

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019, 6:00 P.M. AT 156 GILLESPIE DRIVE, DALTON, GA, 30721

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 (ABSENT)
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 Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to amend the agenda to add item 6. c, surplus of vehicles. The motion was approved 4-0, with Chairman Laughter, and Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Chairman Laughter, and Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Jeffery Diak as Employee of the Month for December 2018. Mr. Diak works at the Sheriff's Office.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the January 14, 2019 regular business meeting and the January 28, 2019 work session minutes. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Re-appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to reappoint Mr. Tom Minor to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission for a four-year term. The term will expire July 10, 2022. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Laughter called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage License for Bob's Burgers located at 3356B S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Laughter closed the hearing.

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FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Malt Beverage License – Bob’s Burgers:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Malt Beverage License for Bob’s Burgers located at 3356B S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Engineering – Hill Road Plan Revision Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the proposal from Reynolds, Smith, and Hill (RS&H) in the amount of \$42,035 for plan revisions of the Hill Road improvement project. The 2007 SPLOST project list only had enough funding for design; however, there has been enough cumulative savings to pursue the construction of the Hill Road project. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
3. **Inspections & Enforcement – Vehicle Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of a 2019 four wheel drive extended cab pickup for the low bid of \$22,836 from Ginn Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Covington, GA. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
4. **Parks and Recreation – Athletic Bids:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the low bids for athletic equipment and uniforms for the 2019 season. The low bidder will be used on all items except where specs were not met. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
5. **Tax Assessor – QPublic Web hosting contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter into a contract with QPublic for web hosting for an annual fee of \$16,860 with an initial setup cost of \$3,000. This software will provide web based property information to the public and assist the Tax Assessors office to ensure uniformity values on property. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Public Works – 2015 SPLOST Bridge & Culvert Project #2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the ratification of the final contract cost for Georgia Bridge and Concrete for \$863,460.52 for six culverts and one bridge project. During the course of the bridge construction at both Old Dixie and Poplar Springs, additional pilot holes were required. The original bid contained only 50LF of pilot holes at Poplar Springs. In total 272 LF of additional pilot holes were required increasing the contract total by \$148,867. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
7. **Surplus Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the surplus of multiple vehicles currently parked at the public works parking lot. County Administrator Mark Gibson noted there will now be a more streamlined process for departments to surplus vehicles and add them to Gov.deals.com for auction. Gibson noted Public Works will inspect the vehicles to check if they could be used for a few more months prior to being listed on Gov.deals.com. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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8. **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 Rena Smith to rezone a tract of land (parcel 11-167-07-000) containing a total of 4.86 acres located at 494 McGaughey Rd., from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5). The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
9. **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 permit Breweries, Distilleries, Wineries, Brewpubs, Micro-wineries, Micro-distilleries and Micro-breweries in the City of Varnell as well as to update the definition of Boutique Hotel mirroring the current text for the City of Dalton. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Robbins, and Jones in agreement.
10. **December 2018 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the December 2018 Financial Statement as presented by Assistant Finance Director Carol Roberts. In discussion, Mrs. Roberts reported that Local Option Sales Tax for December 2018 is \$1,039,850 – LOST percentage 2018 = 62.653% December 2018 collections are up 16.7% compared to November 2018 of \$891,295. December 2018 collections show an increase of 10.4% compared to December 2017 collections of \$941,509. 2018 collections are \$10,561,298 and show an increase of 6.7% over 2017 collections. TAVT collections for December 2018 were \$138,448. 2018 collections are \$2,332,070 which exceeds our year to date projection by 19.6%. Year to date actual revenues of \$46,949,818 through December 2018 exceed the projected revenues of \$45,130,833 by 4.0%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$45,797,931 through December 2018 are under year to date anticipated expenditures of \$46,805,332 by 2.2%. 2018 actuals will be adjusted to accrue 60 days of property tax revenue and additional expenditures. Current anticipated surplus for 2018 at this time is \$2M. Budgeted surplus for the original 2018 budget was \$608,934. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Swanson wanted to know what the rate of the SPLOST bond would be.

Steve Foster asked about the depth that the pilot holes had to be dug at Old Dixie Rd and Poplar Springs.

Jevin Jensen asked if the Board have changed their mind regarding the SPLOST.

Darryl Long told the Board that his taxes have gone up even when a SPLOST is passed.

ADJOURN Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /