

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019, AT 6:00 P.M. AT WHITFIELD COUNTY FIRE STATION # 11, LOCATED AT 5268 COHUTTA-VARNELL RD, COHUTTA, GA, 30710

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 Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Shawn Damon as Employee of the Month for November 2018. Mr. Damon works at the Fire Department.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Government Finance Officers Association – Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:

Chairman Laughter presented Assistant Finance Director Carol Roberts with the GFOA'S Certificate in Achievement for Financial Reporting awarded to Whitfield County for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. This award is presented to those government units whose annual financial reports are judged to adhere to program standards and represents the highest award in governmental financial reporting. The Board congratulated Mrs. Roberts and staff for their achievement.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the December 10, 2018 regular business meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Laughter - Appointment of Commissioners to Boards:

Chairman Laughter appointed the Commissioners to the following:

Roger Crossen – Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, and to the N. GA Community Action Group Inc.

Harold Brooker – Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority and the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority,

Greg Jones – Correctional Task Force and the Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority,

Chairman Laughter – Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, Greater Dalton MPO, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, and the Council of Chief Elected Officials,

Mike Babb – Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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1. **Appointment to the Highland Rivers Governing Board:** No appointment was made at this time.
2. **Re-appointment for Whitfield County Board of Health:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Commissioner Roger Crossen to the Whitfield County Board of Health. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
3. **Re-Appointment to the Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Commissioner Barry Robbins to the Trade Center Authority. 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. **Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Mr. Kevin Harris to a three-year term to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement.
6. **Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Mr. Frank Robertson to a three-year term to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority as the City/County appointee. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
7. **Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Mr. David Jolly to a one-year term to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker in agreement.
8. **Re-Appointment to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to re-appoint Mr. David Renz to a three-year term to the Dalton/Whitfield Joint Development Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Crossen and Brooker 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 Georgeos Food Mart located at 2500 Reed Road, Dalton, GA. No comments or concerns were expressed in the Public Hearing so Chairman Laughter closed the hearing.

FOR CONSIDERATION:

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1. **Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Election:** Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Brooker for Vice-Chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners for 2019, 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 2019.
2. **Engineering – Ratify Award of Transportation Planning Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to ratify the transportation planning contract with Pond and Company with a bid of \$119,500. The contract is to update the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan to the 2045 Horizon Year and will be the area's 25-year transportation forecast. This plan is federally required to be updated every five years, with a new plan due to the GA Dept. of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration by June 2020. In order for Whitfield County to keep receiving State and Federal transportation funding, an accurate and up to date plan has to be maintained. The contract is being paid by a federal transportation grant which has a 20% County match, the total cost for the update is \$119,500.00 of which the County will be responsible for \$23,900.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
3. **GEFA Resolution:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to modify the loan agreement and approve the resolution with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) to change the project completion date from April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. This agreement with GEFA is to upgrade the Carbondale Business Park's sewer capacity. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
4. **Dalton Utilities Intergovernmental Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Dalton Utilities for extending sewer infrastructure and to provide sewer capacity to the general area along State Route #3 from Carbondale Business Park northward to Swamp Creek. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
5. **Malt Beverage License – Georgeos Food Mart:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Malt Beverage License for Georgeos Food Mart, located at 2500 Reed Road, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
6. **City of Dalton Annexation – parcel 12-147-01-001:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-147-01-001. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to deny the rezoning request of Brandon Harrison to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-227-02-015) containing a total of 3.6 acres located at 1018 Mill Creek Road, from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.

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8. **November 2018 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the November 2018 Financial Statement as presented by Assistant Finance Director Carol Roberts. In discussion, Mrs. Roberts reported that Local Option Sales Tax for November 2018 is \$891,295 – LOST percentage 2018 = 62.653% November 2018 collections are down 9.1% compared to October 2018 collections. November 2018 collections show an increase of 6.0% compared to November 2017. Year to date Local Option Sales Tax collections through November 2018 are \$9,521,449 and show an increase of 6.33% over year to date November 2017 collections. Year to date actual revenues of \$26,631,222 through November 2018 exceed the projected revenues of \$25,503,088 by 4.42%. Year to date actual expenditures of \$41,278,651 through November 2018 are under year to date anticipated expenditures of \$42,196,458 by 2.18%. TAVT collections for November 2018 were \$175,254. Year to date collections are \$2,193,622 which exceeds our year to date projection by 20.82%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Superior Court – 2019 Interpreter Contract:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the annual contract with KRNW Inc., for court interpreter services for Superior Court. The contract is for \$83,700.00 per year, it was noted the contract presented showed the contract ending on December 31, 2020 but will be corrected to reflect the end date of December 31, 2019. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Brooker and Crossen in agreement.
10. **2019 Trane Service Agreement for Jail HVAC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the 2019 Service Agreement for \$16,076.41, or \$1,339.70 if paid on a monthly basis with Trane of Chattanooga. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Sheriff's Office – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of nine SCOTT SCBA for \$32,189.24 from the sole bidder MES Inc. This equipment is needed to replace several expired SCBA's that have been determined unusable by the WC Fire Department. This is the same brand the fire department uses. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Whaley asked the Board if sewer expansion could be done in Cohutta.

Town of Cohutta Mayor Ron Shinnick noted with the help of the SPLOST 2015 and an ARC grant they have been able to expand sewer infrastructure with the assistance of Dalton Utilities.

ADJOURN Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /