

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MAY 11, 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

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. Item No. 11 Professional Engineering Services was removed from the agenda.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones 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

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Chairman Laughter called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage License for Paul’s Place located at 1318 Riverbend Road, Dalton, GA.

No comments or concerns were called in, Chairman Laughter declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Laughter then called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Dixie’s Corner Mart located at 2101 S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA.

No comments and concerns were called in, Chairman Laughter declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Laughter then called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Corner Mart located at 1910 S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA.

No comments or concerns were called in, Chairman Laughter declared the public hearing closed.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Alcohol Beverage License Applications:**

- a. Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage License for Paul's Place located at 1318 Riverbend Road, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
- b. Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Dixie's Corner Mart located at 2101 S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
- c. Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Corner Mart located at 1910 S. Dixie Hwy, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

2. **Petition to Close a portion of Todd Road:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to accept the petition and to hold a public hearing to close a portion of Todd Road, located in Land Lot 332 of the 12th district and 3rd section of Whitfield County, Georgia. The public hearing for this petition will be held at the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting on June 8, 2020, at which time a decision can be made on whether or not to close and abandon a portion of Todd Road. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Brooker, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

3. **Town of Cohutta Annexation Request – 11-046-03-000:** 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 11-046-03-000. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker dissented.

4. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the **request of Gabriela Rubio to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling .46 acres located at 1409 Antioch Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-279-04-006).** The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.

5. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the request **of Brookside Holdings, LLC to rezone from General Agricultural (GA) to Single Family Residential (R-2) a tract of land totaling 75 acres more or less located at GA. Hwy. 2 and Prospect Road, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcel (10-141-01-000).** The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.

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6. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the denial of **Karen Greens request to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Commercial (C-2) a tract of land totaling 0.24 acres located at 121 Williams Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-051-36-002).** The Planning Commission has recommended the Board deny the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the request of Kelly Putnam to rezone from General Agricultural (GA) to Single Family Residential (R-2) a tract of land totaling 6.04 acres located at George Brock Road and Old Dixie Highway, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (13-170-04-000). The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve the rezoning. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Jones, Robbins, and Crossen in agreement.
8. **Sheriff's Office – Planetary Mixer Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to award the low bid of \$20,159.76 from Citisco Corp. for a Hobart Industrial Planetary Mixer. The planetary mixer required for this bid was a Hobart Model Number HL600C-2STD. Bids were received from several vendors that are qualified suppliers under Hobart Corporation. We have confirmed that all of these companies are approved vendors through Hobart (the manufacturer) but the lowest bid is out of Pennsylvania and the second lowest bid is out of Duluth, Ga. The difference is only about \$159 for a product which will cost over 20k. We are concerned with service costs or similar issues if there is a problem with the product or installation. These would certainly outweigh the \$159 savings. Upon review, the Sheriff's Office requests to award the bid to Citisco, a company from Duluth, GA. The total price of this purchase would be \$20,159.76. The Office would provide the majority of these funds through the approved capital line. The remainder (\$409.76) would be paid from federal grant funding(SCAAP).The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Brooker, Crossen and Jones in agreement.
9. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 Change Order #1:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the first change order request for \$27,549.88 from NW Ga Paving for the Hwy 201 project. It contains two items. The first is for farm fencing on R/W parcel 6. We are splitting this pasture in two. Part of the R/W agreement with the property owner was that we would provide fencing along both sides of the new road. We decided it would be easier to coordinate this work with the road construction activity if we let NWGP sub it out. This expense was planned, but was not in NWGP's contract. The fence meets GDOT Standard Detail F4 for R/W fencing. The second item is demolition and removal of an old mobile home that was found to be on the R/W. We previously judged that it was off the R/W in a densely wooded thicket, but subsequent clearing and surveys found it to be on the R/W. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
10. **Engineering – Project 3.7 SR 201 North Georgia EMC Utility Relocation Expense:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the utility relocation expense of \$25,270 payable to North Georgia EMC. Part of the SR 201 Extension project is widening of US 41 to accommodate turn lanes. This widening conflicts with existing power poles owned by NGEMC. Through our existing relocation agreement with NGEMC, the County will pay for materials and NGEMC will pay for labor and transportation cost associated with the relocations. The County's share will be \$25,270.00. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

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11. **Parks & Recreation – Edwards Park Parking Lot Lights:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the low bid from Southeastern Lighting and Electric of \$108,000 for parking lot lights at Edwards Park. Three bids were received: Southeastern Lighting and Electric \$108,000, West Ga lighting \$140,000 and Over and Under Contractors \$169,665. These are the bids for the parking lot for the Edwards Park Community Center. The lowest bidder is a local contractor. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker, and Robbins in agreement.
12. **Public Works – Surplus Equipment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the equipment surplus of a 1993 Brush Bandit 250 Wood Chipper and a 2014 Stepp Pothole Patcher and to list the items on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved, 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
13. **March 2020 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the March 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. March 2020 collections of \$921,146 were 0.4% less than budgeted collections of \$925,000. This was 8.2% greater than February 2020, collections of \$851,569. YTD March, 2020 collections of \$2,635,992, were 2.7% less than same-period 2019 collections of \$2,709,240. *TAVT collections for March 2020 were \$432,488, or 33.3% greater than February 2020 collections of \$324,408. YTD March 2020 collections of \$1,125,349, were 58.7% greater than same-period 2019 collections of \$709,257. *YTD March 2020 actual revenues of \$7,771,203 were less than projected revenues of \$7,961,546, by \$190,343, or 2.4%. *YTD March 2020 actual expenditures of \$10,888,476 were less than projected expenditures of \$11,401,249, by \$512,773, or 4.5%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins.
14. **State Paid County Reimbursed Personnel (SPCR) Contract Extension:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the contract extension of the District Attorney's office from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for \$564,443.27. The DA's office personnel are in the process of transitioning from State of Georgia employees to Whitfield County employees. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Crossen and Jones in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were called in.

ADJOURN Unanimous

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /