

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JULY 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 Brooker to amend the agenda. 1 item was added from the potential additional items; (1. County Employee Pay Adjustment; and 1 item was removed from the agenda; Engineering – Acceptance of Yeager Drive). The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter, Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.**

**Chairman Laughter recognized Mrs. Valeria Perez as Employee of the Month for May 2019. Mrs. Perez works in the Human Resources Department.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the June 10, 2019 regular business meeting, June 24, 2019 work session and July 1, 2019 special called meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**BOARD APPOINTMENT**

1. **Appointment to the Highland Rivers Governing Board:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to appoint Cyndy Barton to the Highland Rivers Governing Board to a three (3) year term to expire June 30, 2022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

**FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. **Sheriff's Department – Upfitting three Animal Control Pickup Trucks:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the bid from ProLogic ITS for \$16,994.52. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Radio Intergovernmental Agreement with Cities:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve an intergovernmental agreement between the County and the Cities regarding the County-owned first responder radios. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

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3. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve recommendation of the planning commission to approve the rezoning request of Tommy Elrod to rezone a tract of land (parcel 13-037-05-000) containing a total 5 acres located on Hickory Flats Road, from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
4. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Bruce King to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-145-04-000) totaling 7.13 acres located on North Thornton Ave, from 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.
5. **May 2019 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the May 2019 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. In discussion, Mr. Garvin noted 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. May 2019 collections of \$936,746 were 13.4% greater than budgeted collections of \$825,750. May 2019 collections of \$936,746 were 0.6% less than April 2019 collections of \$942,051. YTD May 2019 collections of \$4,588,036 were 10.2% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$4,161,873. TAVT collections for May 2019 were \$171,521 or 24.7% less than May 2018 collections of \$227,651. YTD May 2019 collections of \$1,110,184 were 1.8% less than same-period 2018 collections of \$1,130,755. YTD May 2019 actual revenues of \$13,151,674 exceeded projected revenues of \$12,492,427 by \$659,246 or 5.3%. YTD May 2019 actual expenditures of \$17,679,737 were less than projected expenditures of \$18,139,688 by \$459,950 or 2.5 %.The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
6. **Finance – 2018 Budget Amendment #7:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the 2018 budget amendment #7 as presented by Finance Director, James Garvin. This amendment is to correct an error of the April 2019 financial statement. The amendment is to the Solid Waste special tax district revenue, currently this revenue line item has a negative fund balance due to the error. The amount of the amendment is \$1,743.48. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, and Robbins in agreement.
7. **City of Dalton Annexation Request – 12-273-05-002:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-273-05-002. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
8. **City of Varnell Annexation Request – 11-263-01-041:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-263-01-041. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

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9. **County Employee Pay Adjustment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commission Jones to approve a 2% pay adjustment for county employees beginning the first pay period in July. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter, and Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Darrel Long addressed the Board and asked them if they could speak into their microphones during the meetings.

Rebel Burton addressed the Board regarding the 2020 SPLOST Advisory Committee. Mr. Burton noted that there has been too many changes made to the committee. Mr. Burton also informed the Board that some businesses are still charging 7%. Chairman Laughter replied that the Department of Revenue handles notifying business of any sales tax changes. Chairman Laughter also noted that the County would be happy to contact any businesses that are still charging 7%.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /