

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026
5:00 p.m.**

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, March 9, 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 (via phone); 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, with Commissioner Cox seconding.

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: Tabitha McCorvey – 3873 Scapa Road

Mrs. McCorvey and her husband spoke to the Commission to refute comments made about their employer at the last Commission meeting. They explained that the site is not used for manufacturing trailers and that only five to ten are sold from this location.

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

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

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented, with Commissioner Lucas seconding.

Roll Call Vote:

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

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Right of Way Mowing Contract

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

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve extending the contract for K&A Mowing for an additional year for \$193,220 and noted this does not include side boom mowing. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Cox asked if the money is in the budget for this contract. County Manager Shubert replied that it would be covered under the single county TSPLOST. The plan is to have county employees mow the right-of-way next year.

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. 2023 Local Funds Update Phase 1 – Coastal Engineering – Change Order: Jim Mixon Road and Camp Branch Road Pipe Replacement

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

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the change order on Jim Mixon Road and Camp Branch Road for road pipe replacement. The cost for Jim Mixon Road is \$58,534.32. The cost for Camp Branch Road is \$8,026.10. The total is \$66,5603.42. 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.

C. Airport Ground Lease Amendment – Michael and Vickie Franklin

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

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the airport ground lease amendment for Michael and Vickie Franklin. 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.

D. Resolution 2026-04: Support H.B. 1093 – Local Referendum

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

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-04. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall stated in December that the Commission had agreed to put this item before the voters. It is a nonbinding advisory referendum regarding a perimeter road around Waycross.

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 5:33 p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: April 13, 2026

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk


Elmer Thrift, Chairman
4-15-2026
Date

