

**MINUTES FOR THE WORK SESSION OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD MONDAY MAY 22, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #1, 301 W.  
CRAWFORD STREET**

**SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION**

The Chairman called the work session to order.

**The following members were present:**

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

**Others Present:**

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

**Work Session:**

Chairman Laughter called the work session to order.

Hampton Manning from Hull Properties is a private real estate business out of Augusta, GA spoke to the Board about the possibility of the County putting a TAD (tax allocation district) referendum to vote for the Walnut Square Mall property. Manning noted that Hull Properties recently acquired the Walnut Square Mall and are in the process of a complete rehab of the mall. Manning noted that Hull Properties specializes in rehabbing distressed properties.

Jean Garland from the Planning and Zoning Department presented the Board with proposed subdivision regulation amendments. Garland noted that a minor subdivision does not include new infrastructure but rather runs along a County road. Garland noted that these amendments will allow developers that are subdividing larger lots that are not making significant land disturbance to not have to have to a full erosion control or stormwater plan. Garland noted that the developer would need to submit a best management practices plan for each lot.

Parks and Recreation Director Brian Chastain presented the Board a cleaning contract that he will add to the June 12<sup>th</sup> regular business meeting. Chastain put to bid cleaning the park restrooms and furniture at the new community center. Chastain noted that the lowest bid was from Above and Beyond for \$29,520.

Voter Registrar Mary Hammontree came before the Board to inform them of their proposed precinct consolidation. Hammontree noted that they are planning on consolidating five (5) precincts in Whitfield County. Hammontree noted reducing the number of precincts would have a savings of \$33,060 over a four (4) year period. Hammontree noted that they will be having public hearings and will also advertise in the newspaper to get the public informed.

Chairman Laughter noted that she would be signing a contract with NOVA for geo-technical services for fire station #11 in Cohutta. This contract will be ratified at the June 12<sup>th</sup>, regular business meeting.

County Administrator Mark Gibson informed the Board about a subdivision in the Town of Cohutta. The Stonegate Subdivision has a road that is up to County road standards, in order for the County to maintain this road it would need to be deeded over to the County and include a one year bond. The Board would then have to vote to accept the dedication for this road.

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Gibson noted that he would be looking into who is the owner of the subdivision to receive the proper documentation for the Board to accept this road into the County road system.

Chairman Laughter also mentioned the elderly tax exemption that Daryl Long had proposed for the Board to consider. Laughter noted that Mr. Long wanted the Board to consider voting on a referendum add an elderly home exemption. Laughter noted that she will meet with Tax Commissioner Danny Sane to gather more information about how much the less the County would receive if the exemption were to be voted on in November 2018. Laughter further noted that Mr. Long is seeking to get a referendum passed in the November 2018 general election for Whitfield County citizens over the age of 70 (seventy) thereby increasing the millage rate for Whitfield County citizens under the age of 70 (seventy). Laughter noted that she will gather information regarding the exemption and report the Board her findings.

The work session was adjourned.

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /