

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
October 4, 2022
Regular Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette with commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Frasier, and Gilliard in attendance.
2. The county administrator certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Rev. Henry Frasier, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The board considered an amendment to the proposed board agenda to include board appointments for the liberty Regional Medical Center Board of Directors. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to amend the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.
5. The Chairman recognized Liberty County Board of Education Chairman Lily Baker and thanked her for her years of dedicated service to the school board and the citizens of Liberty County.
6. The board considered minutes of their September meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.
7. The board considered several proclamations:
 - A. The board approved a proclamation designating Friday, October 14, 2022 as Paint Liberty Pink Week in recognition of breast cancer awareness.
 - B. The board approved a proclamation recognizing October as National Women's Small Business Month.
 - C. The board approved a proclamation designating the first Friday in October of every year as Save Our Next Generation Day.
8. Departmental reports were presented:
 - A. The LCPC monthly report was presented.
 - (1) Mr. Jeff Ricketson appeared before the board to conduct a public hearing related to an amendment to the Liberty County comprehensive of plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to enter into public hearing to entertain comments related to the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Mr. Ricketson presented a brief overview of the proposed amendment and answered questions from board members related to the study area which is generally defined as that area in close proximity of the exit 76 interchange in easterly direction. The board received comments from the public. Mr. Mark Bush commented about growth in that area and expressed a concern over its continuance. Ms. Ronda Gurney expressed concern for health impacts associated with diesel emissions. Ms. Janice Kay questioned the ultimate goal of the update noting that much had already changed in that area. Ms. Wendy Bush expressed concern over availability of road, water, and sewer infrastructure. Mr. Steve Rushing questioned pressure being received for development in that area. Mr. Ricketson informed the group of public hearings to be held concerning the update the plan.

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

 - B. Mr. Trent Long, county engineer, appeared before the board to discuss the yearly submittal of the local maintenance improvement grant list to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Mr. Long presented a preliminary list of projects and asked that the commission review these and provide suggestions prior to November submittal.
9. The board considered new business:
 - A. The board considered renewal of the lease agreement with the Liberty County Reentry Coalition. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard, and seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to approve the lease with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

B. The board considered an amendment to the ACCG retirement plan agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift, and seconded by Commissioner Frasier, to approve the amendment with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

C. The board considered the renewal of agreement with Georgia Alabama Land Trust for green space monitoring services. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard, and seconded by Commissioner Frasier, to renew the agreement with all Commissioner present voting in favor.

D. The board considered renewal of an agreement for managed medical services with Liberty Regional Medical Center. The board reviewed language suggested for change by Liberty Regional Medical Center and decided on adoption of the agreement based on different language. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to approve the agreement with substitute language subject to final review by the County Attorney, seconded by Commissioner Stevens with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

E. The board considered appointments to the Liberty Regional Medical Center Board of Directors. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to reappoint Ms. Kimberly Ryon for a three-year term, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Lovette, and Gilliard voting in favor, Commissioner Frasier absent from the vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to reappoint Ms. Stephanie O'Steen for a three-year term, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Lovette, and Gilliard voting in favor, Commissioner Frasier absent from the vote.

F. The board considered rescension of the local state of emergency related to hurricane Ian. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to rescind the action, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Lovette, and Gilliard voting in favor, Commissioner Frasier absent from the vote.

10. A motion was made by Commissioner Gilliard to adjourn regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Lovette, and Gilliard voting in favor, Commissioner Frasier absent from the vote.

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Justin Frasier, Vice-Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

Connie L. Thrift, Commissioner

Maxie R. Jones, IV, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator