

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018, 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, County Attorney
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda, adding the Potential Additional Item No. 1. Mark Hannah, and placing this item before for consideration item No. 1, and to postpone item 3b. Unified Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Laughter recognized Jamie Hayes as Employee of the Month for June 2018. Mr. Hayes works at the Sheriff's Office – Detention Center as an inmate work crew supervisor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the July 9, 2018 regular business meeting and the July 23, 2018 work session minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Mark Hannah addressed the Board and asked them to consider adding an aquatic center on the potential list of SPLOST projects. Hannah noted the committee has been unsuccessful in raising money for the pool.
2. **Sheriff's Office – Body/Vehicle Cameras RFP Award:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the recommendation of the Sheriff's Office to award the request for proposal to Axon Enterprises for \$747,386. The Sheriff's Office received proposals from two vendors, Motorola Solutions \$495,000 and Axon Enterprises, \$747,386. Axon received the highest evaluation score by the RFP Committee. The Sheriff's Office will enter into contract negotiations with Axon. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
3. **Sheriff's Office – Vehicle Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the bid from Ford of Dalton for \$119,450.72 for (4) four full size SUV's at \$29,862.678 each. Ford of Dalton was the only vendor to submit bids for these vehicles. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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4. **Animal Shelter – Vehicle Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the bid from Ford of Dalton for \$29,540 for (1) one transit van. The animal shelter received three (3) bids, 1. Peachstate Truck Centers \$28,295.36, 2. Southern Nissan Mall of GA \$35,222.10 and Ford of Dalton \$29,540.00. Peachstate Truck Centers had the lowest bid however did not meet the delivery requirements. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
5. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the request of Avel Plaza to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-313-36-000) totaling 4.91 acres from High Density Residential (R-7) to Zero Lot Line Residential (R-4). The subject property is located along the south R/W of Foster Road. The Planning Commission has recommended the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
6. **City of Varnell Annexation Requests – 11-263-01-155 & 11-263-01-197:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 11-263-01-155 & 11-263-01-197. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
7. **City of Dalton Annexation Request – 12-298-01-049:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-298-01-049. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
8. **June 2018 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the June 2018 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for June 2018 is \$910,773 – LOST percentage 2018 = 62.653% June 2018 collections are up 3.1 % compared to May 2018 Collections. June 2018 collections show an increase of 3.7% compared to June 2017 collections. Year to Date Local Option Sales Tax collections through June 2018 are \$5,072,646 and show an increase of 4.1% compared to Year to Date 2017 collections. Year to date actual Revenues of \$13,797,378 for June 2018 are over year to date projected revenues of \$13,123,950 by 5%. Year to date actual Expenditures of \$22,588,302 for June 2018 are under Year to date projected expenditures of \$23,208,568 by 3%. TAVT collections for June 2018 equal \$200,249 and are over budgeted TAVT Revenues of \$162,500 by 23%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Resolution Fixing Tax Rate for 2018:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to roll back the millage rate from 9.329 mills to 9.312 to offset the increase of the property tax digest and to keep the special tax districts millage rate at 3.438. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Resolution – Tax Anticipation Note (TAN):** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Resolution to regulate and provide for the issuance of the Whitfield County General Obligation Tax Anticipation Note, Series 2018 in the Maximum principal amount of \$3,800,000. The bid was

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awarded to First National Community Bank. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

11. **Finance – Audit RFP Award:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the recommendation of the Audit RFP committee to award the request for proposal to Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC for Audit Services. This Committee was comprised of five (5) members, Alicia Vaughn, Melva Andrews, Brenda Killian, Bill Cherry and Joey Cumbie. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
12. **Public Works – 2015 SPLOST Bridge & Culvert Project #2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the bid from Georgia Bridge and Concrete for \$714,593.35 for six culverts and one bridge project. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
13. **Public Work – Self propelled paint striper purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of a paint striper from Transafe for \$16,492. Transafe was the only bid received. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
14. **Ratify - Resolutions for Re-Appointments to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the ratification of the re-appointment resolutions of Jerry Gibson and Michael Brumlow to the Whitfield County Board of Assessors for another six-year term each to expire on June 30, 2024. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
15. **Clerk of Superior Court – Small Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of small equipment for HON office furniture through National IPA, contract #R1422098, a purchasing alliance. The amount of the purchase is \$15,206.78, of which \$2,556.78 will come out of contingency funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dianne Wells who resides at 2613 E. Hillview Drive, addressed the Board regarding excessive noise in the Pleasant Hill Subdivision.

Virgelia Meek who resides at 1403 Sherwood Drive, addressed the Board regarding fracking. Meek noted the Board should prohibit fracking in unincorporated Whitfield County.

John Lugthart who resided at 148 Babb Road, noted to the Board that natural gas is a cleaner energy source that coal and fracking should be regulated or banned in Whitfield County.

Jevin Jensen questioned the Board about the length of time the Board is proposing for the continuation of SPLOST.

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Jan Eaton who resides in Blue Ridge addressed her concerns about the animal shelter.

Daryl Long who resides at 4310 Troy Lane, noted the animal shelter director is doing a good job.

Virna Kimsey who resides at 1075 Durham Street, noted that leash laws need to be enforced in Whitfield County.

Hope Lewallen who resides at 3742 Miller Drive, noted the County should enforce leash laws, and possibly adopt an ordinance for mandatory spay and neuter of pets.

Kris Hiland who resides at 413 Battleline Drive, noted the community needs to come together to stop the overpopulation and stray problem of animals in Whitfield County.

Mike Babb came forward and addressed the Board about the improvements that have been made at the animal shelter.

Julia Anderson who resides in Chattanooga noted to the Board that Diane Franklin is doing a great job at the animal shelter.

Executive Session – Potential Litigation: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to go into executive session to discuss Potential Litigation. 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, and County Clerk Blanca Cardona. Human Resources Director Jackie Carlo attended the second part of the meeting.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commission Jones 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: / /