



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022 AT 6:00 PM
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES
VOTING SESSION

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

COUNTY STAFF

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

The Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a voting session on Tuesday, April 26, 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, Commissioner Luke Singletary, Commissioner Rick Muggridge, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Clerk Kaitlyn Sawyer, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Rick Muggridge and Senior Minister Jim Morrow, First United Methodist Church of Albany, 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 minutes for the Board of Commissioners meeting for April 12, 2022.**
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for the Board of Commissioners meeting for April 12, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Muggridge voting yea.
- (B) **Consideration to approve the minutes for the Special Called meeting for the Board of Commissioners for April 12, 2022.**
Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for the Special Called meeting for the Board of Commissioners for April 12, 2022. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Muggridge voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) **The Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing for an ordinance updating existing speed**

limits, as prepared by GDOT. First Public Hearing Held April 12, 2022

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Muggridge asked if we could request a change in speed limit; for instance, he would like to request that DOT lower the speed limit on Old Leesburg Road/ State Route 133 to be 45 mph consistently. County Manager Dockery stated that the County put in a request like that for on Hwy 82, so we know we can certainly request it, but being a state route, DOT would ultimately have to approve it. Chairman Mathis suggested the County adopt the ordinance and then request a change with DOT.

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

Commissioner Muggridge made the **MOTION** to adopt an ordinance updating existing speed limits, as prepared by GDOT. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Building Inspection/Licensing

- (A) **Consideration to approve an alcohol license to reflect a change in ownership for Rooster's Tavern. Applicant is Jonathan Clay Griffith.**

Staff has reviewed the application and the applicant has met all guidelines for approval. Commissioner Walls asked if a new license must be approved or if the existing license is transferrable to the new owner, to which County Manager Dockery replied that it would have to be a new license that would need to be approved. Chairman Mathis asked if the Board had once decided to change the process and allow staff to approve licenses such as these, as long as all requirements are met. Commissioner Muggridge added that he recalled that decision as well. County Attorney Skipper stated that traditionally it would come before Board, but at one point an amendment was done to take out the portion of the ordinance requiring these applications be advertised. Chairman Mathis stated the Board would go ahead and vote on this application, but asked County Manager Dockery and County Attorney Skipper to look into it so as to streamline the process and make it more of an administrative decision.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve an alcohol license to reflect a change in ownership for Rooster's Tavern. Commissioner Muggridge seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering

- (B) **Consideration to adopt a resolution granting final approval for Hillridge Section Three Subdivision (SD20-015) and accepting deeds of rights-of-way, easements, roads, and water system infrastructure.**

A letter of recommendation from engineer Matthew Inman was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. County Manager Dockery also added that Bruce Melton had extended the bond for a four year term instead of a two year term.

Commissioner Muggridge made the **MOTION** to adopt a resolution granting final approval for Hillridge Section Three Subdivision (SD20-015) and accepting deeds of rights-of-way, easements, roads, and water system infrastructure, with an extended bond for a four year term instead of a two year term. Commissioner Wheaton seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

NONE

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

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

County Manager Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) the proposed Fire Station 8; (2) all

easements except one have been signed for the water project on Hwy 82, we're just waiting on materials, and (3) we're waiting on Woodgrain to have their part to hook into our system.

Discussion of proposed Fire Station #8.

County Manager Dockery stated that at the direction of the Board, staff reached out to property owners in the desired area and a property owner has agreed to contact the Georgia Land Bank to see if some property may be cut out.

Fire Chief David Forrester stated that the proposed fire station would be in the area of Armena Road and Hwy 32 West. There are 448 structures in that area (a 5 mile service radius) that would be covered, with that area also constantly growing. Chairman Mathis asked Chief Forrester if he had been able to find any floor plans for the proposed building. Chief Forrester stated that he and County Manager Dockery discussed using something similar to the Smithville Fire Station plans because he felt they met the needs of the new station. Commissioner Singletary commented that he would love to see this station come to fruition. Chief Forrester added that there was already a truck and equipment ready for that station.

Fire Chief Forrester also stated that the new fire truck had been delivered and is now in service and operational.

(B) **Discussion of generators for government buildings. HANDOUT**

County Manager Dockery stated that staff had received quotes for the installation of switches for generators for government buildings, with those quotes being provided to the Board as handouts prior to the meeting. Chairman Mathis stated that this was for the review of the Board for a future purchase as a continuation of a project to obtain generators for the buildings in preparation of emergencies.

(C) **Consideration to approve a Drainage Easement and a Quitclaim Deed with respect to certain real property located in Land Lot 251, 2nd District in Lee County for Oaks at Oakland Plantation, LLC, the successor-in-title to DAI-OSL Land Holdings, LLC.**

County Attorney Skipper stated that there was a sewer easement, drainage easement, and a quitclaim deed for this project. The Utilities Authority will accept the sewer easement and the Board needs to accept the drainage easement and quit claim deed. County Manager Dockery added that the Utilities Authority has already accepted the sewer easement. The county is relinquishing this 10 acres to swap property from the interior (building built over this easement) to the property now along the perimeter of the lot.

Commissioner Wheaton made the **MOTION** to approve a Drainage Easement and a Quitclaim Deed with respect to certain real property located in Land Lot 251, 2nd District in Lee County for Oaks at Oakland Plantation, LLC, the successor-in-title to DAI-OSL Land Holdings, LLC as part of a property swap. Commissioner Muggridge seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Singletary and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

(A) **Discussion of proposed Fire Station #8.**

Item incorporated into previous discussion of County projects.

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.

Sam Johnson- Old Leslie Road ditches

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00pm.**
- (B) **Advance-in-Person Voting** will be open to all eligible voters **beginning Monday, May 2, 2022** at the Elections and Registration Office, 100 Starksville Avenue North, Suite C in Leesburg **Monday through Friday from 8:15am to 5:00pm.** Advance-in-Person Voting will also be available on **Saturdays, May 7 and May 14, 2022 from 9:00am to 5:00pm.** **The last day for Advance-in-Person Voting is Friday, May 20, 2022.**
- (C) The last day to mail an **absentee ballot** will be **Friday, May 13, 2022.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:19PM.

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.