

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025
4:30 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing, Monday, August 11, 2025, at 4:30 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 Barry Cox, 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	Mittie Vaugh – Waycross Press Express
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from Work Session

Call to Order:

Chairman Thrift called to order the public hearing at 5:48 p.m.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Marcus McConoco of Southern Georgia Regional Commission told the Commission this public hearing is to announce the beginning process of the Comprehensive Plan. He explained that he is required to hold two public hearings and three stakeholder meetings during the course of completing the new Comprehensive Plan. The second public hearing will be held at the conclusion of the plan. Mr. McConoco said he will get with the administrative staff and the Commission to select stakeholders to participate in the meetings. The Comprehensive Plan has nine sections and is required by state law to be updated every five years. It is a joint plan between the City of Waycross and Ware County. Mr. McConoco stated that when he looked over the current plan, he noticed quite a bit has been accomplished in the work program. He indicated that the Department of Community Affairs likes to see entities set attainable goals.

Close/Abandon Road Request – Lacie Street

This is a request to close/abandon an unopened 50' x 500' section of road known as Lacie Street, located in the Deenwood Subdivision. Interim Planning Director Dustin Minchew explained that this is an old subdivision that was platted, but never developed. He

said the applicant, Dale Poole, wants to obtain the road right-of-way to construct a house where the existing right-of-way is located.

Oppose

The Chairman asked if anyone present opposed the road closure request. No one spoke.

Support

The Chairman asked if anyone present supported the road closure request. No one spoke.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

Close/Abandon Road Request – Unnamed Road

This is a request to close/abandon an unopened and unnamed road located in Block A of Sand Hill Subdivision. Interim Planning Director Minchew said the applicant, Kody Dukes, has requested to close this road to add to his existing property. This road ends in a cul-de-sac on his property and touches no other landowner's property.

Oppose

The Chairman asked if anyone present was opposed to the road closure request. Parker James Sullivan (5773 Sand Hill Rd.) lives in the neighborhood. He does not want a trailer park to be put on this property, which he has heard will happen. County Manager Shubert explained that a mobile home park requires county water/sewer (not available at this location) and one-acre lots per mobile home. To convert the property to an RV park, Mr. Dukes must be approved for a permit, first by the planning commission, then by the Board of Commissioners.

It was noted that this hearing is for the purpose of closing the road. A quitclaim deed would be issued, and the property would be on the tax rolls. Commissioner Tindall explained that this hearing is to decide whether or not to close the road, which does not affect how the owner chooses to use the property.

Support

The Chairman asked if anyone present supported the road closure request. No one spoke.

Added to Regular Meeting Agenda

CLOSURE

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The public hearing closed at 6:15 p.m.

Date proposed to be approved: September 8, 2025

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Elmer Thrift, Chairman
9-10-2025
Date

