

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 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

**Chairman Babb welcomed New County Commissioners Barry W. Robbins District 1 and Roger Crossen District 3 to the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners. Commissioners Robbins and Crossen are both serving their first term as County Commissioners.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.**

**3 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Ratify – Resolution to open new SPLOST Government Account, 2. Buildings and Grounds – Pest Control Bid, and 3. Presentation – Commissioner Laughter Certified County Commissioner Plaque.)**

**1 Item was removed from the Agenda (Item # 9. Property Donation – Greenspace Parcel # 12-148-05-000 was removed from the agenda.)**

**Motion was then made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen 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.**

**PROCLAMATION**

1. **Whitfield County's PrepareAthon** – Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to proclaim April 24-26, 2015 as Whitfield County's PrepareAthon! In Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Chairman Babb presented Commissioner Laughter with a Plaque from the Associates of County Commissioners of Georgia for completing her core certification in April of 2014. Chairman Babb recognized Commissioner Laughter as a Certified County Commissioner.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2014. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

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**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

1. **Chairman Babb – Appointments of Commissioners to Boards:** Chairman Babb made the following appointments – Commissioner Barry Robbins to the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center Authority, Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, and the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority. Commissioner Roger Crossen to the Correctional Center Task Force, Limestone Valley Authority and the Whitfield County Board of Health.
2. **Re-Appointment to the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to re-appoint Dan Rogers to a one-year term to expire on January 31, 2016. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
3. **Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Convention & Visitors Bureau:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re- appoint Kathryn Sellers to a two-year term. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. **Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Election:** Commissioner Crossen nominated Commissioner Brooker for Vice-Chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners for 2015, there were no other nominations. A vote was taken and Chairman Brooker was re-elected 4-0, to be the Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2015.
2. **Ratify – Superior Court Interpreter Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the annual contract with KRNW Inc. for court interpreter services for the Whitfield County Superior Court. The contract is for \$67,200.00 per year and commences on January 1, 2015. The contract terminates on December 31, 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “B”)**
3. **City of Dalton Annexation Request – 12-311-16-012:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to the City of Dalton concerning tax parcel number 12-311-16-012. The City of Dalton has notified the County of their intent to annex tax parcel number 12-311-16-012 from the County into the City of Dalton. The parcel is owned by David Wong and the City of Dalton proposed an annexation under R-1A zoning designation, which is consistent with the property’s current residential zoning in Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
4. **November 2014 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the November 2014 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for November 2014 is \$959,433. Local Option Sales Tax for November 2014 show an increase of 9% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for November 2013; Local Option Sales Tax collections for November 2014 show a 10.6% decrease from October 2014. Year to date actual Local Option Sales Tax collections for 2014 of \$10,127,565 show an increase of 11% compared to actual Year to Date Local Option Sales Tax for 2013 of

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\$9,138,551 for the same period. Year to date actual revenues of \$25,044,085 for November 2013 are over than year to date projected revenue \$24,587,856 by 2%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$35,639,856 for November 2014 are less than year to date projected of \$37,277,767 by less than 4%. The County began collecting the TAVT Tax on March 1, 2013. Collections for November 2014 were \$105,177. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**

5. **Ratify – Resolution to Open New SPLOST Government Accounts:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify resolution to open a new government Money Market Account and CD with East West Bank. These funds were previously on deposit with CSB Bank in a MMA earning a rate of .25%. SPLOST funds can not be commingled with General Fund Deposits and must be kept in a separate account. East West Bank is offering a rate of .40% on the 1 Year CD and a rate of .30% on the government MMA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen, Brooker and Laughter in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**
6. **County Lease and Sub-Lease Agreement with Prater's Mill Foundation Inc.:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve a lease and sub-Lease agreement with Prater's Mill Foundation Inc. In discussion, Mr. Smalley informed the Board that this agreement is an addition to the property that is known as Prater's Mill which includes the nature trail and Native American graves. This is an annual agreement if reapproved, thereafter the Lease will extend automatically on a year-to-year basis unless the Lease is terminated. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "E")**
7. **ROW Property Swap – Engineered Floors/Dalton Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the Quit Claim deed for a right of way property swap from Engineered Floors. One of the considerations for the Engineered Floors project was to move the old portion of South Dug Gap Rd. to accommodate the large facility. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "F")**
8. **Public Works Department Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve all of the following bid from Vulcan Material of Dalton Georgia. Public Works used Vulcan Material in 2014 and requested that the Commissioners accept the bid from Vulcan Material for crushed stone. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Buildings and Grounds Department –Truck Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins 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 Dodge 1500 4x4. Three vendors submitted bids, Brooker Ford, Hardy Family Ford, and Langdale Chevrolet. 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, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
10. **Buildings and Grounds Department –Pest Control Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the bid from Allgood Pest

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Solutions for Pest Control. It is the recommendation of the department to accept the low bid from Allgood Pest Solutions for Pest Control at \$7,848.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** There was no public comment.

**Executive Session – Property Sale:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to go into executive session to discuss the sale of Whitfield County Property. Present for the meeting were Chairman Mike Babb, Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Laughter, County Attorney Robert Smalley, Chief Appraiser Ashley O’Donald and County Clerk Blanca Cardona. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Laughter in agreement.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commission Crossen to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Laughter and Crossen in agreement.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /