MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
5:00 p.m.

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, April 13, 2026, 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 Barry Cox, Commissioner Timmy Lucas; and Commissioner Jon Tindall
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT	None
STAFF PRESENT	County Manager James Shubert; Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Herzog; County Clerk Melinda Brooks
PRESS	Danny Bartlett, WJH
INVOCATION	The invocation was waived from the Work Session
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Pledge of Allegiance was waived from the Work Session

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

Commissioner Burse made a motion to amend the agenda by moving the last five items that were carried over from the public hearings to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- February 9, 2026 – Work Session, Regular Meeting
- February 12, 2026 – Called Meeting

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, with Commissioner Cox seconding 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.

GUEST SPEAKER: None

Proclamation: April as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Violence Awareness Month
The Commission presented a Proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Violence Awareness Month to Satilla Advocacy Services. Tess Aldridge thanked the Commissioners for their support and noted that Satilla Advocacy is the only organization in the local area to work on these issues.

AGENDA ITEMS

N. Request to Change the Name of Cameron Lane to Taylor Bristow Lane
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Cox stated he felt like the Commission needed to work to find a solution that would appease both sides. Commissioner Tindall withdrew his motion to give the Commission time to speak with both sides.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to table the item until such time the Commission had been able to speak with both sides and find an acceptable solution for both sides. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

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.

O. Request to Rezone 801 S. Augusta Avenue from C-2 & C-2 SDD to MU & MU SDD
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the request to rezone 801 S. Augusta Avenue from C-2 (Highway Commercial) and C-2 SDD (Highway Commercial Special Development District) to MU (Mixed Use) and MU SDD (Mixed Use Special Development District. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

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.

P. Request to Rezone Remaining Portions of Parcel 051C05 029 From LI to C-3
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the request to rezone portions of Parcel 051C05 029 from LI (Limited Industrial) to C-3 (General Commercial). Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

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.

Q. This letter was not used on the agenda due to error.

R. Request to Name Private Road Todd Lane
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the request to name the private road Todd Lane. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

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.

S. Request to Amend Article III and VII of the Ware County Zoning Resolution
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the request to amend Articles III and VII of the Ware County Zoning Resolution. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall clarified that the County is being proactive so regulations will already be in place should there be interest in locating a data center inside the County.

Roll Call Vote:

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

A. Bid Award – Recreation Department Beverage Contract
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the bid award to Coca-Cola for the beverage contract with the Recreation Department. Product pricing (per case) is as follows: 20 oz. carbonated beverages – $30.49, 16.9-20 oz. water – $26.74, $20oz. isotonic beverages – $32.10. Additional contributions include: $10,000 donation for utility buggy, $6,000 for volunteer appreciation ($2,000/year for three years), $3,000 for coolers, hand towels, etc. ($1,000/year for three years), and $7,500 for sponsorship ($2,500/year for three years). Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

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.

B. Bailey Street Pool – Operations Agreement and Proposal
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the operational agreement with the YMCA for $11,000 and the CPO Proposal from Sully's Pool Service and Safety Training for $7,200. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

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. Resolution 2026-05: Local Legislation for Tech Fees
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the resolution for local legislation for tech fees. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas noted these fees are for Probate Court, Magistrate Court, and State Court. Commissioner Tindall explained these fees would not in effect until July 1, 2026 and only if Governor Kemp signs the legislation.

Roll Call Vote:

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

D. Bid Award – Airport Runway 1/19 Rehabilitation
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the bid award for East Coast Asphalt, LLC to do the rehabilitation of airport runway 1/19. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Burse noted the amount would be split: Federal 95%, State 2.5%. Local 2.5%. Commissioner Tindall noted cost of the design was paid Federal 90% and Local 10%.

Roll Call Vote:

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

E. Library Board Appointment - Unexpired Term of Tawanna Harris
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to appoint Stacey Thrift to finish the unexpired term of Tawanna Harris. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

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.

F. 2026-05: Local Road Assistance (LRA) – Approve Roads for Application
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve Beach Road and Lucy Moore Road for the LRA application. Total LRA grant funding is $1,373,079.19. The cost for Lucy Moore Road is $896,169.02, and the cost for Beach Road is $695,064.30. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Commission told the Manager to put out 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.

G. WCSO Purchase Request – 5 Ford Explorers
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the purchase request of five Ford Explorers from Powerhouse Automotive Group. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, noting the amount per vehicle is $56,140 (all Law Enforcement Equipment already installed).

Discussion: none

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. HB 1566 Homestead Exemption from Ware County School District Ad Valorem Tax for Residents Aged 75 and Older
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to table this item until after the Collaborative Meeting. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

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.

I. Resolution 2025-06: Approve GDOT TIA Agreement for P.I. 0020590
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve GDOT TIA Agreement for P.I. 0020590. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

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

J. Resolution 2025-07: Approve GDOT TIA Agreement for P.I. 0020589
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve GDOT TIA Agreement for P. I. 0020589. Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

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

K. Alcohol License Request: 1200 E. Blackshear Avenue
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the alcohol request for 1200 E. Blackshear Ave. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

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

L. Borrow Pit Agreement – Rusty Tatum
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the borrow pit agreement for dirt to be used on Ware County roads. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Lucas noted the location is on Ammons Road and will be approximately 1 acre in size.

Roll Call Vote:

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

M. Ware County Board of Health Reappointment
Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to reappoint Dr. Jill Goggans Bryant to the Ware County Board of Health. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

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 REPORT:

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

ADJOURN
Commissioner Tindall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:41p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: May 11, 2026

Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

5-11-2026
Date

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WARE COUNTY GEORGIA