

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE VIRTUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2020 AT 5:00 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](http://WWW.WHITFIELDCOUNTYGA.COM)**

**VIRTUAL – BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

The meeting was streamed online for public simultaneous access at Whitfield County's website [www.whitfieldcountyga.com](http://www.whitfieldcountyga.com). Whitfield County is currently under a public health state of emergency as the community responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to adhere to the guidelines set forth by the CDC; this virtual meeting was held through video teleconferencing. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(g) every effort will be made to have the public participate in the meeting and can be livestreamed using the following link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/25637515/events/7960637>.

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  
Greg Jones, Member

**Others Present:**

Mark Gibson, County Administrator  
Robert Smalley, County Attorney  
Department Heads

**Budget Public Hearing:**

Chairman Laughter noted the public hearing was advertised in the newspaper and the proposed 2021 budget is posted on the County's website. By State law, a public hearing is required prior to adoption of the budget. Chairman Laughter further stated several budget workshops were held and another budget public hearing will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 during the regular business meeting.

Chairman Laughter opened the 2021 Budget Public Hearing.

Finance Director James Garvin presented the overall status of the 2021 budget. The LOST agreement that became effective January 1, 2013 reduced the County's percentage every two years and decreased to 61.556% this year. Garvin further noted that beginning 2021 the County's LOST percentage will lower to 60.457%. Garvin also noted the revenues for 2021 are \$50,090,188 with expenditures of \$51,022,950.

There were no public comments, Chairman Laughter closed the hearing.

**ADJOURN:** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /