

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 12, 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 Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda. One (1) item were added from the potential additional items; (1. Local Legislation – Voting District) The motion was approved 4-0.

Chairman Laughter recognized Ms. Anna Meadors as Employee of the Month for January 2018. Ms. Meadors works in the Buildings and Grounds Department.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the February 12, 2018 regular business meeting minutes, and the February 26, 2018 work session minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

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/Wine License for Andy's Corner located at 2500 Reed Road, Dalton, GA.

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

Chairman Laughter then called a Public Hearing for a Pawnshop Permit for Georgia Cash America Inc., located at 2705 E. Walnut Ave, Dalton, GA.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENT

1. **Appointment to the Trade Center Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to appoint Jamie Upton to the Trade Center Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

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FOR CONSIDERATION

1. **Acceptance of Road – Parquet Drive:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones to accept Parquet Drive into the County Road system, the motion died due to lack of a second. Motion was then made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to accept Parquet Drive into the County Road system with the following conditions; conveyance of warranty deed with drainage easement, a one-year road maintenance bond of \$20,000 and creation of ten (10) jobs at a facility located on the subject property. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Alcohol Beverage License Application – Andy’s Corner:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to postpone this Alcohol Beverage Application until an affidavit of no objection has been received by the property owner that is located within 200 feet of the business address. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
3. **Pawnshop Permit Application:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve a Pawnshop Permit for U.S. Money Shops located at 2705 E. Walnut Ave, Dalton GA. This is a change of ownership for an existing business. The Motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioner Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
4. **City of Varnell Annexation – parcel No. 11-263-01-192:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel No. 11-263-01-192. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
5. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the rezoning request of David Crockett to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-273-01-0074) containing a total of 0.73 acres located at 1413 Dug Gap Road, Dalton, GA, from Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) to Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2). 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.
6. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the rezoning request of Charles Cofield to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-252-07-000) containing a total of 0.76 acres located at 2903 Airport Road, from General Commercial (G-2) 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.
7. **Fire Department – Change Order No. 1 Station 11:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the change order for Station 11 in the amount of \$40,684 from contingency that was listed in the original contract. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

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8. **Fire Department – Purchase of Antique Fire Engine:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to purchase an antique fire engine from the Town of Cohutta. The vehicle will be used as a parade vehicle. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Fire Department – Confined Space Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to purchase confined space equipment from Municipal Emergency Services in the amount of \$34,019.26. These purchases will be paid from a GEMA grant that the Fire Department received in November 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Fire Department – Hazardous Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to purchase hazardous material equipment from Municipal Emergency Services in the amount of \$48,308.46. These purchases will be paid from a GEMA grant that the Fire Department received in November 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Fire Department – Station 12 Land Acquisition:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of property located on south Riverbend Rd. for \$75,000.00. This property is going to be used for the construction of Fire Station #12 and will be paid from the Fire Fund Bond. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Robbins and Brooker in agreement
12. **Buildings & Grounds – Health Dept. HVAC Control Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the low bid from Cornerstone Automation in Chattanooga TN for \$26,800 for an HVAC control panel for the Health Department. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
13. **Sheriff's Department – Jail Food Services Updated Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the corrected agreement for inmate food services with Trinity Services Group for \$1.03 per meal. Previously the County entered into agreement with Trinity Services Group for \$0.900 per meal, which was an error on Trinity's behalf. Trinity Food Services will honor the new rate of \$1.03 effective January 1, 2018. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
14. **January 2018 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the January 2018 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director, Alicia Vaughn. In discussion, Mrs. Vaughn reported that Local Option Sales Tax for January 2018 is \$775,555 – LOST percentage 2018 = 62.653% January 2018 Local Option Sales Tax collections show a decrease of 17.6% compared to December 2017 collections. January 2018 collections show an increase of 2.1% compared to January 2017. Year to date actual Revenues of \$2,870,596 for January 2018 are under year to date projected revenues of \$2,935,942 by 2%. Year to date actual Expenditures of \$2,964,624 for January 2018 are under Year to date projected expenditures of \$3,517,098 by 15%. TAVT collections January 2018 equal \$172,718 and are over budgeted TAVT Revenues for month by \$22,718. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

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15. **Public Works – Edwards Park Drainage Concrete Flatwork** : Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid from Rogers Concrete Services for \$16,300 to place and finish approximately 25,000 square feet of Concrete surface. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
16. **Public Works – Edwards Park Drainage Improvements**: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid from Fortiline for \$21,625.07 for drainage basins, inline drains, pipe and fittings to provide for proper drainage at the western baseball quad at Edwards Park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
17. **Public Works – Purchases**: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to accept the recent bids for the following;
 - a. Cab & chassis for herbicide unit in the amount of \$71,097.00 from Brooker Food. The low bid was from Atkins Dodge/Ford, however Brooker Food will use the Local Vendor Privilege to match the bid. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
 - b. Skid Mount Herbicide system in the amount of \$33,840 from Roadside Inc. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
 - c. Tandem Dump Truck Freightline 114 SD with Ox Dump Body in the amount of \$116,730 from Premier Truck Center. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
 - d. 4WD Rough Terrain Forklift for \$63,858 using GA State contract pricing from Border Equipment in Conley GA. State Contract#99999-001-SPD0000102-0022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
 - e. Ford F-150 4wd Super Cab LWB with A.R.E. bedcover & bedslider in the amount of \$32,873 from Brooker Ford. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
 - f. Gradall Discovery D152 in the amount of \$233,573 from Tractor Equipment Company. An extended warranty was purchased for \$13,288, and the Public Works Department traded in a Gradall XL4100 for a value of \$11,500.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
18. **Local Legislation – Election Districts**: Motion was approved by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to allow local legislation to include a referendum on the November 2018 general election ballot to change the election process for County Commissioners from at-large voting to district only voting. The Chairman election will still be voted on at-large by the entire County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

George Willis addressed the Board regarding his business located on Dug Gap Rd. Willis noted that his business modifies weapons and allows consumers to test their weapons on-site. Willis noted that he has built an enclosed containment pit for added safety to contain any projectiles that may be shot from the weapons.

Robert Woodard who resides at 1900 Cascade Way addressed the Board regarding Mr. Willis' business. Woodard noted that he is speaking on behalf of Grace Presbyterian Church. Woodard noted that the playing fields of the Church are directly behind Mr. Willis' business and suggested that there are better places to test firearms than beside a Church property. Woodward addressed his concerns for the safety of the Church and the neighborhood around Mr. Willis' business.

George Willis addressed the Board again and noted that the only direction that the weapons are shot is towards the berm and containment pit.

Carol McFarland noted that she would like for Mr. Willis' containment pit inspected to ensure that no projectiles exit the containment pit.

Gerald Tinson addressed his concerns to the Board about fracking. Commissioner Crossen informed Mr. Tinson currently there is legislation in this year's General Assembly on this matter. If legislation is passed then the County will follow the States Law on this issue, if legislation is not passed then they will look further into what other recourses they can utilize.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /