

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, JUNE 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:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Citizens
Department Heads
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 Jones, Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the May 10, 2021 regular business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Jensen recognized Mr. Jason Sullivan as Employee of the Month for April 2021. Mr. Sullivan works at the Sheriff's Office.

PROCLAMATION

Whitfield High Schools Soccer Champions – Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to ratify the proclamation of May 19, 2021 as “Southeast Raiders, Coahulla Creek Colts and Dalton Catamounts Day in Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Judy Alderman with the Whitfield County Historic Preservation Commission for their recent award from the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society. They were awarded for their preserving 1000 acres in Whitfield County.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chairman Jensen called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding alcohol license applications Don Lolos Mexican Restaurant – 3590 S. Dixie Hwy, Quality Convenience Mart – 519 Reed Road, Cracker Barrel #5 – 938 Market Street, Autry's Diner – 4111 S. Dixie Hwy Unit 9000 and Brotherhood Billiards – 4111 S. Dixie Hwy Unit 4000. Jensen noted background checks have not been returned to the Board from Autry's Diner, Brotherhood Billiards and Cracker Barrel.

Rick Autry from Autry's Diner & Brotherhood Billiards spoke to the BOC in regards to his applications. Mr. Autry noted they have completed the paperwork and had their fingerprints taken this morning at the Sheriff's Office for completion of their applications.

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

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Chairman's Report: Chairman Jensen updated the Board and attendees on the County's continuing response to COVID-19. Jensen noted hospitalization and new cases decreased and vaccinations increased in our area. Jensen informed the Board and attendees suggestions that have been received from the public for the American Rescue Plan Recovery Funds for Local and State agencies. Jensen said among those received are sewer expansion, HVAC upgrades, mobile vaccinations and broadband expansion. Jensen reported that they have asked for comments from the public on the proposed changes to the R-5 zoning.

Report from Commissioners:

Commissioner Thomas, Jones and Staten did not have any updates to report for this month. Commissioner Robbins informed the Board the Dalton-Whitfield Library is currently in phase 5 of its reopening process.

Report from County Administrator:

County Administrator Mark Gibson updated the Board on the progress of SPLOST and capital improvement projects.

April 2021 Financial Statement: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the April 2021 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections the County's LOST percentage has adjusted downward from 61.555 to 60.457%, effective January 2021. April collections of \$1,076,511 were 12.25% greater than budgeted collections of \$958,333. This was 12% less than March collections of \$1,224,371. YTD collections of \$4,123,459 were 18% greater than PY collections of \$3,497,249 for the same time frame. TAVT collections April collections of \$468,300 were 25% less than March collections of \$624,525. YTD collections of \$1,784,983 were 30.25% greater than PY collections of \$1,370,556 for the same time frame. YTD actual revenues of \$11,050,191 were greater than projected revenues of \$10,153,845 by \$896,346 or 8.75%. YTD actual expenditures of \$14,994,947 were less than projected expenditures of \$15,728,725 by \$733,778 or 4.75%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Alcohol Beverage License Application – Don Lolos Mexican Restaurant: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage License for Don Lolos Mexican Restaurant located at 3590 South Dixie Road, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas, Staten and Jones in agreement.

Alcohol Beverage License Application – Quality Convenience Mart: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the Alcohol Beverage Application for a Malt Beverage/Wine License for Quality Convenience Mart located at 519 Reed Road, Dalton, GA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Malt Beverage License Applications – Autry's Diner, Brotherhood Billiards and Cracker Barrel: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to table the Alcohol Beverage Applications for Autry's Diner located at 4111 S. Dixie Hwy Ste. 9000, Brotherhood Billiards located at 4111 S. Dixie Hwy Ste. 4000 and Cracker Barrel located at 938 Market Street Dalton, GA. The background checks and investigation reports have not been received from the Sheriff's Office yet; the Board noted they could call a special called meeting when the reports are submitted to the Board. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

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City of Dalton Annexation – parcel 12-179-02-056: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-179-02-056. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

Finance – 2020 Budget Amendment: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve a 2020 budget amendment of \$301,393.50 for COVID -19 Hazard Pay to the Fire Department as presented by Finance Director, James Garvin. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

Finance – 2021 Budget Amendment: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve a 2021 budget amendment of \$30,791.00 transferred to capital projects for a vehicle for the Public Works Department. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Thomas, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Finance – Payment to Dalton City-Service Delivery Agreement: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the \$200,000 payment to the City of Dalton per the Service Delivery Agreement approved in 2020 for road paving. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Thomas, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Engineering Department – Supplemental Design Maple Grove Intersection: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the supplemental design work order from Atlas for \$21,190.00. Atlas prepared the plans for construction on the intersection and submitted them to GDOT. GDOT is requiring the County to redesign the current entrance to Edwards Park and address drainage issues. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

Engineering Department – Architectural Services Contract Library Renovations: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept the proposal of \$160,000 and enter into contract with Carter-Watkins for architectural services. Carter-Watkins will design the concept and construction drawings for renovations to the library. This is a SPLOST 2020 project. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Engineering Department – Vehicle Purchase (1) Mid-Size SUV: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer at state contract price of \$32,533 for Ford of Dalton. This vehicle will replace a 2001 Ford Expedition with 215,000 miles. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Parks & Recreation – Riverbend Park Field Lighting: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the bid from Musco for \$246,000 for lighting at Riverbend Park. The purchase will be utilizing the Sourcewell program, contract #071619-msl. This will be purchased with the 2020 voter approved SPLOST funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas, Staten and Jones in agreement.

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Parks & Recreation – Riverbend Park Soccer Field Bleachers: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the bid from Outdoor Aluminum for \$169,061 for bleachers at Riverbend Park. This will be purchased with the 2020 voter approved SPLOST funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

Parks & Recreation – Miracle Field Repair Work: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the bid from Felker Construction for \$44,678. This is a 2020 SPLOST project. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas, Staten and Jones in agreement.

Public Works – Truck Shed Repair: Motion was approved by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the bid for labor only from Keith Burnette Enterprises for \$66,500. Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt noted Public Works would provide the lumber. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

Fire Department – Fire Engine Surplus: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to surplus and sell on Govdeals.com a 2005 International Fire Engine. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Fire Department – Update on Fire Study with City of Dalton: Fire Chief Ed O'Brien updated the Board on the progress of this study. O'Brien noted they are currently reviewing the agreement with Hamilton EMS and would like for both City and County leaders to meet to go over the documents with both City Fire Chief Todd Pangle and himself.

Information Technology – Cyber Security Test: Motion was approved by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve Global Perceptive Solutions, Inc. assessing the County's network security controls and protective measures for \$9,625.00. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Whitfield County- Historic Preservation Commission: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept the donation of a restored and operational #2 gun carriage and gun caisson from the Blue and Gray Educational Society. This carriage and caisson will be placed at Rocky Face Ridge Park; the motion also approves reimbursement of transportation costs to the Blue & Gray Educational Society. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Whitfield County – Prater's Mill Master Plan: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to provide up to \$19,500 to WLA Studio for development of a preservation and maintenance plan for Praters Mill. The motion was approved 3-0 with Commissioners Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

Town of Cohutta 4 way Stop: County Administrator Mark Gibson informed the Board regarding the Town of Cohutta Mayor & Council voting to install a four way stop sign at the intersection of Red Clay and Wolfe Street. Gibson further noted the Cohutta Police Department also advocated for the placement of the four way stop sign to make this area safer.

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Resolution – Designation of Alternative Facility: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the resolution designating the Dalton Convention center as a temporary alternative facility for certain sessions of the Whitfield County Superior Court. The County courthouse is currently being renovated and is anticipated to be complete prior to the end of 2021. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Executive Session – Personnel and Real Estate: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and Real Estate Matters. Present for the meeting were Chairman Jevin Jensen, Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Staten, County Attorney Robert Smalley, County Administrator Mark Gibson, Human Resources Director Jacqueline Carlo, and County Clerk Blanca Cardona. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas, and Staten in agreement.

Motion was then made by Commissioner Robbins and Thomas to come out of executive session. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

ADJOURN Unanimous

JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /