

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to amend the agenda. The executive session for potential litigation and property acquisition was removed from the agenda. 1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. Resolution – Re-Appoint Dixon White to the Board of Assessors. The motion was approved 4-0.

Chairman Laughter recognized Ms. Lori Rowlette as Employee of the Month for June 2017. Ms. Rowlette works in the Tax Assessors Department.

Chairman Laughter then presented Mr. William Robbins with his certificate for Employee of the Month for July 2017. Mr. Robbins works in the Sheriff's Office.

PROCLAMATION

1. **DOC-UP DAY:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to ratify a proclamation proclaiming September 14, 2017 as DOC-UP (Dalton Organization of Churches United for People) day in Whitfield County, Georgia and in recognition of their 30th year anniversary. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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 Harper's General Store located at 1710 Lafayette Road., Rocky Face, GA.

There being no comments expressed, Chairman Laughter declared the 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 Pawnshop Permit for U.S. Money Shops, located at 2705 E. Walnut Ave., Dalton, GA.

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

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PRESENTATION

1. Katie Fries, with the Dalton-Whitfield County Library informed the Board and Citizens about the recent Sumer Reading, S.T.E.M. and math tutoring services and classes that the library offered this past summer in Whitfield County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2017, Special Called Meeting August 28, 2017, and the Work Session Minutes of August 28, 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Alcohol Beverage License Application – Harper’s General Store:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Harper’s General Store located at 1710 Lafayette Road, Rocky Face, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
2. **Pawnshop Permit Application – U.S. Money Shops:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Pawnshop Permit Application for a Pawnshop Permit located at 2705 E. Walnut Ave, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement
3. **Buildings & Grounds – Air Handler Unit Emergency Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the emergency purchase of an Air Handler Unit from Trane Co. for \$35,563 and installation from Industrial Air and Mechanical for \$35,465. The Air Handler Unit that services the basement in the old section of the Courthouse has quit and we have no air for that section of the building. The units have been in service for 31 + years and one has to be replaced. Trane has a replacement unit that will fit the space which is very limited. We are asking to make an Emergency Purchase to Trane Co. for \$35,563.00 to get this unit on order and Installation of unit by Industrial Air & Mechanical \$38,465.00. This is a major project to take out and replace. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
4. **State Paid County Reimbursed Personnel (SPCR) Contract Extension:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to table this item until the next meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
5. **July 2017 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the July 2017 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for July 2017 is \$838,602. LOST percentage 2017 = 62.653%, Local Option Sales Tax for July 2017 show a decrease of 4.6% compared to Local Option Sales Tax Collections for June 2017; Local Option Sales Tax collections for July 2017 show an increase of 4.8% compared to July 2017 collections. July 2017 Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$5,712,596

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show a decrease of .9% compared to Year to date July 2016 and are \$47,263 over budget. Year to date actual Revenues of \$15,261,468 for July 2017 are over year to date projected revenues of \$14,190,845 by 8%. Year to date actual Expenditures of \$23,941,208 for July 2017 are under Year to date projected expenditures of \$12,383,404 by 6%. TAVT collections for July 2017 were \$153,465 budgeted revenues were \$143,750. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

6. **Whitfield County Unified Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the text amendments of the Whitfield County Unified Zoning Ordinance, otherwise known as Appendix A of the Code of Ordinances of Whitfield County, Georgia. The amendment will be in text section; permitted use table; page 4 of 7, current text; homeless facilities permitted outright in zones: C-2, C-3, C-4, the revised/amended text will read Permitted outright in C-2 zone, Permitted via Special Use Permit in Zones C-3 and C-4. The other amendment will be in text section page 4 of 7, current text; group home permitted outright in zones GA, SA, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-5, R-6 and PUD, the Revised/Amended Text Group Home Permitted outright in zones GA, SA, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-5, R-6, PUD and MU. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, Jones and Brooker in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "D")**
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to deny the rezoning request of Curtis Moore and Randell O'neal to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to Transitional Residential (R-6) on a tract of land totaling 10.89 acres located on lot five of the Beaver Creek Subdivision along the east R/W of Rauschenberg Road (parcel 11-262-03-005). The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board deny this rezoning. The motion to deny the request was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
8. **EMA - Adoption of Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the resolution of the the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is a resolution to adopt the FEMA approved Whitfield County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The plan has to be updated every five years. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "E")**
9. **EMA – Weather Radio Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of 600 Weather Radios from the low bidder, Baker's Communication for \$14,940. This purchase will be paid out of the GEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant 4259-0009 that was awarded to Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Engineering Department – 2018 Aerial Photography Update/LIDAR:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the 2018 Aerial Photography and LIDAR project. Funding will not be needed until 2018, but a commitment letter is due by September 29, 2017. The last aerial photography update was 2015 and will be 3 years old in 2018. From February of 2015 to today, Whitfield County has added 735 permits for new construction and completed many road projects which are absent in our current photography. The aerial photography is used extensively at 911 for the dispatching of calls, in the Tax Assessor's office for the appraisal of property, in our online mapping system where

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residents can make their own maps and in desktop mapping systems in multiple County departments. In addition to aerial photography, we have the option of participating in a grant process whereby we will receive 2 foot contours for Whitfield County. These contours will be used for site development, stormwater applications and FEMA flood zone mapping. Georgia Mountains Regional Commission is coordinating an aerial photography project for 2018 that includes many counties in north Georgia. The large project area for this project means that we are able to purchase the photography at a significantly reduced rate. Georgia Mountains and the Georgia State Geographic Information Officer are coordinating the LIDAR project. The City of Dalton and Dalton Utilities have expressed interest in providing funding for the project where they would contribute up to \$12,000 EACH. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

11. **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 4-9, entitled “Owner reclaims,” to provide that the fee, unless otherwise waived, for owner reclaims shall be \$25.00 per animal; by amending section 4-41, entitled “Notice of Classification,” to provide requirements of the notice of classification and the time to request a hearing thereon; by creating a new section 4-42, currently “reserved” to be entitled “Dangerous Dog Hearings,” to provide for hearings before the Whitfield County Board of health; by amending section 4-43, currently entitled “Dangerous dog hearings,” to be renamed “Notification of Determination,” to provide requirements for notification of determination to the Whitfield County Board of Health; by amending section 4-44, currently entitled “Notification of determination of the Board of Commissioners,” to be renamed “Judicial Review of Determination,” to provide for review of the determination of the Whitfield County Board of Health; and for other purposes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “F”)**
12. **Appointment of the Dangerous Dog Officer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to appoint Dr. Emily Felker as the Dangerous Dog Officer for Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement
13. **Animal Shelter – Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the surplus of a 1991 Ford Truck and to be auctioned on Govdeals.com. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
14. **Parks and Recreation – Edwards Park Community Center Rentals:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the gym, pavilion and room rental agreements at the Edwards Park Community Center. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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15. **Public Works – Equipment Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the equipment surplus from Public Works and to be auctioned on Govdeals.com. Public Work Director Dewayne Hunt informed the Board that they have eight items to be declared surplus and to be auctioned on Govdeals.com. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

16. **Road Acceptance – Miles Place, Stonegate Place, Stonechase Way and Hedgewick Lane:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the roads into the County road system. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “G”)**

17. **Resolution – Re-Appointment to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint Dixon White to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors for another six-year term to expire on September 26, 2023. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joann Putnam came forward and asked who was appointed the dangerous dog officer. Chairman Laughter replied that Dr. Emily Felker was appointed the dangerous dog officer. Putnam also inquired about the surplus vehicle that the Animal Shelter would auction on Govdeals.com. Putnam asked if that vehicle would be replaced with a new one. Chairman Laughter replied that it is not going to be replaced, and that public works is available when they need anything transported.

Major John Gibson from the Whitfield County Sheriff’s Office came forward and informed the Board of how flawlessly the transition to the new communication radios went. Gibson noted that he feels the new radio system makes his officers safer and are able to know their exact location in cases of emergencies. Gibson noted that Claude Craig and his staff have been great throughout the entire process and really paid attention to the needs of the Sheriff’s Office. Gibson also thanked the Board for the recent SPLOST referendum. If the SPLOST had not been passed none of this would have been possible.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /