

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, June 9, 2025, 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 Barry Cox; Commissioner Leonard Burse; Commissioner Timmy Lucas; Commissioner Jon Tindall
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	None
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager James Shubert; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
PRESS	None
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from the Work Session

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye, Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MARSHA BRYSON – BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Human Resources Director Theresa Young and County Manager James Shubert presented Ware County Board of Assessors employee Marsha Bryson as the County Employee of the Month. She was given a \$100 check in appreciation for her dedication and loyalty. Due to the length of the work session, Mrs. Bryson was unable to stay for the regular meeting. Assistant Chief Appraiser Tiffany Thomas accepted the certificate and check on behalf of Mrs. Bryson.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Matt Hayes came before the Commission again regarding holding an exotic car/drag strip show at the airport. He put Eric Johnson on speakerphone, so that he could explain to the Commission what Mr. Hayes is wanting to do at the airport. Mr. Nelson is a former military pilot who established his business, Precision Exotics, in 2014, which allows citizens to drive an exotic car at high speed on an airport runway. He was put in contact with Mr. Hayes regarding the possibility of doing a show at

the Waycross-Ware County Airport. He likes to assist with getting a new runway run set up to make sure that it is done properly so that it does not hurt his business. He said the FAA just issues grants and gets involved when there is an incident to be investigated. The airport manager would contract with whomever is doing a show, but the airport would issue a NOTAM (NOTice to AirMen) but would not close down the airport.

When asked, County Manager James Shubert explained he and airport manager had been told by FAA and GDOT that the airport could not be closed down, etc. Matt Hayes told the Commission that he could take this event to the airport in Adel, but he wants to bring the money to Waycross. He feels that the event will grow and within a couple of years, Waycross will need more hotels to hold all of the people who will come to see this. He said the hotels and restaurants would be full, plus people would be buying gas and other things. He also said they would only need to use the longest runway. Commissioner Lucas said that only one of the runways is used at the airport. Assistant County Attorney asked that Mr. Nelson email the manager with all of the information so that he and the airport manager could check with FAA and GDOT regarding any restrictions on having a show like this. She noted that staff would vet the information and bring their findings to the Commission.

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Regular Meeting	September 9, 2024
Regular Meeting	September 23, 2024
Special Called Meeting	December 31, 2024
Work Session Meeting	January 16, 2025
Public Hearing	January 30, 2025
Public Hearing	February 6, 2025
Public Hearing	February 13, 2025
Called Meeting	March 27, 2025
Work Session	April 14, 2025
Public Hearing	April 14, 2025
Regular Meeting	April 14, 2025
Public Hearing	May 12, 2025
Regular Meeting	May 12, 2025

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye, Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. MOU: Ware County and Okefenokee Regional Library System

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion approve the MOU between the County and the Library. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Lucas noted that the County paid \$126,613 for the roof and boiler replacement and \$50,000 for HVAC repair, which more than accounts for the ten percent (10%) local match required in the grant. This is also noted in the MOU.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

B. Approve Contract with Craft Development for Library Renovation

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to accept the contract with Craft Development in the amount of \$714716 as present by Erica Stembridge (library director). Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

C. Approve Hofstadter Contract with Thrift Brothers for Dirt Street Paving

Chairman Thrift passed this item to the Vice Chair, stating he has conflict of interest due to Thrift Brothers, LLC being his sons' business. Vice-Chairman Cox asked County Manager James Shubert what he found out about the Right of Way during the break after the Work Session. The County Manager said he was unable to find anything during the short break, but he planned to contact the current owner to get the ROW dedicated to the County. Commissioner Lucas said the owner lives in Atlanta but has said he would give ROW to the County.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to table this item until the County has something in writing stating that the County has ROW. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. County Manager Shubert said he would get the scope of work changed as well.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-ABSTAINED.

D. MOU with City of Waycross for Public Safety Training Center

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the MOU, but removing paragraph 7, regarding indemnification. Commissioners Cox and Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Pope-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

E. Board Appointment: Department of Family and Children Services

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to reappoint Linda Booker for a 5-year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

F. Purchase Request: ADG Software License Upgrade

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the purchase request for the ADG software upgrade in the amount of \$80,750. (\$26,000 for Commission/Accounting and \$54,750 for Codes, Licensing, and Permitting) Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Lucas stated these two items could have been presented separately to the manager as they fell within his purchasing limits. The County Manager explained that his \$50,000 purchasing limit is for budgeted items only. These items will be purchased with SPLOST money set aside for IT, so the purchase has to be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Lucas thanked the County Manager for his correction.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

G. IT Purchase Request: PC Units

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the purchase of twenty (20) PC units in the amount of \$21,832.80 Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tindall explained that this purchase is to replace outdated units which will be obsolete by the end of the year and are unable to run the recently purchased Microsoft software upgrade.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

H. Approve Subscription Renewal: CodeRED Public Alerting System

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the subscription renewal of the CodeRED system in the amount of \$18,190.43, which will be split 50/50 with the City. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

I. Approve CrowderGulf Contract for Debris Removal

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the CrowderGulf contract for one (1) year with the option to renew for four (4) additional one-year renewal periods. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion on this item. Commissioner Tindall explained this contract needs to be in place in case there is a need for these services. Ware County will not have to pay anything unless the contract is activated.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-NO.

J. Approve Thompson Consulting Contract for Debris Monitoring

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the contract with Thompson Consulting, who will monitor CrowderGulf for weight, accuracy of tonnage, etc. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-NO.

G. Resolution 2025-12: Private Property Rights – United Nations

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-12 Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion on this item. Commissioner Burse says he feels this is a moot point and does not see the value. Commissioner Lucas summarized a portion of the

resolution stating Ware County will not adopt anything originating from the United Nations, which infringes upon or restricts private property rights.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-NO; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

H. Surplus Request: Building at 378 Ossie Davis Parkway

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to surplus the building located at 378 Ossie Davis Parkway. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion on this item. When asked, the County Manager said the building would be sold through sealed bids.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner Jon Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Cox said he had someone come to him about having a road sign erected in honor of Ware County citizen Darowyn Lee, who was inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. Chairman Thrift said he thought that had already been voted on. County Clerk Brooks told him that he had discussed it with staff, but that item has not been on the agenda since she has been on staff. Assistant County Attorney asked for the pertinent information and said the Commission could present a Resolution/Proclamation. Staff can research about the sign.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: July 14, 2025


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

7-16-2025
Date