

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720

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 amend the agenda to include the potential additional items. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement

Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Brandon Cannon as Employee of the Month for December 2019. Mr. Cannon works in the Public Defenders Office.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the January 13, 2020 regular business, January 27, 2020 work session and January 27, 2020 special called meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Animal Shelter – Emergency Repair of Ceiling:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to ratify the emergency repair of the ceiling at the Animal Shelter for \$6,348. The funding will be taken from emergency contingency funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
2. **Animal Shelter – Surplus Vehicle:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the surplus of a Chevrolet Suburban that public works has deemed irreparable and add it to the Gov.deals website to be auctioned. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
3. **Engineering – GCWHT Consulting Fee:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve payment of \$196,764.85 to Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails, Inc. The project began in 2007 and installed 81 markers and 710 signs from Rossville to Savannah. This will close out the grant account and the project. It was funded by a LMIG grant from the State of Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
4. **Parks and Recreation – Athletic Bids:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bids for athletic equipment and uniforms for the 2020 season. The low bidder will be used on all items except where specs were not met. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Brooker, Jones and Crossen in agreement.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720

5. **EMA – Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to renew the statewide mutual aid agreement. The current agreement will expire on March 1, 2020, and agreements have to be renewed every four years. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
6. **Fire Department Hurst Hydraulic Extrication Equipment Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of Hurst Hydraulic Extrication equipment from MES Inc. for \$29,194.72. MES Inc. is the sole dealer for the State of Georgia for this product. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
7. **Public Works – 2020 Capital Purchases:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the capital equipment for Public Works in the amount of \$570,000. Public works will purchase (2) Single Axle Dump trucks for \$179,914 from Peach State Truck, (2) Toro 4100-D mowers for \$109,699.92, this amount includes (2) Toro 4100 mowers traded in from Jerry Pate Turf, (1) Bandit chipper for \$80,880.32 from Mason Tractor, (1) Wacker Neuson Roller for \$16,368.00 from Action Rent All and (1) Falcon 6 ton hot box for \$64,826 from Reynolds Warren. The dump trucks were bid out by public works and mowers, chipper, roller will be purchased through Source Well or Georgia State Contract. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
8. **December 2019 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the December 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. December 2019 collections of \$1,027,953 were 24.5% greater than budgeted collections of \$825,750. This was 12.6% greater than November 2019 collections of \$912,770. YTD December 2019 collections of \$11,159,405 were 5.7% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$10,561,298. TAVT collections for December 2019 were \$301,386 or 117.7% greater than December 2018 collections of \$138,448. YTD December 2019 collections of \$3,315,794, were 42.2% greater than same-period 2018 collections of \$2,332,070. Year to date December 2019 actual revenues of \$49,246,874, exceeded projected revenues of \$46,950,965, by \$2,295,909 or 4.9%. Year to date December 2019 actual expenditures of \$46,767,838 were greater than projected expenditures of \$46,318,814, by \$449,025, or 1.0%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
9. **City of Tunnel Hill Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 12-038-09-000 and 27-019-01-000. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker was in dissention.
10. **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 Larry Staten to rezone a tract of land (parcel 13-012-52-000) containing a total of 1.95 acres located at 161 and 173 Majestic Way Dalton, GA., from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Rural Residential (R-5). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720

11. **Special Use Permit – Verizon Wireless:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the Special Use permit for Verizon Wireless to construct and operate a 240' tall Self-Support telecommunications tower in an existing (GA) General Agriculture zone district. The site contains 40.6 acres and is located along the west R/W of New Hope Church Road. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Resolution – Supporting the Protection of Second Amendment Rights:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to adopt the Resolution declaring that Whitfield County will protect Second Amendment Constitutional rights and affirms that Whitfield County will respect and defend the Second Amendment rights of County Citizens. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.
13. **Pawnshop Permit Application – Neighborhood Pawn LLC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve a Pawnshop Permit for Mike Byrne/Neighborhood Pawn LLC, located at 3064 Cleveland Hwy. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
14. **City of Dalton De-Annexation Request from GA-Group LLC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to accept parcel no. 12-142-01-003 back into unincorporated Whitfield County if the City of Dalton approves the de-annexation request from GA-Group, LLC. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Lunsford who resides at 942 Sagamore Dr., asked the Board to enact a second amendment ordinance in Whitfield County.

Suzanne Baggett who resides at 104 Albertson Drive thanked the Board for supporting the second amendment and adopting the resolution.

Marvin Saylor who resides at 4409 Panorama Dr. NW also asked the Board to enact a second amendment ordinance in Whitfield County.

Billy Wilson who resides at 208 Mayfield Drive, also asked the Board to also enact a second amendment ordinance in Whitfield County.

James Green who resides at 4409 Panorama would also like the Board to enact an ordinance for second amendment rights.

Stephen Smith who resides at 1366 David Circle thanked the Board for adopting the resolution and asked the Board to consider a second amendment ordinance.

Abigail Cochran who resides at 1995 Tunnel Varnell Road asked the Board for a second amendment ordinance also. Ms. Cochran also thanked the Board for adopting the resolution and for their service to Whitfield County.

Chairman Laughter noted the Board approved a resolution in support of protecting second amendment rights.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /