

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
January 3, 2023
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette with commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Walden, and Gilliard in attendance.
2. The Chairman certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Pastor Richard Hayes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Frasier joined the meeting.

4. The commissioners each offered comments and greetings to start the new year.
5. The board considered minutes of their December 2022 meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.
6. Departmental reports were presented:

A. The LCPC report was presented by Mr. Jeff Ricketson.

(1) the board considered an amendment to the 2040 Liberty County joint comprehensive plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn to public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Mr. Ricketson presented an overview of proposed changes to the 2040 joint comprehensive plan. The board entertained public comments with the following individuals addressing the board:

Ms. Ashley Mosier who expressed opposition to changes to the land-use plan and development as proposed in that area.

Ms. Ronda Durney who opposed changes to the land-use plan and development proposed in that area citing environmental and other concerns.

Mr. Ricketson and county engineer Trent Long answer questions from the board concerning water, traffic, and potential growth. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to authorize transmittal of the proposed amendment to the CRC for review, seconded by Commissioner Walden, with all commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

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

(2) The board considered variance request 2022-078 -LC as submitted by J Wheeler Properties to reduce the 15 foot required side yard building setback to 10 feet on property located at 390 Main St., Midway further identified as LCTM 281D-045 lots 95 and 96. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the variance subject to standard conditions, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(3) The board considered special exception request 2022-080-LC a request by April and Stephen Lewis for a vineyard, short-term rentals, events center, and kitchen on property zoned A-1 located on Cay Creek Road further described as LCTM 244-002. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the special exception request with standard conditions, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn to public hearing for a rezoning matter, seconded by Commissioner Walden, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(4) The board considered rezoning petition 2022-081-LC submitted by Weyerhaeuser Company to rezone 28 acres from A-1 to I-1 for a woodyard on property located at 7417 South Coastal Hwy. further described as LCTM 293-001. Following the presentation of staff reports a motion was made by Commissioner

Stevens to approve the rezoning request subject to standard conditions, seconded by Commissioner Walden, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

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

B. Mr. Trent Long, county engineer, presented a transportation assessment fee calculator associated with the development agreements and necessary roadway improvements along Islands Highway and exit 76. Mr. Long reviewed the assessment model with the commission and answered questions.

7. The board considered new business:

A. County attorney Kelly Davis appeared before the board to present a draft format of proposed developer agreements associated with construction activities adjoining Islands Highway at exit 76. Mr. Davis reviewed the document with the board and asked that the board forward any questions they may have concerned matter to him prior to the January midmonth meeting.

B. The board considered renewal of a contract with Crowder Gulf LLC related to standby disaster debris cleanup and disposal. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to approve the contract renewal, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

8. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn to executive session for a land acquisition matter, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

9. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn executive session and return to regular meeting, second by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, 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