

# **TOWNS COUNTY**

## **MINUTES**

### **Public Hearing**

**October 14, 2024**

**5:15 PM**

(These Minutes were approved at the November 19,2024 Meeting)

A Public Hearing was held on October 14, at 5:15 PM in the Courtroom of the Towns County Courthouse for the purpose of presenting a Resolution to Amend the Code of Ordinances of Towns County, GA Chapter 40 Article VI, Section 40-169. Notice of the called meeting was posted as required by law.

Commissioner Bradshaw called the hearing to order at 5:19 PM:

Commissioner Bradshaw explained the purpose is to have one set-back line of 20 feet for all rear building lines for conformity, eliminating 25 feet in subdivisions.

Public Comments: None

With no further business to conduct, the hearing was adjourned at 5:21 PM.

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Cliff Bradshaw, Sole Commissioner

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Brenda McKinney, County Clerk

# TOWNS COUNTY

## MINUTES

**October 14, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

(These Minutes were approved at the November 19, 2024 Meeting, Attachments are available upon request at the Commissioners Office.)

A regular county meeting was held on October 14, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the courtroom of the Towns County Courthouse.

**I. Meeting Called to Order:**

Commissioner Bradshaw called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**II: Presentation and Adoption of Agenda:**

Commissioner Bradshaw presented the agenda, Andrea Anderson asked that it be amended to add the Emergency Meeting Minutes held on September 26, 2024 and to add the Towns County Sheriff's Office re-allocations sheet to the budget amendment under new business. Commissioner Bradshaw accepted these changes, and it was adopted.

**III: Presentation and Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 17, 2024, a Called County Meeting on September 19, 2024 and an Emergency Meeting on September 26, 2024 were presented for approval and Commissioner Bradshaw approved and signed the same as presented.

**IV: Presentation/Reports/Proclamations:** Stuart Nichols, Rec Department Director gave an update on available programs. Tackle football had 146 children including cheer. Basketball is in signups now with 75 registered. Young Harris College has offered to do a free clinic for volleyball. There are golf and tennis clinics, adult basketball, yoga, aerobics and Ti Chi classes. We are compiling information for a Media Team for non-athletic children to write articles, do video and photography for the newspaper or Facebook. Foster Park entrance has new floors. We have worked 18 months on the Georgia DNR grant for a community pavilion and splash pad that has been approved. Donna Howell with the Retired Educators was presented a Proclamation making November 3, 2024, Retired Educators Day.

**V: Old Business:** Approved Board of Education Homestead Exemption checks, none. Second Reading and Adoption of the Resolution to Amend the Code of Ordinances of Town County, GA, Chapter 40, Article VI, Section 40-169.

**VI: New Business:** Signed the Resolution Accepting the Terms of the LWCF Project Grant. Signed the Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement. This grant is a 50/50%

match and we will use detainee labor as much as possible. We will add \$2,500 to the Food Bank. Signed the Budget Amendment Resolution, see attached Budget Amendment Table and TCSO re-allocation sheet.

**VII: Commissioner's Report:** Early voting starts tomorrow through November 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00AM – 5:00PM with two Saturdays on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department has donated 200 Lb. of propane and two pallets of water to the Asheville area hit by Hurricane Helene. After receiving complaints at the last County Meeting, it has been decided that if a Tax Assessor meets with a member of the public, they will be required to have a witness in the room. The same will apply if someone comes to the Commissioners office to complain about a Tax Assessor employee, that employee will be called over to discuss the matter immediately while the complainant is present. The agenda is now being posted on-line and we are checking on how to broadcast our meetings on our website and the cost. We plan to have this available in January 2025. Commissioner Bradshaw asked Michael Anderson, Tax Commissioner, to explain that the Homestead Exemption credit issued by Governor Kemp was for one year only. Personal Property Tax is on the ballot to vote to change from \$7,500 to \$20,000.00. Rob Kiker, County Attorney presented further information on the tax assessment. The Board of Tax Assessors is an extension of the Commissioner from the State of Georgia Department of Revenue. They provide the rules, regulations and formulas on how real property is assessed. In 2012 we were below the ratio and were court ordered to bring the assessment up. Historically we have been at the bottom of the ratio at 36 percent. There are three board members on the Board of Equalization where you can appeal by providing private appraisal and comparable sales.

**VIII: Public Questions and Comments:** There were various questions and discussion on taxes, the Kubota train purchased from the Towns County Hotel/Motel Tax Fund and the rumor of a barking dog ordinance.

**IX: Adjourn meeting.**

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

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*Cliff Bradshaw, Sole Commissioner*

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*Brenda McKinney, County Clerk*

Budget Amendment

REVENUES

ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	ADD	REDUCE
100-0000-38-9000	Contingency Use of Fund Balance	41,857	

EXPENDITURES

ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	ADD	REDUCE
100-3320-51-1000	Resource Officers Salary	3674	
100-3320-51-2200	Resource Officers FICA	282	
100-3320-51-2400	Resource Officers Retirement	220	
100-3910-51-1000	Animal Control Officer Salary	1837	
100-3910-51-2200	Animal Control Officer FICA	141	
100-3910-51-2400	Animal Control Officer Retirement	110	
100-3300-51-1000	Sheriff Department Officers Salary	22,072	
100-3300-51-2200	Sheriff Department Officers FICA	1690	
100-3300-51-2400	Sheriff Department Officers Retire	1320	
100-3360-51-1000	Courthouse Security officer Salary	2827	
100-3360-51-2200	Courthouse Security officers FICA	216	
100-3360-51-2400	Courthouse Security officers Retire	110	
100-5100-52-4003	FoodBank	2500	
100-3326-51-1000	Jail Transport Officer Salary	1837	
100-3326-51-2200	Jail Transport Officer FICA	141	
100-3326-51-2400	Jail Transport Officer Retire	110	
100-5100-52-4003	Food Bank	2500	