

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022, 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 Thomas 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 Jones to approve the December 14, 2021 Regular Business Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

Chairman Jensen recognized Ashley Hedden as Employee of the Month for November 2021. Mrs. Hedden works in the Buildings & Grounds Department.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Jensen went over the County's accomplishments in 2021.

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 informed the Board about the recent Animal Shelter Community Walk held on Dec. 31, 2021. Sivick also noted he is proposing to contract with the company POLCO for a custom website to conduct online surveys within Whitfield County on how to best utilize ARP funding.

November 2021 Financial Statement: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the November Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) November collections of \$1,092,795 were 7% greater than budgeted collections of \$1,020,833. This was 3.5% greater than October collections of \$1,056,364. YTD collections of \$11,644,900 were 5.75% greater than PY collections of \$11,006,326 for the same time frame. TAVT collections: November collections of \$404,070 were 3.75% greater than October collections of \$389,931. YTD collections of \$4,814,950 were 18.5% greater than PY collections of \$4,064,205 for the same time frame. YTD actual revenues of \$31,364,770 were greater than projected revenues of \$30,574,743 by \$790,027 or 2.5%. YTD actual expenditures of \$44,438,135 were less than projected expenditures of \$45,958,700 by \$1,520,565 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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Resolution Setting Qualifying Fees – 2022 Election: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to adopt a Resolution of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners Fixing Qualifying Fees for Public Offices for the 2022 general primary, non-partisan, and general elections. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Robbins, and Staten in agreement.

Board of Commissioners Vice-Chairman Election: Commissioner Jones nominated Commissioner Robbins for Vice-Chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners for 2022, Commissioner Thomas seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken and Commissioner Robbins was elected 4-0, to be the Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2022.

Chairman Jensen - Appointment of Commissioners to Commissions, Organizations, Authorities and Boards:

Chairman Jensen appointed the Commissioners to the following:

Robby Staten – N. GA Community Action Group Inc., and the Dalton-Whitfield Trade Center

Greg Jones – Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, and the Correctional Task Force

Barry W. Robbins – Dalton-Whitfield Library Liaison

Commissioner Thomas - Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, Whitfield County Board of Health, and Dalton-Whitfield Land Bank Authority

Chairman Jensen – Dalton-Whitfield Solid Waste Authority, Greater Dalton MPO, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, and the Council of Chief Elected Officials, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau

Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve Chairman Jensens Commissioner appointments. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Re-Appointments to the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to re-appoint David Jolly, David Renz, Kevin Harris and Frank Robertson to the Dalton-Whitfield JDA. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Alternative Ingress/Egress for E. Fields Road: Mr. Johnny Dyer addressed the Board about train cars stopping in front of this road for hours. Dyer noted when trains stop in front of this road there is no way for emergency vehicles or residents to get in or out. The Board noted they will write a letter on behalf of the E. Fields Road residents, asking them to stop blocking their street however Chairman Jensen noted the Board does not have any authority over the Railroad Companies.

Consideration of contract w/POLCO for Survey website for Whitfield County: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to postpone this item. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

Sheriff's Department – Continuation of Jail Food Services Contract: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the continuation of the Jail food services contract with Trinity Food Services Group Inc. This contract covers food, contracted labor and the administration of the food services program at the facility. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

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Rezoning Recommendations: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the following rezoning requests recommended by the planning commission: request of Elaine Smith to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 5.78 acres located at 855 Reed Pond Road, Dalton, GA. Parcel (12-032-01-015), request of Octavio Perez 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 785 Beaverdale Road, Dalton, GA. Parcel (12-016-02-001), and the request of Armando Vasquez to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling .095 acres located at 1705 Antioch Road, Dalton, GA. Parcel (12-293-24-000), the Board also tabled the request to rezone and a special use permit from Dalton Quarries, LLC to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2), Rural Residential (R-5), General Agriculture (GA), General Commercial (C-2), and Suburban Agriculture (SA) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) along with a special use request for a quarry a tract of land totaling 673.96 acres located on Dalton Beaverdale Road, Old Rock Crusher Road, and Cherokee Estates Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcels (12-016-02-010, 12-021-01-000, 12-022-01-000, 12-023-05-000, 12-023-10-000, 12-053-01-004, 12-054-07-000, 12-054-09-000, 12-055-01-000, 12-056-02-001, 12-056-02-002, 12-056-02-003, 12-056-02-004, 12-056-02-005, 12-056-02-006, 12-056-02-017 and 12-061-03-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Superior Court – 2022 Interpreter Contract: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the annual contract with KRNW Inc., for court interpreter services for Superior Court. The contract is for \$98,750.00 per year, and the end date is December 31, 2022. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

