

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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
Robby Staten, Member
Gordon Morehouse, Member

Others Present:

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.

1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. Fire Department – Bid for 4WD Sport Utility Vehicle)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, Laughter and Staten in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

Ms. Cathy Taylor was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for July 2014. Ms. Taylor is the Code Enforcement Officer for Whitfield County.

PROCLAMATION

1. **William B. "Bill" Weaver Day** – Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to proclaim September 8th, 2014 as William B. :Bill" Weaver Day in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker, Staten and Laughter in agreement. (**SEE EXHIBIT "A"**)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Jason Bearden from the Highland Rivers Health Board presented Mr. Bill Weaver with an Award Plaque on behalf of the Highland Rivers Health Board for his years of service on the Board.

PRESENTATION

Brett Huske from the Dalton Convention and Visitors Bureau, spoke to the Board regarding a proposal for four iCenter information Kiosks, the Kiosks would contain information about the Dalton-Whitfield area such as Hotels, Restaurants, Activities, Events and Businesses.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Highland Rivers Health Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to appoint Zab Mendez to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Bill Weaver which will expire on June 30, 2016. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Staten and Morehouse in agreement.

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2. **Appointment to the Dalton Whitfield Library Board of Trustees:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to appoint John Hutcheson to a three year term to expire on June 30, 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Staten and Morehouse in agreement.

Resolution – Board of Tax Assessors Appointment Sandy Duncan: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse to approve the Resolution of Appointment of Sandy Duncan to the Whitfield County Board of Tax Assessors. There was a vacancy on the Board of Assessors as a result of the resignation of Anee Combs who was appointed on July 1, 2010. The appointment of Sandy Duncan to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors shall expire as of June 30, 2016. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten, Morehouse, and Laughter 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 an Alcohol Beverage License for Miracles Cosmic Bowling and Pizzeria located at 2208 Cleveland Hwy Suites C & D. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Babb closed the hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2014. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten, Laughter and Morehouse in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Malt Beverage/Wine/Liquor License – Miracles Cosmic Bowling & Pizzeria:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Malt Beverage/Wine/Liquor License for Miracles Cosmic Bowling & Pizzeria located at 2208 Cleveland Hwy Suites C & D. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, Laughter and Staten in agreement.
2. **Business License/Occupational Tax Ordinance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve a Business License/Occupational Tax Ordinance in Whitfield County. The motion was put to a vote with Commissioners Staten, and Brooker voting against the Ordinance, being that there was a 2-2 vote Chairman Babb who only votes in the case of a tie, voted against the Ordinance, the motion did not pass with 3-2 vote.
3. **Transient Merchants Ordinance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve a Transient Merchant Ordinance in Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, Staten and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “C”)**
4. **July 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the July 2014 Financial Statements as presented by Assistant Finance Director, Melva Andrews. In discussion, Mrs. Andrews reported that Local Option Sales Tax for July 2014 is \$956,382. July 2014 collections show an increase of 150% compared to July 2013 this large increase is mainly contributable to the fact that the July 2013

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collections were reduced by a vendor refund of \$518,353. If the refund had not occurred, the July 2013 collections would have been \$901,419. In that case, July 2014 collections would show an increase of 6% compared to July 2013 collections. July 2014 collections show a 6% increase compared to June 2014. Year to date 2014 collections of \$6,256,631 are up 13% compared to year to date 2013 collections of \$5,545,324. If the refunds in June and July of last year had not occurred, year to date 2014 collections would be down 3% compared to last year. Year to date actual revenues of \$14,947,619 for July 2014 are over year to date projected revenue \$14,831,907 by less than 1%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$23,167,820 for July 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$23,826,347 by less than 3%. TAVT Collections for July 2014 were \$162,617. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Staten and Morehouse in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**

5. **Truck Bid – Buildings and Inspections Department:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the purchase of (1) one ½ ton 4x4 crew cab pick-up truck. Bids were requested for a new pick-up truck to replace a 2000 Ford Expedition for the Inspections and Enforcement Office. Three vendors submitted bids, Brooker Ford, Longdale Chevrolet and Family Ford. The local vendor was not the low bid but was within the 4% and agreed to match the low bid under local vendor privilege. It is the recommendation of the department to accept the low bid from Brooker Ford at \$26,708. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse and Staten in agreement.
6. **Sherriff's Office – 287 (g) Status Report:** Mr. Mark Johns, DDO Program Manager with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency gave a status update on the 287(g) program.
7. **Code Red Contract Renewal:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and Commissioner Laughter to approve the contract renewal with Emergency Communications Network for the CodeRed Emergency notification System, for a period of three years at \$22,500 per year beginning November 2014 under GSA State Contract #GS35F0253W. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Morehouse, Brooker, Laughter and Staten in agreement.
8. **City of Varnell Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Morehouse for no land use classification objection to the City of Varnell regarding tax parcels 11-263-01-043, 11-189-02-063 and 11-189-05-006. For this parcels the City of Varnell proposed a zoning change from County R-2 to Varnell R-1. The Motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Brooker, Morehouse, Laughter and Staten in agreement.
9. **Fire Department – Bid for (1) 4WD Sport Utility Vehicle:** Motion was made by Commissioner Morehouse and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the purchase of (1) one 4WD Sport Utility Vehicle for the Fire Department. Bids were requested to replace the current 2006 Ford Explorer that is used by the Battalion Chiefs. Two vendors submitted bids, Brooker Ford, and Family Ford. The local vendor was not the low bid by was within the 4% and agreed to match the low bid under local vendor privilege. It is the recommendation of the department to accept the low bid from Brooker Ford at \$36,004. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Morehouse and Staten in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

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ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /