

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The Chairman called the meeting to order.
Pledge of allegiance to the Flag
Roll call to determine quorum

The following members were present:

Mike Babb, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Lynn Laughter, Member (Absent)
Robby Staten, Member (Absent)
Gordon Morehouse, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Chairman Babb noted that in the absence of Commissioners Staten and Laughter, he will be voting tonight on the agenda items.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 3-0.

5 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Resolution-Georgia Recreational Trails Program, 2. Resolution to Accept Petition to Close Road and Set Public Hearing – Portion of Lower Dug Gap Rd 3. Malt Beverage License Application – Annie’s Convenience Store – 1900 E. Morris St. 4. Condemnation Project 3.8 5. Special Called Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2014 & October 7, 2014 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Chairman Babb in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

Ms. Paula Headrick was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for August 2014. Ms. Headrick works in the Tax Assessors Office for Whitfield County.

PROCLAMATION

- 1. Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to proclaim October, 2014 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Chairman Babb in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “A”)****
- 2. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to proclaim October, 2014 as National Breast Cancer awareness month in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Chairman Babb in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “B”)****

PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage License for Annie’s Convenience Store located at 1900 E. Morris Street. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Babb closed the hearing.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2014 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2014 and October 7, 2014. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse and Chairman Babb in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **August 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the August 2014 Financial Statement as presented by Assistant Finance Director, Melva Andrews. In discussion Mrs. Andrews reported that Local Option Sales Tax for August 2014 is \$918,270. Local Option Sales Tax for August 2014 show an increase of 1% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for August 2013, Local Option Sales Tax collections for August 2014 show a 4% decrease from July 2014. Year to date actual Local Option Sales Tax collections for 2014 of \$7,174,901 show an increase of 11% compared to actual Year to Date Local Option Sales Tax for 2013 of \$6,458,197 for the same period. If the refunds in June and July of last year had not occurred year to date 2014 collections would be down by 2% compared to last year. Year to date actual revenues of \$17,001,447 for August 2014 are over than year to date projected revenues of \$16,665,524 by 2%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$26,079,362 for August 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$27,049,094 by less than 4%. The County began collecting the TAVT Tax on March 1, 2014. Collections for August were around \$102,132. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Chairman Babb in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
2. **Information Technology – Email Archive System:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of a Barracuda Email Message Archiver at \$15,551.46 through United Data Technology. Whitfield County IT in order to stay compliant with the Open Records Act is recommending replacement of the current Email Archiving System with one that uses stubbing for attachments. Stubbing is a process of copying attachments to another location while inserting a pointer in each email relating to each email relating to that attachment. This greatly reduces the amount of space consumed by the Email Server. The result is a cost effective solution for long term storage and archiving of email. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker, and Chairman Babb in agreement.
3. **EMA Performance Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve and accept the FY-2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant from GEMA in the amount of \$30,780.00. This grant is awarded on annual basis to each County that participates in the Partnership Grant as Whitfield County does. The grant has 50 percent match requirement that will be met through salary and equipment. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker and Chairman Babb in agreement.
4. **Ratify – Consulting Services Agreement with TUSA Consulting Services LLC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to ratify the Consulting Services Agreement with TUSA Consulting Services in the amount of \$34,299. The City of Dalton will pay 35% with the County paying 65%. The Public Safety Communications System in Whitfield County is outdated, outgrown and in disrepair. With safety and service being our main concern. To ensure the County is moving in the right direction a professional consulting firm was acquired. TUSA Consulting Services II LLC has completed services in surrounding

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counties they were the best fit for the County's needs. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Chairman Babb in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**

5. **City of Varnell Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse for no land use classification objection to the City of Varnell regarding tax parcels 11-263-01-065 & 11-189-02-167. The motion died for lack of a second.
6. **Resolution - Georgia Recreational Trails Program Grant (Miracle Field):** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to adopt a Resolution Authorizing the submission of the Georgia Recreational Trails Program Grant for a Running/Walking track around the pond at the Miracle Field in Westside Park. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners, Morehouse, Brooker and Chairman Babb in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "E")**
7. **Petition to Close Road:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to accept the petition to close a portion of Lower Dug Gap Rd located in Land Lots 151 & 174 of the 13th district and 3rd section of Whitfield County, Georgia. The acceptance of the petition sets in motion the process required by Georgia Law, that requires the County to notify adjacent property owners and to hold a public hearing after which a decision can be made to close and abandon a portion of North Dug Gap road. Chairman Babb noted that the public hearing will be held at the November 10th, regular business meeting. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse and Chairman Babb in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "F")**
8. **Malt Beverage License – Annie's Convenience Store:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the Malt Beverage License for Annie's Convenience Store located at 1900 E. Morris Street. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, and Chairman Babb in agreement.
9. **Petitions for Condemnation/Declaration of Taking:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to issue declaration of taking and authorize petition of condemnation for the following project: Project 3.8, Veterans Drive Extension, the motion orders County Attorney, Robert Smalley, to proceed with the condemnation of parcel 20 from project 3.8 and declare the taking. The parcel covers 2,930.27 square feet (0.067 acres) of land; 3355.49 square feet (0.077 acres) temporary Construction/Slope Easement; 3072.87 square feet (0.071) temporary demolition easement necessary for public road purposes and improvements to a portion of the Whitfield County Road System known and designated as Project Number 3.8, Veterans Drive Extension. The property is owned by Carlos Rendon. As a result the adequate compensation to be paid for said right of way is \$86,749.00. **(SEE EXHIBIT "G")**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /