

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The Vice 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 (Absent)
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Greg Jones, Member
Roger Crossen, Member
Barry W. Robbins, Member

Others Present:

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

Vice Chairman Brooker noted that Chairman Laughter was out of the Country.

Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to amend the agenda. The motion was approved 3-0.

2 items were added from the potential additional items; (1. Whitfield County Schools Easement – Fiber Optic Cable, 2. Malt Beverage License Application – Legacy Cattle Company – 613 Lafayette Road, Rocky Face, GA)

Motion was then made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, and Crossen in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.

Mr. Gary Hamrick was named the Whitfield County Employee of the Month for January 2017. Mr. Hamrick works at the Fire Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2017, the Special Called Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017 and the Work Session Minutes of February 27, 2017. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

PROCLAMATIONS

- 1. Proclamation – Social Work Month March 2017:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to proclaim March 2017 as National Social Work Month in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, and Jones in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “A”)**
- 2. Proclamation – American Red Cross Month March 2017:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to proclaim March 2017 as American Red Cross Month in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, and Jones in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “B”)**

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PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Chairman Brooker called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage License for Legacy Cattle Company located at 613 Lafayette Road, Rocky Face, GA.

Ms. Bellew addressed the Board. Ms. Bellew made the Board aware that Mount Vernon United Methodist Church is within 600 feet from her business but they have received a letter from the Church stating that they have no objection to the business. Vice Chairman Brooker told Ms. Ballew that prior to the issuance of the Malt Beverage License the finance department would need to receive the affidavit of no objection from the Board of Trustees of the Church. Ms. Ballew noted that she would submit the affidavit once she receives it.

No other comments or concerns were expressed during the hearing, so Vice Chairman Brooker closed the hearing.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **City of Varnell Annexation Request – 11-264-06-035**: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-264-06-035. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
2. **January 2017 Financial Statements**: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the January 2017 Financial Statements as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for January 2017 is \$759,412. LOST percentage 2017 = 62.653%. January 2017 collections show a decrease of 43.2% compared to December 2016 collections. January 2017 collections show a decrease of 7.7% compared to January 2016 collections. Year to date actual revenues of \$1,822,994 for January 2017 are over Year to Date projected revenues of \$1,732,193 by 5%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$3,062,797 for January 2017 are under year to date projected expenditures of \$3,323,186 by 8%. TAVT collections for January 2017 were \$165,001, budgeted revenues were \$143,740. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “C”)**
3. **Finance – Surplus Equipment**: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the equipment surplus from the Finance Department inventory and to be placed on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
4. **Fire Department – Roof Replacement Stations 2 & 3**: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve TBM Inc. as the low bid to replace the roofs at Fire Stations # 2 & 3 in the amount of \$43,248. Whitfield County Fire Department requested funds in its 2017 budget to have fire station roofs replaced. The roofs on stations 2, 3 4, 5, and 6 are original roofs that are 40 years old. The full project will be completed over three years. The department solicited bids through the finance process and seven (7) vendors attended the pre-bid meeting, four (4) vendors submitted actual bids, Tri-State Roofing (Chattanooga) for \$45,080.00, JDH Company (Chattanooga) for \$55,390.00, TBM Inc. (Chattanooga) for \$43,248.00, and Horizon Roofing (Monroe, GA) for \$101,522.84. The motion was approved, 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “D”)**

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5. **Fire – 2017 Station Uniforms:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the low bid from MES for \$35,000 for Uniforms. MES had the lowest price on all items and met all the specifications requested. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Fire – Surplus Equipment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the equipment surplus from the Fire Department inventory and to be placed on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
7. **Public Works – Single Axle Dump Truck Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the low bid of Rush Truck Group for \$91,193 for a Single Axle Dump Truck. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
8. **Public Works – Shop Truck Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the low bid from Brooker Ford for \$40,600 for an extended cab utility bed 2017 F-350 truck. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Public Works – Hook and Lift Truck Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the low bid from Brooker Ford for \$72,950 for a hook and lift truck. This vehicle will eliminate the need for the animal shelter to require a dump truck and the animal shelter will purchase the dump bed. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Public Works – Surplus Equipment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve ten (10) various items to be declared surplus and sold on Gov.Deals.com. A copy of the list is included in these minutes. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “E”)**
11. **Public Works – Asphalt Millings:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt’s recommendation for an excess millings policy and will work with County Attorney Robert Smalley and County Administrator Mark Gibson to come up with the policy to present to the Board. Hunt presented the Board with two options; 1. Public works would deliver at no cost to pre-approved deliver areas on private property, 2. Allow private trucking companies to live load millings then deliver, at no cost, to Whitfield County residents. Company may not charge residents for the millings, can only charge for haul and spreading fees. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Sheriff’s Department – Ten (10) 2017 Ford Explorers:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid of Brooker Ford for \$284,000. Brooker Ford was the only vendor to submit a bid. This purchase is being funded by the 2015 SPLOST that was approved by voter’s March 2015. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
13. **County Leases – Grant Farm:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter in and approve the following three (3) lease agreements, 1. Camilla

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Stinson – 2209 Crow Valley Road, 2. Lennie C. Holbert – 2231 Crow Valley Road, and 3. David and Heather Gates for pasture land in land lots 70 & 71. In discussion, County Attorney Robert Smalley informed the Board that these agreements are from the recently acquired Grant Farm off of Crow Valley Road. The leases will terminate on December 31st, 2017. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “F”)**

14. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the rezoning request of Penny Carpenter to rezone a tract of land (parcel 11-256-01-000) containing a total of .56 acres located at 614 Silver Circle. The tract of land is currently zoned General Commercial (C-2), Ms. Carpenter would like to have it rezoned Rural Residential (R-5), the Planning Commission recommended that the Board approve a low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) rezoning instead based on the economic hardship imposed on the petitioner. The motion to approve the low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
15. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the rezoning request of Kim Collins, Regina Brock, and Bonnie Rose to rezone four (4) tracts of land (parcels 27-197-03-000, 27-197-05-000, 27-197-08-000, 27-197-11-000) containing a total of 33.27 acres located at 655 Lafayette Road, Dalton, GA from low Density Single Family Residential (R-2), Rural Residential (R-5), Estate Residential (R-1) and General Agriculture (GA) to General Agriculture (GA). The Planning Commission has recommended a Suburban Agriculture (SA) zoning instead. The motion to approve the Suburban Agriculture (SA) rezoning was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
16. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the rezoning request of Jan Mowry to rezone a tract of land (parcel 13-192-15-000) containing a total of 5 acres from Suburban Agriculture (SA) to General Agriculture (GA) located at 4409 Old Highway SE, Dalton, GA. The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
17. **Whitfield County Schools Easement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve an Easement between Whitfield County and Whitfield County Schools. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “G”)**
18. **Alcohol Beverage License Application:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Alcohol Application for a Malt Beverage License for Legacy Cattle Company located at 613 Lafayette Road, Rocky Face, GA. The issuance is contingent upon receiving the affidavit of no objection from Mount Vernon Methodist Church Board of Trustees. The Mount Vernon Methodist Church is located within 600 feet of the distance requirements. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Kathryn Sellers came before the Board to give thanks to the Board and Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt for helping the Convention and Visitors Bureau get a signs put up along

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Dixie Highway. Sellers noted that there will be a festival in April to celebrate when the Dixie Hwy first came through Dalton. Sellers also noted that the \$185,000 investment to the Convention and Visitors Bureau receives from the County delivers huge returns. Sellers noted that the trade center generated \$4.4 million last year. Sellers noted that there will be four (4) softball tournaments this year that will be played at Heritage Point Park in the City of Dalton that will generate \$2.3 million in revenue. Sellers noted that if the County would upgrade their Westside and Edwards Park ball fields maybe the tournaments could also be played in the County. Sellers further noted that the Tunnel Hill Tunnel had a record number of attendees last year.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /