

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017, 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:

R. Lynette Laughter, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Greg Jones, Member
Roger Crossen, Member
Barry W. Robbins, Member

Others Present:

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

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

1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. Lease Agreement for South Park House)

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Laughter called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage License for Food Mart located at 3385 Airport Rd., Dalton, GA.

There being no comments expressed, Chairman Laughter declared the public hearing closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2017, Special Called Meeting July 24, 2017, and the Work Session Minutes of July 24, 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Alcohol Beverage License Application – Food Mart:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage License for Food Mart located at 3385 Airport Rd., Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
2. **Buildings & Grounds – Purchase of 40 Ton Chiller:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the bid of \$33,258 from Trane Chattanooga for a 40 Ton Chiller for Administration Building No. 1. This unit is for Air only and runs year round to offset the seasons, several coils are leaking and one compressor has gone bad, the cost to repair the chiller is over half the cost for a new chiller. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

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3. **Fire Department – Mutual Aid Agreement with Catoosa County:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve an automatic aid agreement with Catoosa County for Fire Protection that would help the residents of the Houston Valley area in Whitfield County. O'Brien noted that Catoosa County's ISO rating is a 5 and that the ISO rating of the Houston Valley area would also be a 5, currently this area of Whitfield County's ISO rating is a 10. The motion was approved, 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
4. **Whitfield County Merit System Personnel Board – Policy Clarification:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the policy clarifications as presented by Human Resources Director Jackie Carlo. Carlo noted that the policy was revised and updated on June 15, 2017 by the Merit Board. Carlo noted that Section 1-1-46(b) of the Merit Policy "Basic FMLA leave" and Section 1-1-47 of the Merit Policy "Extended Personal Leave" were the sections that were clarified. Motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**
5. **Resolution – Juvenile Judge Retirement Contributions:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve a Resolution to discontinue payments of the State Court Judges Retirement Contributions into the Georgia Judicial Retirement System. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**
6. **June 2017 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the June 2017 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for June 2017 is \$878,606. LOST percentage 2017 = 62.653%, Local Option Sales Tax for June 2017 show an increase of 5.7% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for May 2017; Local Option Sales Tax collections for June 2017 show an increase of 3.3% compared to June 2016 collections. June 2017 Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$4,873,995 show a decrease of 1.8% compared to Year to date June 2016. Year to date actual Revenues of \$13,147,372 for June 2017 are over year to date projected revenues of \$12,420,095 by 6%. Year to date actual Expenditures of \$21,219,484 for June 2017 are under Year to date projected expenditures of \$22,065,718 by 4%. TAVT collections for June 2017 were \$177,214 budgeted revenues were \$143,750. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the rezoning request of Advanced Rental Properties to rezone a tract of land (parcel 11-256-01-000) containing a total of 13 acres located along the west R/W of Colston Lane, from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5). The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
8. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve rezoning request of John Davis to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-124-29-006) containing a total of .68 acres located at 691 Davis Street, from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Rural Residential (R-5). The Planning Commission has recommended

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that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.

9. **Town of Cohutta Annexation – parcel 11-101-01-017:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-101-01-017. The zoning classification will be R-1. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
10. **Engineering Department – Plan Update/Revision SPLOST Project 3.10: Hill Rd:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the proposal from RS&H to revise constructions plans for the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. The Hill Road project was originally estimated to be too far down the priority list of projects to construct in the 2007 SPLOST. Due to savings on other projects, we now estimate there will be sufficient SPLOST funds to build the project. Plans were Completed and shelved in 2014, when we began to see there might be enough money left to build the project. The contract we had with Reynolds, Smith, and Hill (RS&H) was closed out. In 2016, we began to acquire right-of-way for the project, a process which usually creates the need for minor revisions to the plans. In addition, the project will be built under a new NPDES permit, meaning the erosion control plans also must be revised to meet the new permit requirements. RS&H proposes to do the R/W, construction, and erosion control plan revisions for an hourly rate to a maximum of \$10,000. Currently, there are 4 R/W parcels that need revisions, but there may be more to come. This expense was planned for in the project budget. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
11. **Superior Court - BJA JAG Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to announce an application is being submitted for the FY2017 Byrne/JAG Grant through BJA. The Conasauga Drug Court would like to apply for this grant in the amount of \$13,528. There is not a required County match for the grant funding and the money will be used for GED testing and drug testing of the participants in drug court. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement
12. **Lease Agreement – House at South Park.:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to enter in and approve the lease agreement between Whitfield County and Whitney Weaver, 302 Quebec Road, Whitfield County, GA. This lease agreement is for a one story residence, outbuilding and property. The property was acquired in 2015 with SPLOST funds for a park at the South end of the County. The motion was approved, 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joann Putnam came forward and addressed her concerns to the Board about the Animal Shelter.

Daryl Long came forward and asked the Board how he could help with the issues at the Animal Shelter.

Jan Eaton came forward and asked why she has been blocked from the Whitfield County Animal Controls Facebook page.

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Kay Lipscomb came forward and asked if the Board was aware that the euthanasia rate is at 20%.

Annette Lafuze came forward and asked the Board to not hire anyone for Mr. Garrett's position (Director of the Animal Shelter) who has worked previously with Mr. Garrett.

Executive Session – Property Acquisition and Personnel: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to go into executive session to discuss Property Acquisition and Personnel. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement. Present for the meeting were Chairman Lynn Laughter, Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones, County Attorney Robert Smalley, County Administrator Mark Gibson, County Clerk Blanca Cardona. During the portion of the executive session that discussed personnel County Clerk Blanca Cardona stepped out of the meeting and Human Resources Director Jackie Carlo stepped into the meeting

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, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /