

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Chairman Laughter 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 Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda to move item 8 to the beginning of the meeting and include the potential additional item of Rocky Face Ridge Bike Trail RFP. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.**

**Chairman Laughter recognized Ms. Marcy Dyer as Employee of the Month for October 2019. Ms. Dyer works in the Sheriff's Office.**

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

**FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to deny the request of Julio Espinoza to rezone a tract of land (parcel 11-126-08-000) containing a total of 6.22 acres located on **Cohutta-Beaverdale Road**, from **Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to General Agriculture (GA)**. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the request of **Jennyfer Paucay** to rezone a tract of land (parcel **13-171-26-000**) containing a total of 2.08 acres located at 4405 S. Dixie Highway, Resaca from rural residential (R-5) to general commercial (C-2) contingent upon the property owner including a buffer on the property. The planning commission recommended denial of this request. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
3. **Alcohol License Renewals - 2020:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the 2020 Alcohol License Renewals. Exhibit "A" is a list of establishments currently in operation and holding a 2019 Alcohol License. There were not any reports of any violations regarding these establishments. Criminal background investigations on all applicants were done to ensure there has been no change in status over the past year. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement

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4. **Fire Dept. Station 12 – Floor Donation Approval:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the donation of 2200 square feet of flooring and two rugs from Shaw Industries. The rugs and flooring donation will be used in Station 4 and 5. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
5. **October 2019 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the October 2019 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: Per the IGA, the County's LOST percentage for 2019 is 61.556%. It was 62.653% in 2017/2018. October 2019 collections of \$932,969 were 13% greater than budgeted collections of \$825,750. This was 1.6% less than September 2019 collections of \$918,334. YTD October 2019 collections of \$9,218,682 were 6.8% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$8,630,154. TAVT collections for October 2019 were \$363,366, or 99.1% greater than October 2018 collections of \$182,491. YTD October 2019 collections of \$2,706,761, were 34.1% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$2,018,368. Year to date October 2019 actual revenues of \$23,970,741, exceeded projected revenues of \$22,314,862, by \$1,655,878 or 7.4%. Year to date October 2019 actual expenditures of \$37,917,864 were less than projected expenditures of \$37,980,214, by \$62,350, or 0.2%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
6. **SPLOST 2020 Advisory Committee Recommendations:** Chairman of the 2020 SPLOST Advisory Committee, Chris Shiflett, presented the Board with the list of recommended projects to be funded by the SPLOST. The committee was comprised of 16 people and two alternates. The Commissioners and Councils of each of the four cities in Whitfield County -- Dalton, Cohutta, Tunnel Hill and Varnell -- each developed lists of possible projects to be funded by the SPLOST and brought them before the advisory committee, which they discussed over several months. Shiflett noted the committee recommended a four-year \$66 million SPLOST.
7. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 Extension Supplemental Design Proposal #2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the supplemental design proposal #2 from American Consulting Professionals for \$25,850. The original contract amount was \$306,500 which included concept development, geotechnical, design, plan production and environmental services. GDOT has reviewed the final construction plans and requires a change to the intersection of the new 201, old 201 and Lee's Chapel Rd. The intersection is designed properly and meets AASHTO designs standards but GDOT prefers a different lane configuration. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
8. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 Wetland Credit Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of 2077 wetland credits from the Hambridge Mitigation Bank in the amount of \$186,930. The USACE permit to construct requires these credits be purchased for the realignment project of SR 201. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

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9. **Acceptance of Right of Way Yeager Drive:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to accept Yeager Drive into the County Road system. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Public Works – Pavement Assessment RFP:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve ARRB Group Inc to conduct a Pavement Assessment for the amount of \$99,500.00. ARRB Group Inc. will assess 711 miles of county maintained roads. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
11. **Public Works Department 2020 Bids:** The following bids for Public Works were approved.
  - a. Concrete and Concrete Accessories – Public Works only received one bid from Murray Mix of Chatsworth for these items. Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
  - b. Crushed Stone – Public Works bid out crushed stone to be used in the Public Works Department and only received one bid from Vulcan Material in Dalton, Georgia. Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
  - c. Rental of Tandem Truck and Operator – Jackson Trucking of Chatsworth, Georgia was the low bidder for these items. Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Parks and Recreation – Edwards Park Fence Project Pod 2 Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve low bid of \$137,000 from Dalton Fence for a perimeter fence at Edwards park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
13. **Recreation Department – Concession/Restroom Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve a contract with Felker Constuction in the amount of \$348,843 for the concession/restroom building for pod 2 at Edwards Park. Felker Construction matched the low bid of Jerrod Hobbs and Company from Murray County by 4%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen, Jones and Brooker in agreement.
14. **Public Works – Rocky Face Trail RFP:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve BST Group Inc. to construct the Buzzard Roost Bike Trail at Rocky Face Ridge Park for \$290,120. Grant funding amount available is \$200,000, which are Federal Funds. In addition to the grant, NWGA SORBRA- \$75,000; Lyndhurst Foundation - \$25,000 and Carpet Capital Running Club-\$1,000. There is a total of \$301,000 available. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /