

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 18, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commissioners Meeting on June 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls. District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks and District 3 Commissioner Iris Harris were unable to attend. County Attorney Michael Hill was also present at the meeting.

Agenda Item # 2 - Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag

Chairman Lee Boone called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present, and gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearings

Chairman Boone went over the rules for the public hearing and asked that each person speak directly into the microphone.

- a) **Annual 2024-25 Budget** – The Chairman opened the public hearing. There were no comments in favor or against the proposed annual budget. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.
- b) **Text Amendments to Solar Ordinance** – The Chairman opened the public hearing.
 - Mark Callahan proposed to the Board the inclusion of a 930 square foot buffer from residences and periodic water testing for wells in the ordinance.
 - Dianne Callahan suggested that the Board explore the possibility of prohibiting solar farms within a 5-mile radius of any school.
 - Ellen Smith, representing Vividi RE as their attorney, suggested to the Board to consider reviewing the screening and fencing requirements to clarify them.

- Brad Jackson addressed the Board, stating his desire for ordinances that would deter the establishment of solar farms.
- Fred Thomas addressed the Board, advocating for enforced codes with detailed and strict penalties.
- Courtney George, representing Merritt Paul Land Surveying, indicated that the industry standard involves placing a fence around the solar farm, followed by a vegetative buffer to minimize disruption to natural vegetation.
- Shane Cummings opposes the establishment of a solar farm in the county and advocates for strict ordinances to discourage their development.
- Tiffany Powers suggested implementing a minimum 1-mile distance requirement for solar farms near schools.

The Chairman read the drafted ordinance along with the recommendations made by the County Attorney into the record. On a motion (Hammond) and second (Perry), the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 21, 2024, Work Session meeting and regular Commissioner's meeting along with the May 30, 2024, Called Meeting were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion (Hammond) and second (Walls), the Board voted unanimously to approve the May 21, 2024, Work Session meeting minutes and regular Commissioner's meeting along with the May 30, 2024, Called Meeting minutes as written.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda

The Chairman requested an amendment to the agenda to add to New Business, Item b: Skid Steer Loader, and Equipment. On a motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to add to New Business, Item b: Skid Steer Loader, and Equipment.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business

a. Decision/Adoption of Text Amendments to Solar Ordinance

On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to defer the decision until the next regular Commissioners Meeting on July 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

b. Decision on Quotes for Mini Excavator, Skid Steer, and Equipment

On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Perry), the Board unanimously voted to accept the quote from Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$93,614.00 for a Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader, \$100,878.00 for a Caterpillar Mini Excavator, and \$7,086.00 for a Hydraulic Post Driver.

c. Discussion/Approve Temporary Easement from Georgia Transmission

On a motion (Perry) and a second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to accept the temporary easement for construction and equipment between Heard County and Georgia Transmission with the changes from the County Attorney and give the Chairman permission to sign on behalf of Heard County.

d. Adopt Updated Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy

On a motion (Walls) and a second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to adopt the updated Transit Drug and Alcohol policy.

e. Adopt New Fees for Building & Zoning Permits

On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to adopt the new fee schedule for Building and Zoning permits to be effective July 1, 2024.

f. Appointments to Heard County DFACS Board

On a motion (Perry) and a second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to appoint Fred Harcrow to the Heard County DFACS Board. On a motion (Perry) and a

second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to appoint Tammy Crow Hamilton to the Heard County DFACS Board.

Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business

There was no old business.

Agenda Item # 8 – Public Comments

The following individuals spoke to the Board regarding various issues:

- Kaylene Ingram, Thompson Road, Franklin, GA
- Buddy Copeland, Hammett Circle, Hogansville, GA

Item # 9 – Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Item # 10 – Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned 8:18 p.m.

Katrina Billingsley

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date 07-16-2024

