

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to amend the agenda. 1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. FTA Section 5303 Grant Application). The motion was approved 4-0.

Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Ryan Halpin as Employee of the Month for September 2017. Mr. Halpin works in the Sheriff's Office.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chairman Laughter introduced Ethan Calhoun from the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to speak about the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update for Whitfield County and the Cities of Dalton, Tunnel Hill and Varnell.

Mr. Calhoun noted that every five (5) years per the GA Department of Community Affairs the Joint Comprehensive Plan has to be updated. Calhoun noted that elements such as Community Goals, Needs and Opportunities, Land Use Element, Report of Accomplishments and Community Work Program are required to be included in the update with Economic Development and Housing elements as optional. Calhoun further noted that this public hearing is the first step in the update with the final report due by October 31, 2018.

There being no one to come forward with any comments on the Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, Chairman Laughter declared this public hearing closed.

Chairman Laughter then called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for St. Clair's located at 1507 Dawnville Rd., Dalton, GA.

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

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BOARD APPOINTMENT

1. **Reappointment for Whitfield County seat on Region 1 EMS Council:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to reappoint Claude Craig to the Northwest Georgia Region 1 seat of the Emergency Medical Services Council. The seat is for a two-year term ending January 2020. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2017 with the correction of item No. 10 Whitfield County Unified Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments to include R-7 zoning in transitional housing and the Work Session Minutes of October 23, 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Alcohol Beverage License Application – St. Clair’s:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for St. Clair’s located at 1507 Dawnville Rd, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
2. **Superior Court – Court Reporter Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to postpone until rescheduled. The motion was approved 4-0, Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
3. **Magistrate Court - 2018 Vehicle Purchase of One (1) 2017 Full-size SUV:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of one (1) Full-Size SUV, for Magistrate Court for \$26,353.00 from Brooker Ford. Two bids were received one from Brooker Ford; \$26,353 and Allen Virgil Ford; \$26,502.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
4. **Firefighters Cancer Insurance Resolution:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Resolution for Cancer Insurance for Firefighters. This coverage is to meet the requirements of the Georgia House Bill 146 which will become effective on January 1, 2018. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
5. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the rezoning request of Kelly Putnam to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) on a tract of land totaling 5.01 acres located along the east R/W of Crow Valley Road (parcel 11-294-01-000). The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve this rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the rezoning request of the Whitfield County Board of

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Commissioners to rezone from to Rural Residential (R-5) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) on a tract of land totaling 158 acres located along the east R/W of Old Dixie Highway (parcel 13-063-02-000 et al) The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve this rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.

7. **September 2017 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the September 2017 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for September 2017 is \$810,454. September 2017 Local Option Sales Tax collections show a decrease of 0.5% compared to August 2017 collections. September 2017 collections show an increase of 165% compared to September 2016 of \$305,843. September 2016 collections were low due to a vendor refund. September 2017 Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$7,329,539 show an increase of 6.7% compared to Year to date September 2016 and are \$45,539 over budget. Year to date actual Revenues of \$18,516,645 for September 2017 and are over year to date projected revenues of \$17,397,612 by 6.4%. Year to date actual Expenditures of \$31,877,664 for September 2017 are under Year to date projected expenditures of \$32,873,965 by 3%. TAVT collections for September 2017 were \$140,775 budgeted revenues were \$143,750. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
8. **Finance – 2017 Budget Amendment No. 4:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the 2017 budget amendment No. 4 as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. Budget Amendment No. 4 for 2017 uses \$270,999 of contingency funds from the general fund to cover the following; various capital projects in Recreation and Buildings and Grounds to include a tractor purchase, and HVAC systems for the Courthouse and Admin 1 building and Ambulance Reimbursement. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
9. **SPLOST Dalton – Whitfield Regional Library Architect Services Contracts:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve an electrical contract for \$24,798.52. State funds will pay for 50% of this project and SPLOST will fund the remaining 50% or \$12,399.26. The two vendors selected for the project are Dalton Utilities and Dalton Services, Inc. Both vendors are considered sole sources due to the nature of the work and expertise required. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
10. **EMA – C.E.R.T. Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the C.E.R.T. Grant in the amount of \$7,400 from GEMA. The C.E.R.T. grant is designed to enhance Whitfield County's preparedness for disasters or emergencies by funding the C.E.R.T. team training. The funding can only be used for items expressly approved by the State. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement
11. **Fire Department – Radio Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the surplus of a wide range of radios, mobile radios and antennas that are VHF and will not transmit on the new system and to be auctioned on

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Govdeals.com. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

12. **Fire Department – SPLOST Fire Apparatus Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of two (2) Triple Combination Pumpers from Ten-8 Fire and Safety in the amount of \$857,002. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
13. **Fire Department GEMA Confined Space Equipment Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the GEMA/Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$37,850 from GEMA. The funding can only be used for items expressly approved by the State. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
14. **Fire Department GEMA Hazardous Materials Equipment Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the GEMA/Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$68,800 from GEMA. The funding can only be used for items expressly approved by the State. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
15. **Amendment to The Whitfield County Animal Ordinance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve an amendment to Chapter 4 of the Whitfield County Code of Ordinances. The amendment affects the section entitled “Animals” by amending section 4-7, entitled “Impoundment,” to provide that a fee unless otherwise waived, for owner give ups shall be \$10.00 per animal or \$25.00 per animal if the owner, due to the animal’s age, sickness, injury or aggressiveness requests immediate euthanasia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
16. **Amendment to the Whitfield County Code of Ordinances – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve an amendment to Chapter 10 of the Whitfield County Code of Ordinances. The amendment affects the section entitled “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions,” by amending section 10-4, entitled “Solicitations for Contributions within the right-of-ways of Roads and Highways,” to provide for penalty for violation. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
17. **Coroner – Request for additional Deputy Coroner:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the request from Whitfield County Coroner Greg Bates for an additional Deputy Coroner. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
18. **County Extension – Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the surplus of a 1993 Ford Econoline Van and to be auctioned on Govdeals.com. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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19. **City of Varnell Annexation – parcel 11-263-01-101:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-263-01-101. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.

20. **Engineering/MPO:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the request to the 5303 grant application. The Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization requests approval to submit the 5303 grant application to the Georgia Department of Transportation - the Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program. This is an annual grant which primarily funds 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. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daryl Long came forward and addressed the Board. Long noted that with the Animal Ordinance Amendment imposing the \$10 owner give up fee and the \$25 owner euthanasia request fee that there will now be more animals running loose due to the owners not wanting to pay the fees.

Martin Kroll came forward and addressed the Board. Kroll noted that the portion of Cleveland Hwy that is in front of the Tractor Supply shopping center needs to be looked into. Kroll noted that there have been numerous accidents and the County should do something about it. The Board informed Mr. Kroll that the Georgia Department of Transportation maintains this road and will speak to the local representatives to see if anything can be done to make this road safer.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /