

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VOTING SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023  
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM  
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

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**ROLL CALL:** Those present were Chairman Billy Thurmond; Commissioner Seth Stowers, District 1; Commissioner Chris Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Alexa Bruce; District 3; County Manager Joey Leverette; County Attorney Angela Davis; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County. District 4 Commissioner Emory Dooley was not present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Thurmond

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion passed 3-1 to approve the Minutes of the Work Session held on June 15, 2023. Stowers/Bruce- Commissioner Gaines abstained

Motion passed 3-1 to approve the Minutes of the Voting Session held on June 15, 2023. Stowers/Bruce- Commissioner Gaines abstained

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion passed 3-0 to approve the agenda as presented. Gaines/Stowers

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Janes Graves, Dawsonville, Georgia, said she was making a statement on behalf of the local Park Cove neighborhood: "...It feels rather like 2004, except it's the county and not developers who have incurred nearly \$125,000 for a War Hill Park master development plan, which includes an environmental assessment for this Corps of Engineers. This assessment is already under way by the plan's consultant prior to any approval by the BOC. Potentially millions more in capital expenditure will follow to bring water, electricity and a dump station to the park when our peninsula community isn't even on sewer service." She said these "underserved lakeside properties are still assessed for astronomical property taxes for their postage stamp-sized land parcels, soon to be devalued by this intense recreational development." Graves added, "What's the rush to turn War Hill Park into a Shady Grove that's operated by outside vendors? Please vote to table this plan to allow it to reflect the community's needs in our county rather than those from outside lobbyists and corporations. While this peninsula community is served by winding, precipitous and, quite frankly, a dangerous road ... the only other provided service is water and that reaches us through a six-inch water main, too small to supply sufficient pressure to douse a house fire let alone a forest fire in dry conditions like the ones we experienced in 2007, i.e. the fire hydrants are just decorative. Plus, you're also proposing to chop down acres of mature, old woodlands to accommodate 16 pioneer campsites, a comfort station, [as well as] car parking, a pavilion and a commercial kayak rental store on what is currently an undeveloped part of the park." Graves said, "If there are dangers of dumping in the woods or burning them down with an ill-tended campfire, here is an open invitation to these disasters, which will also compromise the safety of the

neighboring properties. Providing a dump station will not only encourage larger RVs to use the park and stay longer, but it will also draw in RV and motor home thru-traffic from 53 and 400 just to dump their effluent, exponentially increasing the large vehicle traffic on War Hill Park Road, a one-way-in and one-way-out route.”

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

*Consideration of Request to Purchase Two Pierce Fire Engines Using Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax VII Funds (Tabled from the June 15, 2023, Voting Session)*

Motion passed 3-0 to approve the Purchase of Three Pierce Fire Engines in the amount of \$2,092,839 Using Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax VII Funds. Stowers/Bruce

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Consideration of War Hill Park Master Plan Update*

Motion passed 3-0 to table a War Hill Park Master Plan Update until additional information is gathered and another public hearing is held. Gaines/Stowers

*Consideration of Request to Change Full-Time GIS Position to a Part-Time Position*

No action was taken on this item as the county’s GIS position is under contract for the time being.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion passed 3-0 to enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Stowers/Bruce

Motion passed 3-0 to come out of Executive Session. Stowers/Bruce

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

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Billy Thurmond, Chairman

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Kristen Cloud, County Clerk