

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019, 6:00 P.M. IN ADMINISTRATION 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 Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.**

**PROCLAMATION**

1. **Brett P. Reistad – American Legion National Commander:** – Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to welcome and honor Mr. Reistad, National Commander of the American Legion. Mr. Reistad will be visiting the American Legion Post #112 in Whitfield County on April 29, 2019. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen, Jones and Brooker in agreement
2. **National Public Safety Telecommunications Week** – Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to proclaim April 14 – 20, 2019 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
3. **Proclamation –National Day of Prayer May 2, 2019:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to proclaim May 2, 2019 as National Day of Prayer in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
4. **National Donate Life Month:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to proclaim April, 2019 as National Donate Life Month in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the March 11, 2019 regular business meeting and the March 25, 2019 work session minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**BOARD APPOINTMENT**

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1. **Appointment to the Whitfield Historic Preservation Commission:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to appoint Adam M. Ware to the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement.

The Grand Jury of Superior Court notified the Board of Commissioners of recent re-appointments of Eddie Hughes as an alternate member and Glenda Whisenant as a member of Whitfield County the Board of Equalization. Their terms will expire December 31, 2021.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Chairman Laughter called a Public Hearing for the closing of a portion of Maddox Chapel Rd.

Joe Yarbrough spoke in favor of the road closing and noted that he was grateful for Whitfield County's support for Workforce Development. Yarbrough noted Georgia Northwestern Technical College has almost completed the additional campus space and the closing of a portion of Maddox Chapel Rd will help with the increase of traffic flow when the additional campus opens.

There being no more comments or concerns, Chairman Laughter closed the public meeting.

**FOR CONSIDERATION:**

2. **Appointment of Finance Director:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to name James Garvin as the new Finance Director for Whitfield County. Chairman Laughter and the Commissioners congratulated and welcomed Mr. Garvin to Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Jones, and Crossen in agreement.
3. **Close a portion of Maddox Chapel Rd:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to close a portion of Maddox Chapel Rd. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
4. **Whitfield County Schools Easement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve an Easement between Whitfield County and Whitfield County Schools for the Maple Grove Extension. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement
5. **Demolition Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to postpone the approval of this contract. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
6. **Town of Cohutta Annexation Requests – 11-063-06-000, 11-063-01-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 11-063-06-000, 11-063-01-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
7. **Fire Dept. Timeclocks Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of six (6) timeclocks from the sole source vendor

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Kronos for \$24,702.30. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

8. **Fire Dept. Station 12 – Change Order #1:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the change order #1 for Station #12. In order for Felker Construction to complete the grading of Station #12, they have to add stone bed under the main drain piping and remove and dispose unsuitable materials, there is no increase in the price of the facility. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
9. **E-911 – Backup 911 Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve purchasing the remaining equipment and software for the Backup 911 provisional location position. The project total is \$35,394 which includes six (6) MSI laptops from Eastern Data who had the lowest quote of \$12,223.00, one (1) scanner from Imaging Solutions who had the lowest quote of \$846 and the Viper phone system software from the sole source vendor AT&T for \$22,235.00. Director Claude Craig noted this brings the total up to six (6) totally functional 911 backup positions at any location with working internet service. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
10. **Sheriff's Office – GPSTC Training Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the specialized driver training contract with Georgia Public Safety Center (GPSTC) for thirteen (13) rooms at \$15.00 a person per session. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
11. **Sheriff's Office – Animal Control Truck slide in Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the low bid from Jones Trailer Company for \$16,198.83. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Sheriff's Office – RFPs for repairs and maintenance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the Sheriff's office issuing of request for proposals (RFPs) for repairs and maintenance at the detention center. In discussion Captain Wesley Lynch noted that these items were originally submitted in the SPLOST project list. Capt. Lynch went through the items they plan to include in the RFPs. The Security System Replacement, \$700,000: The Whitfield County Detention Facility utilizes an electronic system of electronic controls, consisting of sixteen separate control panels, which control intercom, door access, camera, and similar systems. Electronic control problems are occurring with increasing frequency as the building ages. Board failures are increasingly difficult to repair because the original vendor no longer carries many of these outdated parts and even manufacturers of the component parts are finding difficulty in meeting our orders. Security Hardware and Door Controls, \$128,000: These mechanical systems have been in near constant use for over 17 years. Wear and tear on the systems, particularly on high security sliding doors, has degraded many of their structures so that regular repairs are not as effective. Degradation of this type can further complicate future repair attempts and make even new repairs inadequate because replacement hardware may not properly fit or move within the altered structures. HVAC Control System, \$50,000: The Detention Facility's HVAC control system is a computer-based control system providing environmental control of a 146,000 square foot building with almost fifty

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separate HVAC systems. The current model system is also outdated and is no longer offered by the supplier, Trane. The computer itself is running on outdated software on an outdated platform (Windows XP) and is approximately 17 years old. HVAC Replacement, \$80,000: The primary use of these funds will be to replace and re-install the large 50-ton Trane unit servicing the majority of the South end of the facility. The replacement will cover the cost of a new unit, service to other older units, as well as installation by the vendor. Boiler Replacement, \$25,000: This item provides for the replacement of one of the two large industrial boilers that supply hot water to the kitchen and laundry areas. This boiler is over 17 years old, has been repaired several times and is no longer reliable. Even short periods of inability to have hot water to provide proper disinfection of inmate clothing, bedding, or eating trays could create a critical issue with our environmental health and safety. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

13. **Public Works – Culvert Moratorium:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to suspend any installation of lateral pipe along the County R/W unless it is a part of an approved commercial development and is installed by the contractor as part of the project. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
14. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the denial of the rezoning request of Tony Burnecke to rezone a tract of land (parcel 27-018-05-000) containing a total 2.0 acres located at 3834 Chattanooga Road, from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Commercial (C-2). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
15. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of John Davis to rezone two tracts of land (parcels 12-102-01-000 & 12-103-19-000) totaling 12.68 acres located at 2310 & 2318 Cleveland Highway from Rural Residential (R-5) and Low-Density Single-Family Residential (R-2) to General Commercial (C-2). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement in agreement.
16. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the request of Georgia Cumberland Association of Seventh Day Adventists to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) and Transitional Residential (R-6) to General Commercial C-2) two tracts of land totaling 3.11 acres located at 2395 Maddox Chapel Road (Parcels 12-175-35-000 and 12-175-39-000). The planning commission recommended the BOC approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
17. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Jennifer Jones to rezone from Low-Density Single-Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 11.96 acres located at 1358 Mt. Vernon Rd. (Parcel 27-125-27-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

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18. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the rezoning request of Brass Holdings, LLC to rezone from High Density Residential (R-7) to Zero Lot Line Residential (R-4) a tract of land totaling 3.14 acres located at 1556 Crow Valley Road (Parcel 12-147-01-001). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
19. **Whitfield County Unified Zoning Ordinance Text Amendments:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones 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 purpose of this amendment is to modify the ordinance text in order to allow for the use of existing commercial or manufacturing structures for wholesale trade, warehouse and distribution facilities within Transitional Commercial districts (C-4). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, Jones and Brooker in agreement.
20. **February 2019 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the February 2019 Financial Statement as presented by Assistant Finance Director Carol Roberts. In discussion, Mrs. Roberts reported that Local Option Sales Tax for February 2019 is \$855,792, which is 3.6% over budgeted collections of \$825,750 – LOST percentage 2019 = 61.556% (was 62.653% in 2017/2018). February 2019 collections show a decrease of 3.0% compared to January 2019 collections of \$882,237. Year to date February 2019 collections of \$1,738,028 show an increase of 13.0% compared to year to date February 2018 collections of \$1,537,554. TAVT collections for February 2019 were \$169,662, which is an increase of 4.3% compared to February 2018. Year to date collections of \$351,835 show an increase of 4.9% compared to year to date February 2018 collections of \$335,331. Year to date actual revenues of \$4,822,215 through February 2019 exceed the projected revenues of \$4,714,022 by \$108,193 or 2.3%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$6,579,792 through February 2019 are under projected expenditures of \$7,104,419 by \$524,626 or 7.4%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
21. **Finance – 2018 Budget Amendment #6:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the 2018 budget amendment #6 as presented by Assistant Finance Director, Carol Roberts. This amendment is to realign budget allocations for several special revenue funds, including the capital acquisition fund and the 2015 SPLOST funds to meet projected expenditures and revenues for the year ending December 31, 2018. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
22. **Lease Agreement Amendment with Prater's Mill Foundation, Inc.:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve an amendment to the lease agreement with the Prater's Mill Foundation that was originally signed on January 12, 2015. This amendment is an addition to the property that is known as Prater's Mill which was donated by the James Boring Family. Motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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23. **Tax Levy Resolution – WC Board of Education:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve a tax levy resolution by the Whitfield County Board of Education. The tax will be levied on taxable property in the district only if their share of the 1% ESPLOST is not sufficient enough to cover the principal and interest on the Series 2019 Bond that was issued on August 17, 2017, for \$14,620,000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Pennington came forward and addressed the Board regarding Whitfield County citizens being taxed too much in comparison to Catoosa County.

**Executive Session – Property Acquisition:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to go into executive session to discuss property acquisition. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Present for the meeting were Chairman Lynn Laughter, Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Jones and Crossen, County Attorney Robert Smalley, County Administrator Mark Gibson, and County Clerk Blanca Cardona.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commission Crossen to come out of Executive Session. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE:    /    /