

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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 09.30.20.01 & 09.30.20.02 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 50 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 Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to amend the agenda to add two potential additional items; 1. Whitfield County Fleet Maintenance Program, 2. Pat Brown & Angela Langley – 911 Address Change. The motion was approved 5-0, with Chairman Laughter and Commissioners Jones, Crossen, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.**

**Chairman Laughter recognized Mr. Michael Brian Dial as Employee of the Month for August 2020. Mr. Dial works at the Sheriff's Office and is a School Resource Officer at Northwest Whitfield High School.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular business meeting. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve request of Cecil William to rezone from General Agricultural (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 24.74 acres located at 1919 E. Emerson Road, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcel (10-034-07-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
- Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Zenas and Connie Mastin to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to High Density Residential (R-7) a tract of land totaling 1.18 acres located at 2215 Cleveland Highway, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-103-11-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
- Rezoning Recommendations:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Crow Road Holdings to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Low Density Single

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Family Residential (R-2) a tract of land totaling 27.50 +/- acres located at Reed Road/Lake Kathy Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (11-258-01-000). The rezoning was approved based on the understanding that other County departments would be responsible for determining if access to Reed Road could be accommodated safely. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

4. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Isabel Ochoa Gil to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) a tract of land totaling 0.34 acres located at 2605 Old Grade Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-243-01-185). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
5. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Timothy and Kimberly Heyworth to rezone from Suburban Agricultural (SA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 3.82 acres located at 170 Willowbrook Way, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcel (11-174-03-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
6. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of David Phillips to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Commercial (C-2) a tract of land totaling 7.99 acres located at 2415 S. Dixie Highway, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-334-06-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
7. **Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the request of Rickey and Camilla Jeffery to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 9.74 acres located at 4720 Mitchell Bridge Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (09-147-07-000). The rezoning was approved with the condition of no animal husbandry on the property. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
8. **City of Tunnel Hill Annexation Requests:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 28-307-03-000, 28-307-12-003, 28-307-15-000, 12-001-01-018, 12-038-05-001, 12-038-05-009, 11-324-12-000, 11-324-22-000, and 11-324-34-000. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker dissented.
9. **City of Varnell Annexation Requests – 11-263-01-183 & 11-263-01-022:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-263-01-183 & 11-263-01-022. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement. Commissioner Brooker dissented.
10. **Information Technology Vehicle Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded from Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford F150 Crew Cab LT from Ford of Dalton for \$37,467.00. The IT Department requested an additional vehicle for travel to County sites to complete service call and work orders. There is also a need for a truck to

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pick up or move equipment that will not fit in an SUV. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

11. **E911 – CAD Interface License Fee:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to accept and approve the purchase of the APCO/IntelliComm license fee for \$14,300.00 from Center Square. This license fee is for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) interface that enables the software to communicate with our current CAD system. This purchase will be sole source to our CAD vendor, Central Square. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Crossen and Robbins in agreement.
12. **EMA Mobile Command Unit RFP:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to allow Emergency Management Agency Director Claude Craig to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Mobile Command Unit for the EMA Department. The motion was approved 3-1, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, and Brooker in agreement. Commissioner Robbins dissented.
13. **Fire Department – Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the surplus of a 1990 International 1500-gallon water tender and a 1985 International 1500-gallon water tender and to list them on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved, 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Brooker, Robbins and Crossen in agreement.
14. **Fire Department – Operations Management System:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of two modules from Operations Management Systems for \$17,847.15. These new modules will allow greater efficiency in the departmental records keeping. From one location, personnel can complete vehicle checks, maintenance requests, inventory apparatus, inventory medical supplies, record hydrant testing information, request time off and maintain a daily staffing roster. This system will move the department into the electronic age and allow for accurate reporting and data reviews. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Robbins, Jones and Crossen in agreement.
15. **Engineering – Ratify Tax Commissioner Building Design Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to ratify the bid from Graphite Construction LLC for \$97,500.00 for renovation of the space within the Tax Commissioners building located at Riverburch Way. The work will include demolition and construction of walls, finish work, electrical, and minor plumbing. Graphite Construction, LLC was the lowest qualified bidder. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
16. **County Lease – Rocky Face Ridge House:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the renewal of the lease for the Rocky Face Ridge house with Lennie C. Holbert. The house is located at 2231 Crow Valley Road. The lease will terminate on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
17. **August 2020 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the August 2020 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: August 2020 collections of \$906,403 were 2.0% less than budgeted collections of \$925,000. Unanticipated LOST collections of \$817,643 were received as the result of a Georgia Department of Revenue sales tax audit of a large, unidentified Georgia company. These proceeds are related to the years 2015 -2018. This was 0.5% greater than July 2020 collections of \$902,194. YTD August 2020 collections net of

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unanticipated LOST proceeds of \$817,643 - of \$7,267,623 were 1.4% less than same-period 2019 collections of \$7,367,379. TAVT collections for August 2020 were \$387,005. This was 14.0% less than July 2020 collections of \$449,922. YTD August 2020 collections of \$2,983,070 were 51.4% greater than same-period 2019 collections of \$1,970,850. YTD August 2020 actual revenues of \$21,225,720 were greater than projected revenues of \$20,668,811 by \$556,908 or 2.7%. Factoring out the unanticipated LOST receipts, actual YTD revenues were less than projected revenues of \$20,668,811 by \$260,734 or 1.3%. YTD August 2020 actual expenditures of \$30,881,330 were less than projected expenditures of \$32,054,378 by \$1,173,049 or 3.7%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones, and Robbins in agreement.

18. **Parks & Recreation Vehicle Purchase:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the purchase of a Ford Ranger Truck from Ford of Dalton for \$25,510.00 using a state contract. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
19. **Edwards Park – Athletic Fields Turf bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the bid from Shaw Sports Turf for Edwards Park Baseball Infield turf for \$147,099 and Westside Baseball Infield turf for \$190,858. The purchase is being made by Shaw Sports Turf Field Direct Purchasing Program using Sourcewell Contract # 060518-SII. The motion was approved 3-2, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen and Chairman Laughter in agreement. Commissioner Jones and Robbins dissented.
20. **Dog Design Park & Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to put out to bid a dog park & design for Edwards Park. Chairman Laughter noted that in December 2017 Betty Jane Edwards Foster and Smith Foster donated 5 acres adjacent to Edwards Park to Whitfield County for soccer fields. Chairman Laughter went on to say a regulation sized soccer field would not fit on the land and would ask if the Commissioners would be willing to bid a dog park and design to be put there instead. Chairman Laughter further noted the bid would be put out only if the Fosters agree to remove the soccer stipulation from the deed. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
21. **Resolution – Transfer of Property to State of Georgia:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to approve the resolution to convey County owned real property located off Wagner Drive to the State of Georgia for the public purpose of constructing and operating a permanent facility for the Department of Drivers Services. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Crossen, Jones, Brooker and Robbins in agreement.
22. **Road Acceptance – Bent Tree Road:** Motion was made by Commissioner Crossen and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept Bent Tree Road into the County road system. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
23. **CARES Act Funding Request – Dalton/Whitfield Library:** Dalton/Whitfield Library Board Trustee Kathryn Sellers and Library Director Darla Chambliss spoke in regards to requesting of CARES Act Grant Funding from both the City of Dalton and Whitfield County. County Administrator Mark Gibson was directed to look into the pricing of needed items.

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- 24. **Public Works – Whitfield County Fleet Maintenance Program:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Crossen to postpone this item until next month, until a vehicle purchase policy could be developed. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Crossen, Jones and Robbins in agreement.
  
- 25. Pat Brown and Angela Langley spoke to the Board about a 911-address change. Ms. Langley informed the Board that back in December of 2019 their address was changing. Ms. Brown and Ms. Langley noted they do not want to have their address changed; they have lived at that address for over 100 years. The Board informed them the purpose of the change was done by the Whitfield County Road Addressing Ordinance to ensure continued public health and safety.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /