

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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.

Roll call to determine quorum

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag

Boy Scout Troop #89 from Tunnel Hill led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance

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

3 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Finance – Adopt Policy for Define Benefit Pension Funding, 2. Fire Department – Hydraulic Rescue Equipment, 3. Finance – 2014 Budget Amendment #3)

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Babb called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding a location change for a Malt Beverage License for Southern Smoke BBQ, their current location is 3440 Cleveland Hwy, Dalton, GA and are relocating to 124 Old Lafayette Rd, Rocky Face, GA. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Babb closed the hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2015 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2015. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Appointment to the Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council:**
Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to appoint Chris Hester to a two-year term to the Limestone Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council. Commissioner Roger Crossen was previously appointed to serve on the Council, however Commissioner Crossen with the recommendation of the Limestone Valley RC

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& D stepped down to appoint Chris Hester. Mr. Hester is the Stormwater and Erosion Inspector for Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement.

PRESENTATION

1. Brian Shuford, State Director from the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks came before the Board to inform them about policy and legislation at the State and Federal level regarding larger trucks. CABT is a national non-profit that advocates at the Federal and State level against allowing heavier (97,000 pounds plus) and longer (triples and longer doubles) trucks on the roads in Georgia and across the nation. CABT partners with community leaders to communicate with Members of Congress and State Elected Officials about the safety and infrastructure damage issues that would arise if these larger vehicles were mandated/allowed on Georgia's roads. Chairman Babb thanked Mr. Shuford for discussing this topic with the Board.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Malt Beverage License Location Change:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Malt Beverage License Location Change for Southern Smoke BBQ, they are relocating from 3440 Cleveland Hwy, Dalton, GA to 124 Old Lafayette Rd, Rocky Face, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.
2. **IT Department – New Computer Systems Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the low bid of \$671.00 from Seneca Data to replace approximately 40 outdated computer hardware systems. Older Windows XP machines are still in operation in some departments, Microsoft has dropped support of the XP operating system which makes them vulnerable to viruses and malware. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. Commissioner Laughter was in dissention.
3. **Public Works – Ratify Purchase of Bag Calcium:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the emergency purchase of 50# bags of calcium chloride from Brenntag Mid-South Inc. The total quantity of the order 809 bags, total purchase cost was \$14966.50 this product is used for snow/ice removal. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
4. **Finance – ACCG Resolution for the 2014 Amended and Restated Defined Benefit Plan:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the ACCG Resolution for the 2014 Amended and Restated Defined Benefit Plan. The ACCG Board of Managers has approved an amended, restated and updated Model Plan document to reflect changes in federal and state law and regulations which can be adopted by its members and filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
5. **Finance – Adopt Define Benefit Funding Policy:** Motion was made by Commissioner Laughter and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to Adopt the Whitfield County Define Benefit Funding Policy. A funding policy is needed to ensure that the Whitfield County BOC funds our Defined Benefit Pension Plan in a systematic and disciplined manner in order to maintain a funding level

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of 100% or greater. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

6. **January 2015 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the January 2015 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for January 2015 is \$844,549. The Local Option Sales Tax percentage for 2015 will be 63.752%. The Local Option Sales Tax for January 2015 show an increase of 1.0% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for January 2014; Local Option Sales Tax collections for January 2015 show a 23.7% decrease from December 2014. Year to date actual revenues of \$2,370,558 for January 2015 are over than year to date projected revenue \$2,441,067 by 3%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$3,356,259 for January 2015 are less than year to date projected of \$3,369,498 by less than 1%. TAVT collections for January 2015 were \$163,439. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Laughter, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
7. **Finance – 2014 Budget Amendment #3:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the 2014 Budget Amendment #3. This budget amendment is to realign budget allocation within the attached funds to meet the projected expenditures and revenues for year ended 2014. As the audit process progresses, other amendments will likely be forthcoming. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Laughter, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**
8. **Tax Assessor Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve a 2002 Chevy S-10 to be declared surplus and placed on Gov.Deals.com. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Laughter and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Tax Assessors – Bid for (1) 2015 F-150:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the purchase of (1) one 2015 F-150 Vehicle for the Tax Assessors Office. Two vendors submitted bids, Brooker Ford, and Freeland Chevrolet. It is the recommendation of the department to accept the low bid from Brooker Ford at \$24,600. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
10. **Animal Control – Bid for (1) 2015 F-150 Ex. Cab 4WD V-6:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the purchase of (1) 2015 F-150 Ext. Cab 4WD V-6. Animal Control Department is requesting approval for the purchase of a vehicle from Brooker Ford. This purchase will work off the bid requested by the Public Works Department. It is the recommendation of the department to purchase the vehicle from Brooker Ford at \$24,756.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to deny the rezoning of parcel 12-316-01-001 containing .92 acres from Rural Residential (R3) to General Commercial (C-2) the property address is 2019 Antioch Road. The Planning Commission had recommended that the Board deny the rezoning this parcel. The motion to deny the rezoning was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Laughter in agreement.

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12. **Engineering/MPO:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Laughter to approve the request to submit two grant applications. The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization requests approval to submit two grant applications to the Georgia Department of Transportation - the Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program and the 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program. These are the annual grants which primarily fund the MPO. If awarded, the Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program would provide aid in the transportation planning process. The application is for a total of \$31,250.00. Out of that amount, the grant is 80% federally funded with a 10% match required from both the state and local governments. The required local match commitment is for \$3,125.00. If awarded, the Section 5307 Urbanized Formula Program will support special transportation studies. The application is for a total of up to \$100,000.00. This grant is also 80% federally funded with a 10% match required from both the state and local governments. The required local match is for up to \$10,000.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Laughter and Crossen in agreement.
13. **Fire Department – Sole Source Purchase –Hydraulic Rescue Equipment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of a Hurst Power Plant, cutter, ram and fluid from Municipal Emergency Services Inc. WCFD requested the replacement of full set of hydraulic extrication equipment in our 2015 budget. Municipal Emergency Services Inc. (MES) is the sole source vendor for the style and brand of equipment needed. The Fire Department currently operates Hurst brand exclusively and would like to continue with this brand due to the investment they have in other tools of the same brand. They are in need of replacing an outdated power plant, damaged ram and unrepairable cutter. The price of the items and one gallon of fluid is \$16,013.29. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Laughter, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Harold Groover came before the Board to comment on the proposed SPLOST referendum that will be held on March 17, 2015.

Mr. Greg Williams came before the Board to comment on the proposed SPLOST referendum in regards to the Public Safety Communications project.

There were no other public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /