

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
May 2, 2023
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette with all commissioners in attendance.
2. The Chairman certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Mr. Joseph Mosley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The board presented awards and recognitions.
 - A. Mr. Addison James was recognized as GECA area Five Dispatcher of the Year.
 - B. Mr. Darrell Sanders was recognized as the Savannah Technical College goal student of the year.
5. Departmental reports were presented:
 - A. CFO Samantha Richardson appeared before the board to request approval related to American Rescue Plan Act budget amendments previously reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the budget amendments, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.
6. State representative Mr. Al Williams appeared before the board to give a legislative update associated with the most recent session.
7. The board returned to departmental reports:
 - A. Ms. Lori Parks presented the monthly report of the Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission.
 - (1) The board considered rezoning petition 2023-016-LC a request by Daybreak Industrial Incorporated to rezone 10.12 acres from AR-1 and A1 to I-1 for a storage warehouse. The property is located at 2873 South Coastal Hwy. and is further described as LCTM 190-022. The board reviewed suggested rezoning conditions as presented by the county attorney. Following questions from the board a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the rezoning subject to subject to conditions, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn to public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.
 - (2) The board considered variance request 2023-02 -LC a request by Krista Brown Horn to replace an existing 6 foot fence with an 8 foot fence. The property is located at 429 Clark St. and is further identified as LCTM 281B-103. Following the presentation of staff reports a motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the variance subject to standard and special conditions, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved unanimously.
 - (3) The board considered variance request 2023-023-LC a request by Josh Wheeler to reduce the side yard setback next to 10 feet from 15 feet in an R-2 zoning district. Subject property is located on W. 1st St. and is further identified as LCTM 280C-105. Following the presentation of staff reports a motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the request subject to standard conditions, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved unanimously.
 - (4) The board considered variance request 2023 - 024 - LC a request by Bob Manker to reduce the side yard setbacks to 10 feet from 15 feet in an R-2 zoning district. The property is located on East First Street and is described as LCTM 281B - 066. Following the presentation of staff reports a motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to return to regular session, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.
 - B. Mr. Trent Long, county engineer, appeared before the board to present several items for board consideration.
 - (1) The board considered bids received for improvements to Bill Carter Road. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to award the bid to Platinum Paving at a total cost of \$1,212,128.00 plus a 10% contingency, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.

(2) The board considered a contract agreement with TR Long Engineering for design and permitting of proposed safety improvements on Islands Highway. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved unanimously.

(3) The board considered a contract extension associated with improvements to the Gumbranch convenience center with Taylor’s Creek Construction. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve a contract extension date to June 20, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

8. The board considered new business:

A. The board considered approval of the 2024 public defender budget as submitted by Mr. Brandon Clark. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the budget, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved unanimously.

B. The board considered a contract with the Coastal Health District for administration of opioid grant funds. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

C. The board considered exercise of an option by Georgia Forestry to purchase property at the old Liberty County Airport site. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to authorize the sale, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.

D. The commission considered various board appointments:

- (1) Aging Services Advisory Council – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to appoint Ms. Valdes, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved unanimously.
- (2) Coastal Regional Commission – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to recommend Mr. Richard Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, approved unanimously.
- (3) Cultural and Historic Resource Committee – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to reappoint Ms. Pace, Mr. Porter, Ms. Lovette, Mr. Baker, and Ms. Carter, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.
- (4) Department of Family and Children Services – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to appoint Ms. Gamillion, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.
- (5) Georgia Forestry Board – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to appoint Mr. Smith, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.
- (6) Live Oak Library Board – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to appoint Ms. Deiters, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.
- (7) Public facilities Authority – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to appoint Ms. Camper, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved unanimously.
- (8) Recreation Board – Motion by Commissioner Stevens to reappoint Ms. Godley, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.

E. The board considered a liaison member for the recreation Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to appoint Mr. Frasier, second by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

F. The board considered the minutes of their April meeting’s. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved unanimously.

9. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Maxie R. Jones, IV, Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Vice-Chairman

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Justin Frasier, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator