

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
June 6, 2023
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette, with commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Gilliard, and Walden in attendance.
2. The Chairman certified compliance with the Georgia open meetings act.
3. Prayer was offered by Rev. Kevin Betton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The board recognized the long-time Commissioner and Chairman Hazel B Carter for her lifetime of commitment and service to Liberty County and its citizens.
5. The board considered the minutes of their May meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift, and seconded by Commissioner Stevens, to approve the minutes as presented, with all commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.
6. Departmental reports were presented:

A. The board considered a public hearing to review aspects of the proposed FY 2024 operational budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier, seconded by Commissioner Walden, to adjourn to a public hearing with all members present voting in favor of the motion. CFO, Samantha Richardson, offered a presentation outlining aspects of the proposed FY 2024 general fund budget. Following the commission's comments, no one from the public chose to speak on the matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn the public hearing and return to regular session, second by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Commissioner Frasier joined the meeting.

B. The LCPC report was presented by Ms. Lori Parks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn to the public hearing for rezoning purposes, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(1) The board considered variance request 2023-029-LC, a request by Russell Brown to reduce the side yard setback to 2 feet as opposed to 15 feet in an R1 zoning district for an addition to the existing home. The property is located at 47 Japonica Dr., further described as LCTM 339D-009. Following the presentation of staff reports, Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the request subject to standard conditions, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(2) The board considered conditional use request 2023-032-LC submitted by Arcadia Excavating to create a small surface mine. The property is located on the Leroy Coffey Highway and is further described as LCTM 139-036. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to approve the request with all commissioners present voting in favor of the motion

(3) The board considered rezoning petition 2023-033-LC submitted by James B Ray to rezone 245.93 acres from R1 to AR-1 for agricultural and single-family use. The property is further described as LCTM 139-034. Following the presentation of staff reports, a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to approve the request with all commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

(4) The board considered conditional use request 2023-034-LC, a request by James B Ray to create a small surface mine. The property is located on Leroy Coffey Highway and is further described as LCTM 139-034. Following the presentation of staff reports, a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn the public hearing and return to regular session, second by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

7. The board considered new business:

A. The board discussed matters involving the use of cameras in school zones. The Chairman noted correspondence received from the county attorney and Sheriff's Department and advised that Mr. Davis would be present at the next meeting to answer questions on the matter.

B. The board considered the renewal of a GIS contract with the Coastal Georgia CRC. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

C. The board considered a contract between the Liberty County elections board and the City of Walthourville to conduct a municipal election for that jurisdiction. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to approve the agreement with all commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

D. The commission considered appointments to various boards:

(1) Liberty County Facilities Authority - Motion by Commissioner Stevens to reappoint Mr. Jim Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, with all commissioners present voting in favor.

(2) DBHDD - Motion by Commissioner Thrift to appoint Ms. Andrea Valdez, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, with all the commissioners present voting in favor.

E. The board considered bids received for the furnishings at the Miller Park fire station. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to reject the bids, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

8. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Connie Thrift, Vice-Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

Justin Frasier, Commissioner

Maxie R. Jones, IV, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator