



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 AT 5:30PM
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LEESBURG
CITY OF SMITHVILLE

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, City of Leesburg, and City of Smithville met for a Special Called Joint Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 5:30pm. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Commission Chairman Billy Mathis, Leesburg Mayor Billy Breedon, and Smithville Mayor Vincent Cutts were seated on the stage. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 5:32PM.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) Lee County and the Cities of Leesburg and Smithville are conducting a Public Hearing to update the Lee County Joint Comprehensive Plan. The current plan will expire on February 28, 2024. In accordance with the Georgia Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning (Chapter 110-12-1), each community must conduct a public hearing before the start of the planning process.

The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the process to be used to update the comprehensive plan and offer opportunities for public participation and public input in the development of the plan.

A handout was provided and made available to those present. A copy of the current comp plan is available on the DCA website, County website, and the SWGRC website.

Barbara Reddick, Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, summarized the Comprehensive Plan Update and the purpose of today's Public Hearing. The Comp Plan is for 2019 – 2029 and must be updated every five (5) years. This Public Hearing is to officially start the process of that update, allowing citizens to provide input; emphasizing that community involvement is a very important aspect of the process.

A comp plan is required for every county in Georgia. If a comp plan update is not completed and submitted by February 28, 2024, we could lose our Qualified Local Government Status, which affects the County's ability to obtain grants and permits, etc. from the state. Ms. Reddick and SWGRC staff will contact each entity to schedule individual meetings (tentatively June and July) and another Public Hearing must be held before the update is formally submitted. SWGRC will guide the meetings and the plan update as it moves along. The most important elements looked at during the update process are: Community goals, needs and opportunities, the report of accomplishments, the community work program, the broadband element, land use, and SWOT analysis.

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing at 5:42.

With no questions or comments from the Boards, staff, or public, the Public Hearing was closed at 5:43.

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.

No citizens took part in the Public Forum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission meeting is **Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00pm.**
- (B) The offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Monday, May 29, 2023** in observance of Memorial Day. County offices will reopen Tuesday, May 30, 2023 for regular business hours. **Residential garbage services will be delayed one day for the rest of the week.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/534875578659024>

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.