

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015, 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
Roger Crossen, Member
Barry W. Robbins, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

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

1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. SPLOST – Architectural Services Proposal for Dalton-Whitfield Library)

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

Mr. Kerry Page was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for June 2015. Mr. Page works in the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt/Wine Beverage Licenses for B Pro Xpress located at 1400 North Thornton Ave, Dalton, GA, and Circle K located at 3608 Chatsworth Hwy, Dalton, GA, 2200 Cleveland Hwy, Dalton, GA, 201 Carbondale Rd., Dalton, GA, 3390 Airport Rd., Dalton, GA, 220 Connector 3, Dalton, GA, 2622 Chattanooga Hwy, Rocky Face, GA. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Babb closed the hearing for the Malt Beverage/Wine Beverage Licenses.

Chairman Babb then called for a Public Hearing on the 2015 Millage Rate for Whitfield County. Finance Director Alicia Vaughn went over a presentation on the proposed 2015 1 mill rate increase.

Mr. Bob Huskey spoke before the Board and asked the Board to consider filling the

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Carbondale Business Park with local manufacturers. Chairman Babb let Mr. Huskey know that the intention of the Carbondale Business Park is to draw higher paying high tech jobs to the local area.

Mr. Chuck Dobbins who was the former Chairman of the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority and the current Chairman-Elect of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce spoke before the Board. Mr. Dobbins noted that the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce was in support of the 1 mill increase for 2015 and recommend that the Board work towards a balanced budget in the future.

After Mr. Dobbins comments, no one else came forward so Chairman Babb closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2015 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Malt Beverage/Wine License – B Pro Xpress & Circle K:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Malt Beverage License for B Pro Xpress located at 1400 North Thornton Ave and motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Malt Beverage/ Wine License for Circle K located at 3608 Chatsworth Hwy, Dalton, GA, 2200 Cleveland Hwy, Dalton, GA, 201 Carbondale Rd., Dalton, GA, 3390 Airport Rd., Dalton, GA, 220 Connector 3, Dalton, GA, 2622 Chattanooga Hwy, Rocky Face, GA. Rd, Dalton GA. Motions were approved for both 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Resolution Fixing Tax Rate for 2015:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve a 1 mill increase for 2015. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Babb and Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “A”)**
3. **SPLOST – Ratify IGA with the City of Dalton & First Amendment to IGA:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Dalton and the First Amendment to the SPLOST Intergovernmental Contract with the Cities of Cohutta, Dalton, Tunnel Hill and Varnell. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “B”)**

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4. **EMA – Ratify GEMA Performance Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter 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 current salaries. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
5. **Tax Commissioner – Vehicle Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to ratify the purchase of 1(one) ½ ton 4wd V-6 pickup truck from Brooker Ford in the amount of \$24,756. Commissioner Laughter made the amendment to the motion, the purchase of the vehicle will come out of the Tax Commissioner’s budget. The current vehicle used for delinquent tax collection will be surplus and sold on Govdeals.com with the proceeds going into the general fund. The amended motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
6. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to deny the rezoning request of Moises Sanchez to rezone .85 acre from Rural Residential (R-3) to General Commercial (C-2) the property is addressed as 1035 Mt. Vernon Road, Tunnel Hill, Georgia, parcel 12-056-15-003. The Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission recommended the denial of rezoning due to the issue of “spot zoning”. The motion to deny the rezoning request was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the rezoning request of Maria Fraire to rezone 3.13 acres of Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Single Family Residential (R-2) the property is addressed as 344 East Field Road, Dalton, Georgia, parcels 13-102-08-000 and 13-102-13-000. The motion to approve the rezoning request was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
8. **Ordinance – Whitfield County Sign Regulations:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Sign Regulations Ordinance. The Ordinance amends the Whitfield County Code of Ordinances by creating a new Chapter 16 entitled “Sign Regulations”, which shall generally provide regulations for signage within unincorporated Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “C”)**
9. **Ordinance – Whitfield County Unified Zoning Ordinance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Ordinance of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners amending the Zoning Ordinance of Whitfield County by repealing and replacing therewith the Unified Zoning Ordinance of the City of Dalton, The City of Varnell and un-incorporated Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “D”)**

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10. **Ordinance – Whitfield County Zoning Standards & Procedures:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve Ordinance of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioner adopting the Unified Zoning Procedures and Standards Ordinance of Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “E”)**
11. **Public Works Department – Ratify Crane Rental:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to ratify the low bid from B & B Crane Services for \$17,000.00. This is for the Beaverdale Rd box culvert placement. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
12. **Public Works Department – Greeson Rd CMP Cross Drain Repair:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to accept the bid from Chase Plumbing & Mechanical for \$42,466.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
13. **Public Works Department – Self Propelled Guardrail Driver & Extractor Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to accept the bid from Groundworks LLC for \$118,489.18 on a Self-Propelled Guardrail Drive and Extractor. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.
14. **Fire Department – Declaration of Surplus Vehicle:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to surplus a 1980 Ford F-800 Tanker with the mileage 35,710 and to be put on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins, and Laughter in agreement.
15. **State Contract Extension for Personnel at DA’s Office:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the contract extension for the District Attorney’s Office State Paid County reimbursed personnel. Mr. Bert Poston noted that this contract will be for six months to end December 31, 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen, Brooker and Laughter in agreement.
16. **Buildings & Grounds - Ratify Purchase of Elevator Battery Lowering Device:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to ratify the purchase of five (5) battery lowering devices from ThyssenKrupp Elevators for \$16,560.20, this includes an 8% discount if paid in full. The original amount was \$23,435.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
17. **June 2015 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the June 2015 Financial Statements as

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presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for June 2015 is \$894,595. The Local Option Sales Tax percentage for 2015 will be 63.752%. The Local Option Sales Tax for June 2015 show a decrease of .5% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for June 2014; Local Option Sales Tax collections for June 2015 show a 4.1% increase from May 2015. Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$5,165,825 through June 2015 are down 2.5% compare to Year to Date 2014 collections, Year to date actual revenues of \$11,891,252 for June 2015 are over year to date projected revenue \$11,472,403 by 4%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$19,296,864 for June 2015 are less than year to date projected of \$20,548,428 by less than 6%. TAVT collections for June 2015 were \$187,375. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "F")**

18. **Property Acquisition:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify an agreement with James and Linda Jenkins for \$186,000. The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) voters approved in March 2015 contains \$1.5 million in its Priority 1 projects for land acquisition for a park on the south side of the County. The acquisition of this property is for the new recreation complex in South Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "G")**

19. **SPLOST – Dalton-Whitfield Regional Library:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve KCP Architects Inc. for professional services for \$38,000. The Dalton-Whitfield Regional Library was included in the recent SPLOST. KCP Architects will provide architectural and project management services for the various capital improvements. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "H")**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /