



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.
T. PAGE THARP BUILDING
OPAL CANNON AUDITORIUM
WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES
VOTING SESSION

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Luke Singletary, Chairman	District 2
Chris Guarnieri, Vice-Chairman	District 4
Dennis Roland, Commissioner	District 1
Billy Mathis, Commissioner	District 3
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 voting session on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. 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 Luke Singletary, Vice-Chairman Chris Guarnieri, Commissioner Dennis Roland, Commissioner Billy Mathis, and Commissioner George Walls. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery, County Clerk Kaitlyn Good, and County Attorney Jimmy Skipper. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Chairman Singletary called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Commissioner Mathis entered the meeting at 6:04pm.

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 January 9, 2024.**
Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for January 9, 2024. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- (A) **Recognition of County employees' years of service.**
The following employees were recognized for their many years of service to Lee County:
30 years – Velton “Butch” Mathis – Major, Sheriff’s Office
15 years – Timothy “Chris” Owens – Colonel, Sheriff’s Office

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

NONE

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

- (A) **Consideration to appoint four (4) members to the Utilities Authority for a term of one (1) year. Current term expires 01/31/2024. New term expires 01/31/2025. Letters of interest in appointment received from Amy Addison (reappointment), Brad Chatman, Aaron McCulley (reappointment), Corrine Sweet, Bob Usry (reappointment), and Commissioner George Walls (reappointment- By Virtue of Office).**

Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to reappoint Amy Addison, Aaron McCulley, Bob Usry, and Commissioner George Walls to the Utilities Authority for a term of one (1) year, expiring 01/31/2025. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

- (B) **Magistrate Court – Consideration to approve the addition of one (1) new part-time employee.**

Chairman Singletary summarized the item, stating that he and County Manager Christi Dockery met with Judge Thurman who expressed his need for additional personnel. This would be a part-time employee to work no more than 30 hours per week at a rate of \$17.00 per hour. The cost for the remainder of the fiscal year, should the start date be January 29, 2024, would be \$12,932.33. This cost includes FICA and workers compensation insurance.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the addition of one (1) new part-time employee for Magistrate Court. Commissioner Guarnieri seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis 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) The road resurfacing project has begun with Chokee road and New York Road currently being worked on; and (2) staff is working with Windstream to coordinate a ground breaking for the broadband project, tentatively on February 7 or 8; the Governor has been invited and more details will be provided once they are available.

COMMISSIONER'S MATTERS

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS

- (A) **Consideration to adopt a Second Amendment to a Resolution approving Notice of Special Election, Call of Special Election, and Ballot Question in Connection with the 2025 SPLOST.**

County Attorney Jimmy Skipper summarized the amendment stating this is an amendment adding language pertaining to the bond proceeds, as requested by the bond lawyers. The amount of the bond remains unchanged. This will serve as the Notice of Special Election, as required by state law. Notice of Election must run once a week for the four (4) weeks immediately preceding the date of the election.

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adopt a Second Amendment to a Resolution approving Notice of Special Election, Call of Special Election, and Ballot Question in Connection with the 2025 SPLOST. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

- (B) **Consideration to approve an amendment to Chapter 38, Article VIII, Division 1, Section 38-318, adding Subsection (f) pertaining to minimum right of way widths on streets without curb and gutter. FIRST READING**

County Attorney Jimmy Skipper summarized the amendment stating that at the prior meeting, a discussion was

held and a vote made authorizing a text amendment for the issue of right of way widths on streets without curb and gutter. The Board expressed the wish to have a minimum width of 60ft and maximum width of 80ft, with the caveat to be able to change that width under certain circumstances.

The first reading was conducted.

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 Singletary asked if anyone else would like to speak.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board recognized and welcomed boy scouts present in the audience and posed for a picture after the adjournment of the meeting.

- (A) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00pm.**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea. The meeting adjourned at 6:14PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/762551635737467>

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.