



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 6:00 P.M.
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES
VOTING 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 25, 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

Minister Jimmy West, Kingdom Vision Christian Center, 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 April 11, 2023.
Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for April 11, 2023. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) Recognition of employees' years of service.
The following employee was recognized for their years of service to Lee County:
20 years – Forest Hormell – Captain of Jail Division

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) The Lee County Board of Commissioners is considering applying to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$1,000,000.00. These funds must be used to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development. The purpose of this public hearing is to obtain citizen input into the development of the application.

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing.

County Manager Christi Dockery summarized the grant, stating that in the past this grant has been used to successfully improve water systems within several mobile home parks within the County. This year, staff is looking at several potential projects. This Public Hearing and resolution will be the start of the application process.

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

Consideration to adopt a resolution to submit an application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$1,000,000.00.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adopt a resolution to submit an application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$1,000,000.00. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Building Inspection/ Business Licensing

(A) **Consideration to approve an application for a Package Store located at 1529 US 19 South.**

Chairman Mathis stated that the application/applicant meets all requirements set by the Code of Ordinances.

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to approve an application for a Package Store located at 1529 US 19 South. Commissioner Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

Planning, Zoning, and Engineering

(B) **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 Planning Commission members recommend denial. Public Hearing held April 11, 2023**

The applicants were present and addressed the Board regarding the application stating that the purpose of the property was to build one building at approximately 5,100 sq. ft. to serve as a wedding/event space with an emphasis on maintaining and respecting the local aesthetics while also not providing alcohol sales and acknowledging the noise ordinance. Commissioner Guarnieri verified with County Manager Christi Dockery that the comp plan indicates that area was to remain residential.

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to deny an application from Deer Trace Development, LLC. (Z23-003) 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.

Commissioner Roland stated he would like to see the item tabled. Commissioner Guarnieri stated that he was okay with tabling the issue. Commissioner Walls then stated that he wished to second the **MOTION** for denial.

Commissioner Guarnieri made the **MOTION** to deny an application from Deer Trace Development, LLC. (Z23-003) 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. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** passed 3 – 1 with Commissioner Singletary voting yea and Commissioner Roland voting nay.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

NONE

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

(A) **Updates on County projects.**

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) All the roads included in the LMIG resurfacing project have been completed except for some remaining striping; (2) the garbage service transition is ongoing with the new company beginning service officially on May 1; (3) the landfill has already switched to new servicer; and (4) the County and City of Leesburg will be partnering to restripe Park Street and create adjoin parking spaces.

(B) **Consideration to approve the application for the ACCG Safety Grant.**

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to approve the application for the ACCG Safety Grant. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Singletary voting yea.

(C) **Consideration to authorize staff to put out a bid for fencing around certain County facilities.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that there are several areas around County facilities that would benefit from the inclusion of fencing and each location has different requirements and specifications in terms of height and material. This is to add another layer of security, as suggested by Colonel Chris Owens in his recent security assessment. All Board members voiced support in allowing staff to move forward with this project. Staff will publish an RFP and bring the results back to the Board.

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.

Willie Qualls – Request for Mt. Pleasant Road to be paved

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/2019349141746596>

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 Sharp 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.