

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

The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting, Monday, July 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	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 Burse made a motion to approve the agenda 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- June 8 2026 – Work Session, Regular Meeting
- June 18, 2026 – Public Hearing
- June 25, 2026 – Called Meeting

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

County Clerk Melinda Brooks noted that she was unable to attend the meetings on June 8 and June 25. She thanked County Manager James Shubert for stepping in and helping her with minutes.

AGENDA ITEMS

A. Appointment to the Land Bank Authority

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Tindall made a motion to appoint Fred Lee, Jr. to the Land Bank Authority to fulfill the unexpired term of William Simmons. Commissioner Cox 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.

B. Resolution 2026-10: Contract with Georgia Public Defender Council

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10, which authorizes the contract with the Georgia Public Defender Council. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall noted that because the Public Defender Council and the County have different budget year calendars, the contract has to be approved every six months.

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 2026-11: Contract with Unison Behavioral Health

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-11, which authorizes the contract with Unison Behavioral Health. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall noted this is an annual contract for \$50,026, which has remained the same amount for around 9 years. Other counties in the local region also support Unison financially.

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. Purchase Request Fire Rescue – Two Ford F-250s

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the purchase of two Ford F250s for a total of \$120,598.00, Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Burse also noted these trucks are for the Fire Chief and Battalion Chief. The trucks will be outfitted with a skid unit with the help of Georgia Forestry. Commissioner Cox remarked funding would be from 2022 SPLOST Public Safety funds.

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. Purchase Request EMS – Repeater and Radio Upgrades

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the purchase of the digital repeater and radio upgrades for EMS. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Cox noted the item would be purchased with 2022 SPLOST Public Safety funds. Commissioner Burse added the amount of the purchase is \$10,122. Commissioner Tindall said he is pleased to see this purchase is with a local vendor, as are the trucks in the previous item.

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. Approve Amount of DNR Grant – Pickleball Courts at Trembling Earth Recreation Complex

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the DNR grant being submitted for \$750,000, with the 50/50 match coming from the 2022 SPLOST Recreation Department funds. 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.

G. Request to Amend Articles III and VII of Ware County Zoning Resolution – Offroad Motorized Vehicle Park

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the request to amend Articles III and VII of the Ware County Zoning Resolution for Offroad Motorized Vehicle Park. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall explained this is putting the wording in for motorized vehicle parks to protect the citizens around it.

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. Request to Amend Article VII of Ware County Zoning Resolution – Poultry in Residential Zones

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve the request to amend Article VII of the Ware County Zoning Resolution. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall explained this will mirror the City's ordinance and has wording for setback requirements.

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. Request to Rezone 3895 Jamestown Highway from C-1 Neighborhood Commercial to C-2 Highway Commercial

Chairman Thrift asked for a motion on this item. Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the request to rezone 3895 Jamestown Highway from C-1 Neighborhood Commercial to C-2 Highway Commercial. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Tindall said this building has been used for several different purposes over the years. He is glad about the remodel and beautification and believes a restaurant will be an asset to the area.

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:

County Manager Shubert reminded the Commission that the first Bulk Trash Collection will be held Saturday, July 18, behind the Public Works compound from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a sign posted where the citizens turn onto the property. The event has been advertised in the newspaper and on Facebook.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

The Commissioners commented on the 250th anniversary of America's founding on July 4th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Commission entered Executive Chambers.

Commissioner Burse made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Executive Session was ended.

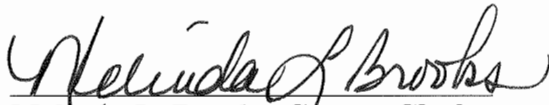
ADJOURN

Commissioner Tindall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p. m.

Date proposed to be approved: August 10, 2026


Elmer Thrift, Chairman

ATTEST:


Melinda L. Brooks, County Clerk

8-12-2026
Date

