



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
5:00PM
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

JOINT SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
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, December 19, 2023 at 5:00pm. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. The following officials from the Lee County Board of Commissioners were present: Chairman Billy Mathis, Vice-Chairman Luke Singletary, Commissioner Dennis Roland, and Commissioner Chris Guarnieri. The following officials from the City of Leesburg were present: City Manager Bob Alexander, Mayor Billy Breeden, Councilwoman Judy Powell, and Councilman Jason Renfro. The following officials from the City of Smithville were present: Mayor Vincent Cutts, Councilwoman Ilean Bady, and Councilman Dwight Hickman. Chairman Mathis called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC HEARING

- (A) **Lee County and the Cities of Leesburg and Smithville are conducting a joint Public Hearing to present the Lee County Joint Comprehensive Plan draft. 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 once an update of the plan is drafted and made available for public review, but before transmittal to the Regional Commission for review.**

This hearing aims to brief the community on the plan's contents, provide an opportunity for residents to make final suggestions, additions, or revisions, and notify the community of when the plan is submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review.

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.

Olukayode Olubowale with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission provided a brief summary of the required update, stating that after the first Public Hearing, each governmental entity met so as to allow discussions of the Comp Plan. All edits and comments, both from officials and the public, were pulled together to create the draft presented tonight. The purpose of tonight's Public Hearing is to elicit any final comments, suggestions, or edits to the plan. Once approved, the plan will be submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review. The plan will be approved if meets the minimum standard as set by DCA. Following the acceptance, each government entity shall proceed with the official adoption procedure for the Comp Plan Update.

Chairman Mathis opened the Public Hearing at 5:05pm.

Addressing Mr. Olubowale, Smithville Mayor Vincent Cutts wished to make him aware of a few changes he and

the Smithville City Council would like to make to the plan. Councilwoman Ilean Bady stated that those changes had been made and were reflected in the presented plan.

Leesburg City Manager Bob Alexander wished to point out that there had been a few changes made to the Future Land Use Map for the City of Leesburg.

No citizens took part in the Public Hearing.

With no further questions or comments from the Board or Councils, staff, or public, the Public Hearing was closed at 5:06pm.

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Consideration to approve the submission of the Lee County Joint Comprehensive Plan draft to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.**

Commissioner Singletary made the **MOTION** to approve the submission of the Lee County Joint Comprehensive Plan draft to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

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.

Chairman Mathis asked if anyone else would like to speak. With no more comments or questions from the audience, the Public Forum was closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A) Offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Monday, December 25, 2023** and **Tuesday, December 26, 2023** in observance of Christmas and will be **closed Monday, January 1, 2024** in observance of New Year's Day. **Garbage collection services** will not run Christmas Day or New Year's Day, but **will be delayed one day** for the remainder of the week.
- (B) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00pm.**

Chairman Mathis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and stated that this would be his last meeting as chairman of the Lee County Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09pm.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/1093391955183042>

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.

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