

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201, Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.

CALL TO ORDER	Chairman Elmer Thrift
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT	Commissioner Leonard Burse; Commissioner Timmy Lucas; Commissioner Jerry Pope
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	Commissioner Sammy Hendricks
STAFF PRESENT	Interim County Manager Melinda Brooks; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog; Deputy County Clerk Melissa Bennett
PRESS	Danny Bartlett, WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from Work Session
GUEST SPEAKER(S):	none

AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Resolution 2024-34: Delegating Authority to the Tax Commissioner to Waive Penalties and Interest

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Burse made a motion to adopt the resolution 2024-34 delegating Authority to the Tax Commissioner to waive penalties and interest. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Sammy Hendricks-absent; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

B. Resolution 2024-35: Authority for Tax Commissioner to Accept Payments of Taxes

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adopt the resolution 2024-35 authority for Tax Commissioner to accept payments of taxes. Commissioner Pope seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Sammy Hendricks-absent; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

C. Appointment – Waycross/Ware County Land Bank Authority

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Burse made a motion to appoint William Simmons to Post 7 of the Waycross/Ware County Land Bank Authority for a period of four years beginning January 1, 2025. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Sammy Hendricks-absent; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

D. Alcohol License Application

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the alcohol license application for 7471 Albany Hwy, Millwood, GA. Commissioner Pope seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Sammy Hendricks-absent; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

E. DWDA SPLOST Disbursement – Intergovernmental Agreement

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Pope made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement between DWDA and Ware County Commission for the use and distribution of proceeds from the 2022 SPLOST referendum. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Sammy Hendricks-absent; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

F. Rezoning Request: Intersection of Dorothy St./E. Blackshear Ave, Parcel “051A04059”

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Lucas recused himself due to owning property next to the parcel. After discussion with Assistant County Attorney Herzog, she recommended tabling the item until more research can be done.

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion. Commissioner Pope made a motion to table the rezoning request for the intersection of Dorothy Street and East Blackshear Ave, Parcel “051A04059”. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jerry Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-abstain; Commissioner Sammy Hendricks-absent; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

MANAGERS REPORT:

Interim County Manager Brooks reminded everyone of Ware County’s Bicentennial events for the weekend. The presence of the Commissioners has been requested on Sunday, December 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Okefenokee Agricultural Fairgrounds.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Chairman Thrift made the announcement that there will be a called meeting on December 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to hire a county manager or interview candidates.

Commissioner Lucas mentioned that the street signs in Emerson Park need to be replaced. He thought that the signs were to be replaced by the contractor after the CDBG repaving project in the area.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucas to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:18 p.m., with Commissioner Pope seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: July 14, 2025

ATTEST:

Melissa Bennett
Melissa Bennett, Deputy County Clerk

Elmer Thrift
Elmer Thrift, Chairman

7/16/2025
Date

[SEAL]

