

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020, 6:00 P.M. AT 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to amend the agenda to allow Ed Painter to speak on the TAD resolution prior to the Board taking action on it. A vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Brooker, Jones and Robbins voting to amend the agenda. Chairman Laughter and Commissioner Crossen dissented. The motion failed.**

**Motion was then made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen and Robbins in agreement**

**Chairman Laughter recognized Ms. Maria Pack as Employee of the Month for January 2020. Ms. Pack works in the Sheriff's Office as a Criminal Scene Investigator.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the February 10, 2020 regular business, and February 24, 2020 work session meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

**FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. Chairman Laughter discussed appointing a Commission member to act as liaison between the County and Library. Laughter noted the liaison would keep the Board updated on the Library's operations. The members of the Commission were in favor of appointing a liaison.
2. Chairman Laughter appointed Commissioner Crossen to act a liaison for the Dalton Whitfield County Library.
3. **EMA – Pre-Application Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan update grant pre-application. The plan has to be updated every five years. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
4. **EMA – Weather Radio Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of 600 Weather Radios from the low bidder, Baker's Communication for \$14,940. This purchase will be paid out of the GEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant 4259-0009 that was awarded to Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.

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5. **Information Technology:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the renewal of antivirus software with End Point Protection Solution from WrightCore for \$24,496.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Crossen, Brooker and Jones in agreement.
6. **Fire Department – Automatic Aid Agreement – City of Dalton:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Dalton. Fire Chief Edward O'Brien noted the agreement establishes mutually beneficial response areas. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioner Crossen, Robbins, Jones and Brooker in agreement.
7. **Intergovernmental Agreement – First Appearance Bond Hearings:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for First Appearances Bond Hearings with Whitfield County, the City of Dalton and Whitfield County Magistrate Court. The agreement states that the County and Whitfield County Magistrate Court agree to provide appearance bond hearings for defendants detained at the Whitfield County Jail whose cases are pending in the Dalton Municipal Court, the City of Dalton shall pay the County fifteen (\$15.00) per inmate for whom such appearance bond services are provided. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
8. **January 2020 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the January 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 is 61.556%. January 2020 collections of \$863,276 were 6.7% less than budgeted collections of \$925,000. YTD January 2020 collections of \$863,276 were 2.1% less than same-period 2019 collections of \$882,237. TAVT collections for January 2020 were \$368,454 or 22.3% greater than December 2019 collections of \$301,386. YTD January 2020 collections of \$368,454 were 102.3% greater than same-period 2019 collections of \$182,173. Year to date January 2020 actual revenues of \$1,997,851 were less than projected revenues of \$2,388,429 by \$284,000 or 12.5%. Year to date January 2020 actual expenditures of \$3,576,251 were less than projected expenditures of \$3,782,955, by \$206,704, or 5.5%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
9. **Finance – Budget Amendment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to amend the budget to allocate an additional \$57,021 to the Dalton-Whitfield Library. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter and Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.
10. **City of Varnell Annexation Request – 11-188-16-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-188-16-000. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker dissented.

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11. **Town of Cohutta Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers 11-101-01-007, 11-101-01-004, 11-047-11-000, 11-027-04-000 and 11-027-05-000. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker dissented.
12. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the rezoning request of Grady Griggs to rezone a tract of land (parcel 08-002-02-011) containing a total of 2.64 acres located at Shelby Drive, Dalton, Georgia from General Agriculture (GA) to Single Family Residential (R-2). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
13. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to deny the rezoning request of Angie Johnson to rezone a tract of land (parcel 28-307-19-000) containing a total of .38 acres located at 3914 Hwy 41, Tunnel Hill, Georgia from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Commercial (C-2). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
14. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the rezoning request of Hubert and Donna Gibson to rezone a tract of land (parcel 13-012-08-000) containing a total of 5.05 acres located at 201 Polk Drive, Dalton, Georgia from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Single Family Residential (R-2). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
15. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to deny the rezoning request of Eric and Robin Jenkins to rezone a tract of land (parcel 12-313-02-032) containing a total of .96 acres located at Stewart Street, Dalton, Georgia from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Commercial (C-2). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Crossen, and Robbins in agreement.
16. **Resolution – TADS:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve a Resolution for the Local Legislation for Redevelopment Powers. The motion authorized a Resolution for Whitfield County to request the local legislative delegation of Whitfield County to introduce and sponsor in the 2020 session of the Georgia General Assembly, a bill to become a local law. The law would authorize (subject to approval at the November 2020 general election), Whitfield County to exercise redevelopment powers under the Redevelopment Powers Act. During the discussion, County Attorney Robert Smalley explained the Redevelopment Powers act would authorize Whitfield County to enact Tax Allocation Districts (TADs) for the purpose of redeveloping economically and socially depressed areas, when found in the best interest of the community. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed Painter addressed the Board about implementing a TAD (Tax Allocation District) in unincorporated Whitfield County. Painter noted if a TAD is created, it should be limited specifically to only blighted locations already in existence.

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Director of Tourism for the Dalton Convention and Visitors Bureau Margaret Thigpen informed the Board of several upcoming events in the area to increase tourism.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /