

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 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
Dan Strain, Attorney
Citizens
Department Heads
Press

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to amend the agenda. Two (2) items were added from the potential additional items; (1. WLA Studio Contract, 2. Kaizen Collaborative Contract). The motion was approved 4-0.

Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Election: Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Brooker for Vice-Chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners for 2018, Commissioner Crossen seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken and Commissioner Brooker was re-elected 4-0, to be the Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2018.

Appointment of Animal Shelter Director: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to name Diane Franklin as the Animal Shelter Director for Whitfield County. Chairman Laughter and the Commissioners congratulated Ms. Franklin on her appointment. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the December 11, 2017 regular business meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Chairman Laughter – Appointments:** Chairman Laughter made the following appointments – Commissioner Barry Robbins to the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center Authority and Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, Alicia Vaughn to the Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, Harold Brooker to the Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority and the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority, Roger Crossen to the N. GA Community Action Group Inc., the Whitfield County Board of Health and the Limestone Valley Council, Greg Jones to the Correctional Task Force and the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority, Lynn Laughter to the Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, Greater Dalton MPO, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, and the Council of Chief Elected Officials, and Mike Babb to the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.
- Appointment to the Highland Rivers Governing Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to appoint Shana Vinyard to fill the un-expired term of Zab Mendez which will expire on June 30, 2019. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

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3. **Re-Appointment to the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Cathy Snyder to a one-year term to expire on January 31, 2019. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
4. **Re-appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Convention & Visitors Bureau:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to re-appoint Kathryn Sellers to a two-year term. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
5. **Town of Cohutta Annexations – parcels 11-024-01-003, 11-025-11-002, 11-025-11-005 & 11-063-04-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 11-024-01-003, 11-025-11-002, 11-025-11-005 & 11-063-04-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
6. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the rezoning request of Beau and Shana Martin to rezone a tract of land (parcel 10-294-08-000) containing a total of 5.04 acres located at 2470 River Road, from Suburban Agriculture (SA) to General Agriculture (GA). The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the rezoning request of Helen Dill to rezone a tract of land (parcel 09-251-16-000) containing a total of 3 acres located at 4712 Riverside Drive, from Suburban Agriculture (SA) to Rural Residential (R-5). The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Resolution Setting Qualifying Fees – 2018 Election:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to adopt the Resolution of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners Fixing Qualifying Fees for Public Offices for the 2018 general primary, non-partisan, and general elections. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.
2. **Transit – Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy Revision:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the addendum and revised Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Whitfield County Transit in accordance with USDOT and GDOT regulations. The USDOT (U.S. Dept. of Transportation) has issued an update to the federal drug and alcohol testing regulation (49 CFR part 40). As a result, GDOT is also requiring all local transit programs to make similar changes to their drug and alcohol testing policies. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
3. **Fire Department - Vehicle Purchase of One (1) 2018 Ford F150:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of one

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- (1) 2018 Ford F150 Pick-up Truck, for \$35,425 from Brooker Ford. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
4. **Sheriff's Department – Continuation of Jail Food Services Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the continuation of the Jail food services contract with Trinity Food Services Group Inc. which decreases to the current per meal price to \$0.900. This contract covers food, contracted labor and the administration of the food services program at the facility. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
5. **November 2017 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the November 2017 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for November 2017 is \$840,962 – LOST percentage 2017 = 62.653% November 2017 Local Option Sales Tax collections show an increase of 7.2% compared to October 2017 collections. November 2017 collections show an increase of 2.6% compared to November 2016 of \$819,349. November 2017 Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections of \$8,954,763 show an increase of 5.2% compared to Year to date November 2016 and are \$52,097 over budget. Year to date actual Revenues of \$25,791,229 for November 2017 are over year to date projected revenues of \$24,799,259 by 3%. Year to date actual Expenditures of \$39,231,067 for November 2017 are under Year to date projected expenditures of \$40,162,397 by 2%. TAVT collections for November 2017 were \$132,901 budgeted revenues were \$143,750. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Superior Court – Interpreter Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the annual contract with KRNW Inc., for court interpreter services for the Whitfield County Superior Court. The contract is for \$83,700.00 per year, and terminates on December 31, 2018. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
7. **Georgia Mountain Regional Commission Digital Orthophotography Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to ratify the contract with GMRC for Digital Orthophotography services. The last aerial photography update was in 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 motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
8. **Parks and Recreation – Edwards Park Fence Replacement Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid from Dalton Fence for \$134,000 for replacement of the fence at Edwards Park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
9. **Parks and Recreation – Edwards Park Facility Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to accept the low bid from Jerod Hobbs for construction of only the building for \$308,000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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10. **Bond Resolution – Fire Station No. 12:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to adopt the Bond Resolution of the City of Dalton Building Authority authorizing the issuance of the City of Dalton Building Authority Revenue Bond (Whitfield County Fire Station Project), Series 2018 in the principal amount not to exceed, \$4M. The purpose of the Series 2018 Bond is for providing funds to finance the acquisition, construction, and installation of a new fire station and related equipment to be leased to the County and for paying the costs of issuing the Series 2018 Bond. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

11. **Grant Farm Master Plan Update – WLA Studio Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to enter in contract with WLA Studio for \$19,790 contingent upon County Attorney Robert Smalley reviewing it. Whitfield County received a grant from the Riverview Foundation in the amount of \$32,790 to fund an update to the Rocky Face Ridge Master Plan by WLA Studio (formerly the Jaeger Company) and for the Kaizen Cooperative to create design standards and naming the Grant Farm site. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

12. **Grant Farm Master Plan Update – Kaizen Cooperative:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to enter into contract with Kaizen Cooperative for \$13,000 contingent upon County Attorney Robert Smalley reviewing it. Whitfield County received a grant from the Riverview Foundation in the amount of \$32,790 to fund an update to the Rocky Face Ridge Master Plan by WLA Studio (formerly the Jaeger Company). Kaizen Cooperative is a landscape architect firm that will assist with naming, logo development and design standards for the development of the Grant Farm. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /