

TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 15, 2024

Room 263
5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, TOMMY ROLLINS, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called October Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to accept the Agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the
September 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting held on September 17, 2024.

Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the September 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the
September 20, 2024 Called Board Meeting held on September 20, 2024.

Called Board Meeting:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the September 20, 2024 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the
September 29, 2024 Called Board Meeting held on September 29, 2024.

Called Board Meeting:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the September 29, 2024 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the
October 3, 2024 Called Board Meeting held on October 3, 2024.

Called Board Meeting:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the October 3, 2024 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority
Report:

Michele Johnson was not at the meeting so John Jones gave the report that Michele had prepared. Oxford Construction Milestone, 320 S. Commerce Drive, Lyons GA on Oct 16th at 4, 2024-320 South Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Oxford Industries Expansion, 120 South Commerce Drive, Oct. 16, 2024 at 4:00 PM. Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia on Thursday, Oct. 17th at 12 Noon. Oxford Construction Milestone, 320 S. Commerce Drive, Lyons, GA- Oct 16th at 4:30PM. Greater Vidalia Youth Leadership, scheduled Oct. 22, 2024. Leadership Greater Vidalia Education Center is scheduled Oct. 24, 2024. Chambers Board Meeting will be held on Oct.

24, 2024 at 11:30. Ribbon cutting and open house ceremony for the Greater Vidalia Center For Rural Entrepreneurship will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29th at 3:00 PM. State of Agriculture will be held Thursday, November 7, 2024 at the Lyons from 11:30 to 1:00 PM First Baptist Church, 144 S. Washington Street, Lyons. State of Education will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at the Lyons First Baptist Church, 144 S. Washington Street, Lyons from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. The Chambers Business Expo will be held in the Vidalia Community Center on Thursday, November 14th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Department Reports: **Drew James**, EMS Director, stated the service averaged about 20 calls a day. The first 48 to 72 of the storm our volume was much higher, our EMS Service appreciated Meadows Hospital for getting the HCA Strike Team to help during the storm. The Montgomery Station (AKA: Station three) got damaged from the storm and had to relocate in Mount Vernon. This Saturday will be Safety Day at Lowes, where EMS, Fire, Local Law Enforcement and Air Evac will be doing demonstrations; come and join us if you are here in town this Saturday. Commissioner Dixon and Chairman Sikes commended Drew and the EMS Crew for a job well done.

Public Participation: None

Consideration of Approval of the Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance: Manager Jones stated a Public Hearing was held prior to the Commissioners Meeting tonight, there were no comments made by the citizens. At this time it is for the Commissioners to choose to accept the Ordinance as written, adjust, change or delete any portion of the Ordinance. If the Ordinance is approved and passed, the Commissioners will approve the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Cryptocurrency and Data Mining Ordinance as written and approve the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of the Adoption of a Solar Energy Generation Ordinance: Manager Jones stated a Public Hearing was held prior to the Commissioners Meeting tonight, there were no comments made by the citizens. At this time it is for the Commissioners to choose to accept the Ordinance as written, adjust, change or delete any portion of the Ordinance. If the Ordinance is approved and passed, the Commissioners will approve the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign. Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the adoption of a Solar Energy Generation Ordinance as written and approve the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Toombs County and City of Lyons for Debris Removal: Manager Jones stated when we all woke up the morning of September 27, 2027, Hurricane Helene had made it impossible to travel on any road in Toombs County. As the roads began clearing, the county officials and city officials meet at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Building at 509B Maple Drive in Vidalia and strategically began the plans for recovery of our county. By Sunday morning there was a company that would remove the debris, a debris monitoring company and a ER Assist that would help us navigate through the paperwork with FEMA. At this time the County and Cities has contracts and after beginning the recovery work, it was decided that it would be more efficient if the operations were under one contract instead of separate contracts. The City of Lyons has meet and agreed to this Intergovernmental Agreement. Management recommended signing the agreement as well.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Toombs County and the City of Lyons for debris removal. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Toombs County and City of Vidalia for Debris Removal: Manager Jones stated this is the same as the Intergovernmental Agreement with Lyons. Management recommended the Board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Toombs County and the City of Vidalia for debris removal. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Toombs County and the City of Vidalia for debris removal. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Appointment to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 1 – Vidalia: Commissioner Dixon recommended that Brian Fubacher be appointed to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 1- Vidalia. Mr. Fubacher is the CEO of Choo Choo Build it Mart in Vidalia. Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to the appointment of Brian Fubacher to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 1- Vidalia. Mr. Fubacher’s term will be 01-01-2024 to 12-31-2029 Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Appointment to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 2 – Lyons: Chairman Sikes asked who the Board would like to be the Toombs County Development Authority for District 2 – Lyons. Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to appoint Benny McLendon to the Toombs County Development Authority for District 2 – Lyons, for the term of 01-01-2024 to 12-31-2029 . Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Appointment to the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority: Manager Jones stated he had received a letter from Michele Johnson requesting Pollyann Martin be appointed to the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority for the term of 07-01-2024 to 06-30-2028 Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve Pollyann Martin to the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority for the term of 07-01-2024 to 06-30-2028. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Report Financial Report: Manager Jones stated the M & O Budget (Maintenance and Operations) is four percent under budget for expenses. Property tax notices will be going out shortly, they will be due December 20, 2025. Sales taxes are still strong through the month.

Miscellaneous: None

Commissioners Comments: Chairman Sikes wanted it to be noted in the Minutes that our County was hit with the largest catastrophe event in the history of Toombs County. There was an estimate given by the debris group that there would be at least one million cubic square yards of debris collected in Toombs County. At one point, 82 trucks were picking up debris in our county. Commissioner Sikes said he was extremely grateful for all the help that came to our county after Hurricane Helene hit our area in the early hours of September 27, 2024. Chairman Sikes stated, “Managing disasters at the County Level, with our City Officials, has been amazing, we pulled together and worked together as we focused on the public health and safety of our community and will continue to do so.” “To Senator Blake Tillery and State Representative Lessa Hagan, you both have gone beyond the call of duty.” “I have watched them both do the fundraising and help get food and supplies to our community, you both are amazing.” “I am proud to be a citizen of Toombs County where everyone pitched in; it was a complete community effort and internal strengths and resilience to build back Toombs County, Georgia. Let’s all remember the phrase “Toombs Strong!”

Executive Session – Legal: Chairman Sikes request a motion to go into Executive Session.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to Go into executive session at 5:50 P.M.

Adjournment for Executive Session:

Chairman Sikes requested a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn from the Executive Session.

The doors were open for any gues to enter back into the Meeting Room. At this time Chairman Sikes stated there was no motion to be made.

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn from the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to adjourn from the Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk