

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020, 6:00 P.M. **BY ACCESSING THE FOLLOWING LINK [HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/25637515/EVENTS/7960637](https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637) AND VIA THE WHITFIELD COUNTY WEBSITE WWW.WHITFIELDCOUNTYGA.COM**

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that COVID-19 is frequently spread “[b]etween people who are in close contact with one another,” and on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States issued Guidelines for America, which encourage all persons to assist in containing COVID-19 by taking various precautions, including, but not limited to, working from home, avoiding social gatherings of ten (10) or more persons. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was simultaneously streamed online for real time viewing at the following link <https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637> and via the Whitfield County website www.whitfieldcountyga.com.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag

Roll call to determine quorum and all members participated via teleconference

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. Items 6. (d) District Attorney Vehicle Purchase and 6. (e) Capital Expenditure Vehicles – Lease agreement with Enterprise were removed from the agenda and the Proclamation for Isaiah Mack was postponed for a later date. 1 item from the potential additional items; (1. 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Amendment was added to the agenda.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the amendment of the agenda. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter and Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement

Chairman Laughter recognized Ms. Makenzie Cox as Employee of the Month for February 2020. Ms. Cox works in the Sheriff’s Office.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the minutes of March 9, 2020 regular business meeting, emergency called meeting of March 23, 2020 and special called meeting of April 1, 2020. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

PROCLAMATIONS:

- 1. National Public Safety Telecommunications Week** – Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to proclaim April 12 – 18, 2020 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
- 2. Proclamation –National Day of Prayer May 7, 2020:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to proclaim May 7, 2020 as National Day of Prayer in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020, 6:00 P.M. **BY ACCESSING THE FOLLOWING LINK [HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/25637515/EVENTS/7960637](https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637) AND VIA THE WHITFIELD COUNTY WEBSITE WWW.WHITFIELDCOUNTYGA.COM**

FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Letter of Support – Hallmark Development Partners, LLC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to issue a Letter of Support to Hallmark Development Partners, LLC for their proposed apartment community. The proposed apartments would be located off of Crow Valley Road, Dalton, GA on tax parcel 12-147-07-000 within Whitfield County, a selected Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins agreement.
2. **Supplemental Resolution - SPLOST Resolution Referendum Election Ballot:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to adopt the supplemental resolution to supplement the referendum resolution that was adopted on January 27, 2020, for a SPLOST referendum to be added to the ballot on the general primary election to be held on May 19, 2020. On March 14, 2020 the Governor declared a Public Health State of Emergency posed by the COVID-19 and the General Primary was postponed until June 9, 2020. Please see Exhibit “A” for a project list. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
3. **Resolution – Solid Waste Authority Transfer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Resolution authorizing a transfer of \$2.5M to the General Fund from the Dalton/Whitfield Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
4. **Superior Court - Veterans Court Grant:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve a grant for a Veterans Accountability/Treatment Court. The amount of the grant is \$44,493.00 and the purpose of this grant is to address offenders arrested for drug charges or mental health issues. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Robbins and Jones in agreement.
5. **Sheriff’s Office – Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Sheriff’s Office vehicle surplus of a 2000 E-250 Cargo Van and to list the vehicle on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved, 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
6. **Public Works – Rocky Face Trail Concrete:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the bid from Northwest Georgia Paving Company to install concrete header curbs at Rocky Face Ridge Park for \$11.00 per linear foot for the labor. Public Works will set the sub-grade and finish the concrete. NWGP was the only bid received. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
7. **Public Works – Rocky Face Trail ATV:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the purchase of a Polaris Sportsman All Terrain Vehicle in the amount of \$9,820.34. The ATV will be utilized by public works for daily maintenance of Rocky Face Ridge Park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020, 6:00 P.M. **BY ACCESSING THE FOLLOWING LINK [HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/25637515/EVENTS/7960637](https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637) AND VIA THE WHITFIELD COUNTY WEBSITE WWW.WHITFIELDCOUNTYGA.COM**

8. **Public Works – Old Dixie Hwy Arch Culvert:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to enter into a contract with Contech Engineering Solutions to construct an aluminum arch for \$70,197 and Contour Engineering Services for professional geotechnical services for \$5,500. Due to a collapsed pipe Old Dixie Hwy was closed on February 14, 2020. Public Works immediately began emergency purchase procedures to replace the pipe as this is a major commercial traffic route. This is a Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) project with an estimated cost of \$100,000. Whitfield County will have to match 30% for a total of \$35,000 that will come out of the County's general fund. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Fire Dept. Personal Protective Clothing Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid for turn out gear from MES for \$54,073.25. This includes 25 sets of gear plus any needed suspenders and name tags as priced at \$2162.93 each. This price is for the gear only. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
10. **February 2020 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the February 2020 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. February 2020 collections of \$851,569, were 7.9% less than budgeted collections of \$925,000. This was 1.4% less than January, 2020, collections of \$863,276. Year to date February 2020 collections of \$1,714,845, were 1.3% less than same-period 2019 collections of \$1,738,028. TAVT collections for February, 2020 were \$324,408, or 12.0% less than January, 2020 collections of \$368,454. Year to date February 2020 collections of \$692,862, were 96.9% greater than same-period 2019 collections of \$351,835. Year to date February, 2020 actual revenues of \$4,023,854, were less than projected revenues of \$4,205,374, by \$181,520, or 4.3%. Year to date February, 2020 actual expenditures of \$7,088,858, were less than projected expenditures of \$7,585,535, by \$496,676, or 6.5%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
11. **Finance – 2020 Budget Amendment#2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the 2020 budget amendment #2 as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. In discussion Garvin noted the proposed amendments are for expenditure increases for various departments related to temporary supplemental pay for emergency responders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For general fund departments and the Special Revenue E-911 fund, previously budgeted contingency funding will be utilized to cover the expense. For the Fire Department Special Tax District, their fund balance will be utilized. Total Budget Amendments = \$301,419. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter and Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
12. **GEFA Resolution:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to modify the loan agreement with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) to change the project completion date from May 2020 to July 2020. Inclement weather in the first quarter of the year has delayed project completion. 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.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020, 6:00 P.M. **BY ACCESSING THE FOLLOWING LINK [HTTPS://LIVESTREAM.COM/ACCOUNTS/25637515/EVENTS/7960637](https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637) AND VIA THE WHITFIELD COUNTY WEBSITE WWW.WHITFIELDCOUNTYGA.COM**

13. **Resolution – 401(a) Defined Contribution Plan Amendment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve an amendment to the 401(a) defined contribution benefit plan that was adopted on February 1, 2016. The amendment is to provide for full vesting for two participants who were employees of the Dalton-Whitfield County Joint Development Authority, as responsibility for their payroll and benefits was transferred to a different entity as of December 31, 2017. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /