



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 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, June 25, 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 Commissioner Dennis Roland, Commissioner Billy Mathis, and Commissioner George Walls. Vice-Chairman Chris Guarnieri was absent. Staff in attendance was County Manager Christi Dockery and County Clerk Kaitlyn Good. Chairman Luke Singletary was present via phone. County Attorney Jimmy Skipper was absent. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Chris Guarnieri called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Roland led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the audience said the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (A) **Consideration to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 11, 2024.**
Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes for June 11, 2024. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.
- (B) **Consideration to approve the minutes for the Finance Committee meeting for June 4, 2024.**
Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting on June 4, 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 employee years of service.**
The following employee were recognized for their many years of service to Lee County:
5 years: James Blanton – Deputy Sheriff, Uniform Division, Sheriff's Office

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

Planning, Zoning & Engineering

- (A) **Consideration to approve a sign permit application submitted by Misabi, LLC (Z24-008) for the C-2 zoned multi-tenant lot located at 1553 US Hwy 19 South. This application was administratively denied.** Interim Planning Director Joey Davenport addressed the board regarding this application. Mr. Davenport stated this application was to add a total of two (2) large signs to the Ridezilla location. According to the sign ordinance, this property does not meet the requirements for needing two (2) signs; therefore, administration denied this request, so has been brought to the Board as an appeal.

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to approve a sign permit application for two signs submitted by Misabi, LLC (Z24-008) for the C-2 zoned multi-tenant lot located at 1553 US Hwy 19 South. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS & GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES

- (A) **Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Family & Children Services Board for a term of five (5) years. Current term expires 06/30/2024. New term expires 06/30/2029. Letters of interest received from Melissa Edmondson (reappointment) and Cindy Robinson.** Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to appoint Melissa Edmondson to the Family & Children Services Board for a term of five (5) years expiring 06/30/2029. Commissioner Walls seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.
- (B) **Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Housing Authority Board for a term of five (5) years. Current term expires 06/30/2024. New term expires 06/30/2029. Letters of interest received from Renea Miller and Christopher Prokesh (reappointment).** Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to appoint Christopher Prokesh to the Housing Authority Board for a term of five (5) years, expiring 06/30/2029. Commissioner Mathis seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.
- (C) **Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Library Board of Trustees for a term of three (3) years. Current term expires 06/30/2024. New term expires 06/30/2027. Letters of interest received from Gary Knight (reappointment) and Corrine Sweet.** Commissioner Walls made the **MOTION** to appoint Gary Knight to the Library Board of Trustees for a term of three (3) years, expiring 06/30/2027. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.
- (D) **Consideration to appoint three (3) members to the Utilities Authority for a term of one (1) year. Current term expires 06/30/2024. New term expires 06/30/2025. Letters of interest received from Arthur Ford (reappointment), Levent Gokcen (reappointment), Philip Husain, Victor Stubbs (reappointment), Corrine Sweet, and Larry Walters.** Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to appoint Philip Husain, Victor Stubbs, and Larry Walters to the Utilities Authority for a term of one (1) year, expiring 06/30/2025. Chairman Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. Commissioner Mathis and Commissioner Walls voted nay. The **MOTION** was passed with Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.
- (E) **Consideration to appoint two (2) members to the DARTS Citizens Transportation Committee for a term of two (2) years. Current term expires 07/01/2024. New term expires 07/01/2026. Letters of interest received from Brent Davis (reappointment), Van Mason, and Dr. Peter Ngwafu**

(reappointment).

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to appoint Brent Davis and Van Mason to the DARTS Citizens Transportation Committee for a term of two (2) years, expiring 07/01/2026. Chairman Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Mathis, Commissioner Walls, and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

COUNTY MANAGER'S MATTERS

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

County Manager Christi Dockery discussed ongoing projects in the County: (1) Recently professional photographs were taken of Department Heads; (2) the new website will be ADA compliant; (3) upcoming bicentennial celebration; (4) Coston Road is an ongoing project; (5) GEMA disaster recovery meetings; (6) Lumpkin Road update and following up with Mike Talley; (7) the Springdale Park has been completed, Callaway Park is still in progress; and (8) the Pirates Cove concrete pad has been finished, with fencing, lighting, enlarging trails. Due to large limbs hanging in the trees, which are inaccessible to Public Works crews, the bridges will not be repaired at this time.

(B) **Consideration to approve budget amendment 2024-01 for year-end adjustments to the FY2023-2024 budget.**

County Manager Christi Dockery and Finance Director Heather Jones summarized the budget amendment and it's inclusion of a one-time payment of approximately \$700,000.00 for the increased amount due (because of additional holiday, retention payment, and overtime cost) for the DB Retirement Plan for FY 2024-2025. Commissioner Mathis stated that it did not make sense to pay something for next year out of this year's budget, especially when it is still undecided what, if anything, to do in regards to employee salaries and the salary study. Ms. Dockery stated that there was money in Contingency for the current year and this would be a one-time prepayment. Ms. Jones added that any overpayments would turn into credits.

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to approve budget amendment 2024-01 for year-end adjustments to the FY2023-2024 budget, excluding the one-time payment towards the DB Plan. Chairman Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Walls voting yea.

(C) **Consideration to approve the Letter of Intent for a renewal lease of one (1) year for DFCS.**

County Manager Dockery stated that the rent rate had been increased approximately \$14,000.00. Commissioner Mathis asked if the County breaks even with this lease due to all the upgrades to include painting, flooring, signs, and repaving of the parking lot. Ms. Dockery stated that the parking lot has already been repaved; RFPs will be put out for the carpet and paint.

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to approve the Letter of Intent for a renewal lease of one (1) year for DFCS. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

(D) **Consideration to approve a one (1) year contract for Circuit Public Defender David T. Winheim.**

Commissioner Mathis made the **MOTION** to approve a one (1) year contract for Circuit Public Defender David T. Winheim. Commissioner Roland seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

(E) **Consideration to adopt a resolution approving the final FY2024-2025 budget.**

Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to adopt a resolution approving the final FY2024-2025 budget. Chairman Singletary seconded the **MOTION**. Commissioner Mathis abstained. The **MOTION** passed with Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

(F) **Consideration to approve a contract with the Georgia Board of Regents of the University of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service for employee salaries, taxes, and retirement for FY24-25.**

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Commissioner Roland made the **MOTION** to approve a contract with the Georgia Board of Regents of the University of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service for employee salaries, taxes, and retirement for FY24-25. Commissioner Mathis seconded the **MOTION**. The **MOTION** was unanimous with Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Guarnieri voting yea.

(G) **Discussion of the General Obligation of Sales Tax Bonds for SPLOST VIII.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that this was brought to the Board at the last meeting. This Bond would allow the County to receive \$7 million before beginning to collect revenue in October 2025. This Bond would allow some projects allocated for SPLOST to begin approximately 3 or 4 years sooner. Chairman Singletary stated that he would not like to proceed with this. The present commissioners agreed.

(H) **Discussion of a potential text amendment relating to the permitting and licensing requirements for filming in Lee County.**

County Manager Christi Dockery stated that she was contacted by a company for filming and would like to draft an ordinance for permitting and licensing. Ms. Dockery informed the Board that Lee County is Georgia film ready. A draft ordinance would be brought to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

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.

Lee Purvis – Lumpkin Road flooding issue

Commissioner Roland addressed Mr. Purvis, discussing the recommendations from Mike Talley for Lumpkin Road.

Vice-Chairman Guarnieri asked if anyone else would like to speak.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) The offices of the Lee County Board of Commissioners will be **closed Thursday, July 4, 2024** in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. County offices will reopen for regular business hours on Friday, July 5, 2024. **Residential garbage services will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.**

(B) The next regularly scheduled County Commission Meeting is **Tuesday, July 9, 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 voting yea. The meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.

Facebook video link: <https://www.facebook.com/leecountyga/videos/505954735204737>

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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