CDBG-CV Grant Approval: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the CDBG –CV Grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The County submitted an application for a CDBG-CV Grant on behalf of Chattanooga Area Food Bank, in Oct. 2021. DCA has approved the award of the federal CDBG-CV Food Bank grant for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank NW Georgia Warehouse Expansion Project. The NW Georgia Warehouse is located in Dalton. Total federal funds are \$2,353,872. Total matching funds are \$784,624 and will be provided by the Food Bank. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

Resolution to Authorize Application – CHIP (Community Home Investment Program): Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to sign the Resolution authorizing application for a 2022 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) grant which is a federal HUD grant administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The 2022 program will award 7 grants of \$400,000 to qualified applicants (local governments, public housing authorities, or 501(c) nonprofits) for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied single-family homes of qualified residents. Although there is no required match, match of between 10-50% will result in bonus points for the application. The County will be required to pay a \$250 application fee which is not covered by the grant. Additional fees, also not covered by the grant, will be the cost of grant writing (\$3,500) and grant administration (\$6,000). The attached resolution authorizes the filing of the application and further authorizes the Chairman to act in connection with the application. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

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CHIP Contract with Gilbert & Associates: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the agreement with Gilbert and Associates for grant administration services in support of Whitfield County's CHIP (Community Home Investment Program) grant. The County will need the services of an experienced CHIP grant writer and, if awarded, will need the services of an experienced CHIP grant administrator. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was advertised as per policy beginning 11/24/21 on the website and in the Georgia Procurement Registry. On the close date of 12/27/21, only the firm of Gilbert+Associates had submitted a proposal. The firm met all the RFP requirements. The County used Rhonda Gilbert's services for the 2014 CHIP and is currently using her services for the CDBG Food Bank grant. The fee for the grant writing is \$3,500 and will be paid with ARPA funds. Should the County be awarded the grant, the fee for grant administration is \$6,000 and will also be paid with ARPA funds. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

ARPA Funding Eligible Expenditures: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve ARPA funding already expensed; \$62,437 in the General Fund for new hire bonuses in 2021. The second project is a part of the A/V project currently underway in the courtroom in the Courthouse for \$10,014 (jail portion). The Deputy Coroners will receive premium pay bonus for a total cost of \$6,459 including matching FICA (3 individuals). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Robbins and Staten in agreement.

Fire Department Uniforms: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve \$63,500 for Uniforms. The department is on a BOC approved 10-year replacement schedule to meet NFPA requirements. The departments recommendation is to purchase the Lion V-Force bunker gear. These items will be bought off the Sourcewell Contract. Sourcewell has previously met the requirements for county purchasing. The departments full annual amount of expenditure will not be used in its entirety for this purchase. We will purchase 20-25 sets depending on our annual evaluation of gear. The additional funds for this account will be used at a later date for items such as helmets, gloves, boots and hoods. Local authorized vendor is NAFECO. Pants: \$1,225.00 Coats: \$1,682.00. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

Rocky Face Ridge – Hay Bid: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to renew the lease agreement from Josh Land to maintain the Hay Fields on approximately 70 acres of Rocky Face Ridge. The hay will be cut, baled and removed and Land will pay an annual amount of \$350.00 to Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

County Lease – Rocky Face Ridge House: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten 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 31st, 2022. The motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, Staten and Robbins in agreement.

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Regional Freight Network Plan Grant Application: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the request from the GDMPO (Greater Dalton Metropolitan Organization, a division within the Engineering Department, to submit a grant application to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). A request in the amount of \$200,000.00 will be submitted to aid in developing the area's first Regional Freight Network Plan. FHWA and GDOT will be responsible for 80% of the total cost. The local match is 20% of any accepted bid. The objective of this task will be to provide a final comprehensive Regional Freight Network Plan that consists of the necessary technical detail that includes study findings and recommendations as well as a concise Executive Summary, and compilation of all task deliverables included in the Scope of Work. The consultant team will provide an implementation plan that outlines how the freight plan recommendations will be incorporated into the long-range transportation plan, short-range transportation plan, and other local plans (Comprehensive Plan, Project Requests to the State, etc.). The consultant team will prepare a final report based on all the analyses produced from the study, and will be responsible for an electronic version of the report suitable for printing and inclusion on the Greater Dalton MPO website. If approved, the grant application will be submitted to GDOT and FHWA. Following the decision to award the funding, the MPO will issue an invitation to bid. The lowest bid will be brought back to the Board of Commissioners for consideration. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

ADJOURN Unanimous

JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /