

Minutes  
Liberty County Board of commissioners  
March 1, 2022  
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette with Commissioner Stevens, Thrift Jones, Gilliard, and Walden in attendance. Commissioner Frasier joined by phone.
2. The county administrator certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Pastor Richard Hayes, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The board considered the minutes of their February 2022 meetings. Commissioner Walden made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Stevens and approved unanimously.
5. The board considered the adoption of a proclamation in recognition of the Great American cleanup. Dr. Karen Bell, Keep Liberty Beautiful Director, briefed the board on cleanup projects scheduled in the community. As a result, the board adopted said proclamation.
6. The board presented a certificate of recognition to Mr. Jared Harriman and Ms. Daisy Clay for their work in the 4-H program providing maintenance to a bridge area in Liberty County.
7. Deputy garrison commander Steve Hood appeared before the board to provide an update on troop deployment of the Third Infantry Division related to the recent attack on Ukraine.
8. Departmental reports were presented:
  - A. Liberty County chief financial officer Ms. Kim McGlothlin appeared before the board to present the monthly finance report for the end of January.
  - B. The LCPC report was presented by Mr. Jeff Ricketson

A motion was made by Commissioner Walden and seconded by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn to a public hearing for a rezoning matter, with all commissioners voting in favor of the motion.

The board considered rezoning petition 2022 – 007 – LC, a request by Travis Stringer, an applicant with the FORAM group, to rezone a combined 230.1 acres of land from A1 and B2 to B-2 and I-1. The property proposed for rezoning is located and identified as LCTM 265 – 041 and 042 and 285 – 001. Following the presentation of staff reports, Ms. Ashley Mosher, spokesperson for those in opposition, expressed concern about development on the eastern side of the interstate and traffic and safety concerns. Mr. Scott Belford addresses the board concerning nonpoint source pollution runoff, safety, and traffic. Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Walden to approve the recommendation of the planning commission for approval with the hundred-foot buffer, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard with commissioners Lovette, Walden, Gilliard, and Thrift voting in favor, Commissioners Stevens, Jones, and Frasier opposed.

The board considered rezoning petition 2022 – 012 – LC and conditional use 2022 – 013 – LC, a request by Dal-Bloc applicant to rezone 6.698 acres of land from AR-1 to B-2. The property is located on East Oglethorpe, by the way, and is further described as LCTM – 265 – 028. Following staff reports and questions from the board, Commissioner Thrift made a motion to approve the rezoning and conditional use request with special conditions, seconded by Commissioner Walden and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and return to regular session, seconded by Commissioner Walden, and approved unanimously.

The board considered variance 2022 – 014 – LC submitted by James Greene on behalf of Wanda Green to be allowed to encroach into the 35 foot required front Yard building

setback by 8 feet for a detached garage workshop. The property is located at 445 Rye Patch Rd., further described as LCTM – 024 – 013. Following the presentation of staff reports, Commissioner Thrift made a motion to approve the variance request, seconded by Commissioner Stevens and approved unanimously.

9. The board considered new business:

A. The board considered approval of an agreement between the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Liberty County to provide low-income household water assistance. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

B. The board considered an agreement with Savannah Technical College to provide interns to EMS. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters, seconded by Commissioner Thrift and approved unanimously.

11. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to return to regular session, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

12. The board considered budget amendment 2022 – 01 in the amount of \$55,883.00 to increase appropriations to the board of tax assessor's office. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

13. The board considered a revocation of an emergency order issued because of increased COVID-19 infection rates. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to rescind the emergency order, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

14. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.

#### Liberty County Board of Commissioners

SIGNED:

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Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

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Justin Frasier, Vice-Chairman

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Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

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Connie Thrift, Commissioner

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Maxie R. Jones, IV, Commissioner

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Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

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Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

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Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator