will be changed out. Everyone's old cans will be picked up and the new ones will be delivered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:32PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/221345467153489>

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.

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