

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M. AT EDWARDS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 115 EDWARDS PARK, DALTON, GA

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Whitfield County is currently under a public health state of emergency as the community responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and in keeping with guidelines on public gatherings by Governor Kemp's Executive Orders 05.28.20.01 & 05.28.20.02 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: this meeting will be open to the public with social distancing measures in effect. Attendees will be seated with six (6) feet of spacing between them and seating for the meeting is limited to 25 persons. Due to reduced seating capacity the meeting will also 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
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 Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Chris Patterson, as Employee of the Month for April 2020. Mr. Patterson works at the Sheriff's Office.

PROCLAMATION:

Chairman Laughter presented the Proclamation to Isaiah Mack's mother Sequoyah Mack as he was at training camp in Nashville. Chairman Laughter noted Mack was a student at Northwest Whitfield High School in Tunnel Hill and graduated in 2014, he was defensive player of the year and made the all-state team during his Junior and Senior years. Mack went on to the University of Chattanooga where he was named Southern Conference Defensive Player in 2018. Mack went undrafted in the 2019 NFL draft but signed as a free agent with the Tennessee Titans, and appeared 13 times during his rookie season. Mack is the first player from Northwest Whitfield to make an NFL roster.

Proclamation – Isaiah Mack Appreciation Day: Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to proclaim June 8, 2020 Isaiah Mack Appreciation Day in Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter and Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Laughter called a Public Hearing for the closing and abandoning a portion of Todd Road.

There being no comments or questions, Chairman Laughter declared the public hearing closed.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020 regular business meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M. AT EDWARDS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 115 EDWARDS PARK, DALTON, GA

BOARD APPOINTMENT

Appointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to appoint Eric Barr to the Dalton-Whitfield Planning Commission. Mr. Barr will fill the unexpired term of Mitch Sanford which will expire on July 10, 2022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1. Resolution to Close a Portion of Todd Road:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to close a portion of Todd Road and deed over to Shaw Industries Group, Inc. The road is declared closed for public purposes and abandoned as a section of the County road system such that rights of the public in and to the road shall cease. The motion also approved the conveying of a portion of the road to Shaw Industries Group, Inc. Shaw Industries Group, Inc., petitioned the County on May 11, 2020 at their regular business meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
- 2. Town of Cohutta Annexation Request – 11-073-03-000:** Motion was made to approve the request by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-073-03-000. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker dissented.
- 3. Buildings & Grounds – Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the vehicle surplus of a 1993 F-450 Dump Truck and to list the vehicle on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved, 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
- 4. Transit – 5311 Grant Supplement (CARES Act):** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the supplemental agreement and authorize Chairman Laughter to sign the agreement. The CARES Act provides funding for rural transit agencies to pay for all COVID-19 related expenses including salaries. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
- 5. 2018 Audit Presentation – Mauldin & Jenkins:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to accept the 2018 Audit Presentation from Mauldin and Jenkins. In discussion, James Bense from Mauldin and Jenkins gave a brief summary to the Board regarding the 2018 audit. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
- 6. April 2020 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the April 2020 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: Per the IGA, the County's LOST percentage for 2020 remains at 61.556%. It was last adjusted from 63.752% to 62.653% in 2017, down from a starting point in 2013 of 64.851%. The rate will next adjust downward in 2021. April 2020 collections of \$861,257 were 6.9% less than budgeted collections of \$925,000. This was 6.5% less than March 2020, collections of \$921,146. YTD April, 2020 collections of \$3,497,249, were 4.2% less than same-period 2019 collections of \$3,651,291. TAVT collections for April 2020 were \$245,207, or 43.3% less than March 2020 collections of \$432,488. This was a 25.6% decrease from March to April, when factoring out annual IRP

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M. AT EDWARDS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 115 EDWARDS PARK, DALTON, GA

registration fees, received in March. YTD April 2020 collections of \$1,370,556, were 46.0% greater than same-period 2019 collections of \$938,663. YTD April 2020 actual revenues of \$11,770,365, were greater than projected revenues of \$9,607,201, by \$2,163,164, or 22.5%. Factoring out the DWRSWMA \$2.5M dividend, actual revenues were less than projected revenues by \$336,836, or 3.5%. YTD April 2020 actual expenditures of \$14,512,017 were less than projected expenditures of \$15,288,587, by \$776,569 or 5.1%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins.

- 7. **GA Dept. of Natural Resources – LWCF Grant Agreement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the GA Department of Natural Resources (LWCF) Grant for the Rocky Face Ridge Park for \$77,000. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant will cover half the cost of construction to develop driveway & parking lot, restrooms, picnic pavilion & develop existing lake into a fish habitat. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement

PUBLIC COMMENT

Parks and Recreation Director Brian Chastain informed the Board of a recent survey by online publication Connect Magazine rated the Westside Park Disc Golf Course one of the top four courses in the United States.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /