

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE WINK THEATRE LOCATED AT 115 W. CRAWFORD STREET

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:

Jevin Jensen, Chairman
Barry W. Robbins, Vice-Chair
Robby Staten, Member
John Thomas, Member
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Robert Sivick, County Administrator
Department Heads
Citizens
Press

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the November 8, 2021 Regular Business Meeting minutes with correction to Commission Staten's last name. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Jensen recognized Ms. Paula Walker as Employee of the Month for October 2021. Ms. Walker works at the Parks and Recreation Department.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Jensen thanked the members of the Board for their hard work this year and wished them all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Report from Commissioners:

Commissioners Jones, Staten, Robbins and Thomas did not have any updates to report for this month.

County Administrator Report:

County Administrator Robert Sivick noted he is looking into centralized purchasing for County offices and that an educational session on tax allocation districts (TAD) will be held in January.

October 2021 Financial Statement: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the October 2021 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) October collections of \$1,056,364 were 3.5% greater than budgeted collections of \$1,020,833. This was 1.25% less than August collections of \$1,070,140. YTD collections of \$10,552,106 were 4.75% greater than PY collections of \$10,073,040 for the same time frame. TAVT collections: October collections of \$389,931 were 11% less than September collections of \$437,528. YTD collections of \$4,410,880 were 17.25% greater than PY collections of \$3,762,229 for the same time frame. YTD actual revenues of \$25,763,695 were greater than projected revenues of \$25,002,353 by \$761,342 or 3%. YTD actual expenditures of \$40,544,305 were less than projected expenditures of \$41,875,751 by \$1,331,447 or 3.25%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments on agenda items.

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Public Hearing:

Chairman Jensen called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an alcohol license application for GKU 1 Inc., d/b/a Kangaroo Express located at 2622 Chattanooga Rd, Rocky Face.

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

Chairman Jensen then called a public hearing on the petition for closing Tiarco Road to order.

There were no speakers for or against the road closing; Chairman Jensen closed the public hearing.

Alcohol Beverage License Application: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the alcohol beverage application for GKU 1 Inc. d/b/a Kangaroo Express located at 2622 Chattanooga Rd, Rocky Face, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Close and Abandon Tiarco Road: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to close and abandon Tiarco Road located in Land Lot Nos. 66, 79, and 80 in the 13th district and 3rd section of Whitfield County, Georgia and issue a quit claim deed. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Appointment to the North GA Community Action Board: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to table this item. The Board also requested any interested individuals who may want to serve on the Community Action Board to get in contact with any Commissioner. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Alcohol License Renewals - 2022: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the 2022 Alcohol License Renewals. The Sheriff's Office conducted background investigations on all establishments currently in operation and holding a 2021 Alcohol License; one application did not pass the background check and was not renewed for 2022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

City of Varnell Annexation – parcel 11-263-01-179: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins for no land use classification objection to tax parcel 11-263-01-179. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendations: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the following rezoning requests recommended by the planning commission: request of Nicholas Daddona Jr. and Louise Daddona to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 6.23 acres located at 2631 Deep Springs Road, NE, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (10-251-09-000), request of Arturo Pintor and Edgar Corhejo Pintor to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 1.08 acres located at 98 Roberts Drive, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-127-04-001). Shoal Ventures requested to have their rezoning application sent back to the planning commission for another public hearing. Shoal Ventures will ask to rezone a tract of land totaling 16.11 acres located at Haignill Lake Road, Dalton, Georgia, Parcel (12-107-04-000) from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Planned Unit Development (instead of R-7). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

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Resolution – Opioid Settlement: Motion was approved by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to ratify the resolution agreeing to be bound by the memorandum of understanding between the State of Georgia and certain local government entities concerning the national distributor and J&J settlements and directing the execution of the “acknowledgment and agreement to be bound by memorandum of understanding,” The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

ARPA Funding Eligible Expenditures: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve ARPA funding for specified expenses already paid for by Whitfield County in 2021, reimburse general fund \$1,617,265. Future expenses of \$791,850 are expected to occur. Total 2,409,115 transfer Whitfield County has received funds through the American Rescue Plan which are restricted to certain eligible uses incurred after March 2021 and through December 2024. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

Ratify Sewer Infrastructure Grant: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the application for a sewer infrastructure grant from Georgia’s State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF). The total project cost is \$15,422,250 of which \$7,005,000 would be funded by the grant. Of the remainder, \$7,005,000 would be funded by the County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, \$1,401,000 would be in-kind services provided by Dalton Utilities, and \$11,250 would be in-kind admin services provided by the County. The five projects included in the grant will provide sewer infrastructure along Cleveland Hwy, Carbondale, Connector 3, Crider Rd, Tibbs Bridge to Riverbend, and Command Dr. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

Fire Department Declaration of Surplus for Govdeals.com: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the declaration of surplus of: 1) 1996 International Tanker - 4900 Model. (4750 hours and 43,000 miles) underutilized vehicle. 2) 1995 International Pumper- 4900 Model. Unit has not passed pump test. (5600 hours and 85,000 miles) 3) Miscellaneous ground ladders that have not passed annual test/inspection. 4) Gamber Johnson MCT mount- style no longer used. 5) Small lot of outdated hand tools/apparatus equipment. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Engineering – Ratify Courthouse Renovation Change Order #3: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the ratification of this change order. The amount of the change order is \$285,855. A portion of the audio/video equipment in the main courtroom (\$16,326) is an eligible ARPA expense. The remainder (\$269,529) is a 2020 SPLOST expense and fits within the original project budget. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Engineering Department – Tax Commissioner Parking Lot Bid Award: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the bid to Bartow Paving Co. Inc. for \$225,898. This bid is for the construction of a parking lot for the new Tax Commissioner building on Riverburch Pkwy to provide employee and overflow parking. The work will include clearing, grading, and the construction of base, paving, and curb/gutter, as well as the required stormwater management facilities. The lot will contain a minimum of 36 spaces. The connection to Riverburch is designed to City of Dalton street standards and may be adopted as a City street in the future. Four (4) bids were received, with the lowest qualified bidder being Bartow Paving Company, Inc. at \$234,990.94. We performed some "value engineering" and were able to change the drainage design to save \$9,000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

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Parks and Recreation Department – Purchase of (2) Cleaning Carts: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to purchase the cleaning carts using Sourcewell Account #29873. Cost for both carts is \$23,923.88 using 2020 SPLOST funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones, Robbins and Staten in agreement

Public Works Department 2022 Bids: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the following bids for Public Works. The Public Works Department recently received bids for 4 items that are bid on a yearly basis. Concrete and Concrete Accessories. Recommend the award go to Murray Mix Concrete for 2022. +6%, Crushed Stone, recommend the award go to Vulcan Materials for 2022, +7%, Road Striping (aka Pavement Markings) recommend Peek Pavement Markings, +25% increase over 2021, Tandem Truck and Operator recommend the award goes to both Dalton Rock, LLC and Wheat Trucking, Dalton Rock, LLC will get the first call/priority based on their price and pending their availability. \$70 and \$75 per hour. These awards are based on yearly budgeted amounts. Concrete, Crushed Stone and Road Striping have individual line items. Tandem Trucks are usually LMIG and SPLOST. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Public Works – GPS Service and Installation: Motion was approved by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to purchase GPS service & installation for Cal Amp Wireless Network for \$22,114.14. Fleet Analytics, was the lowest bidder, but only has one employee, also will have to sub-contract all installation and repairs, for the term of the service. Cal Amp is second lowest bigger and larger, more stable firm. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

2022 Budget Adoption: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the 2022 budget of approximately \$48.1 million in revenue. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Finance – 2021 Budget Amendment: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the 2021 budget amendment. The budget amendment includes moving \$500,000 from General fund surplus to pre-pay a portion of the 2022 pension estimate. Transfer \$754,500 (\$826,278 is total capital including tax districts) of surplus to Capital fund for future improvements. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Requesting Local Delegation to Introduce Local Legislation Regarding the Proposed Commissioner District Map: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to request local delegation to introduce local legislation regarding the proposed new Commissioner District Map. The Board must review commissioner lines every 10 years following the census, the map shows the district lines for the Board of Commissioners and will not displace any of the current Commissioners. Whitfield County will ask the local delegation to introduce legislation in the January 2022 general session; lines must be approved by the Georgia General Assembly. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

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ARP Premium Pay: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve two payments of \$2,500 to Sheriff Deputies, Fire fighters and 911 through COVID crisis. To show our appreciation and improve retention among these important groups, payments will be made in December 2021 and February 2022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones, Robbins, and Staten in agreement.

Sheriff's Office Axon Fleet in Car & Body Camera Systems: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner to approve and purchase Axon Fleet in-car video & body camera systems and enter into a 5-year contract for \$1,168,043 total with discount for paying first two years in advance (\$437,217). Pay first two years up front to save \$50,000. With the earlier approved ARP reimbursement, use a portion of that money to fund upgrades, expansion, and maintenance to Axon body, vehicle and interview room video capture systems. Gives citizens peace of mind and protects deputies against false claims. Annual costs \$243,608, current cost is \$107,627 maintenance only. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /