

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022, AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE COURTHOUSE BOC MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 205 N. SELVIDGE 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 amend the agenda by removing Item No. 14 – Ratify VOCA Grant and adding two additional items, 1. Board of Assessors Appointment Resolution – Bob Chiddister and 2. Juvenile Court Grant Award. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Approval of Consent Agenda Item: Approve any budget amendment for 2022 as needed by our financial auditors and in compliance with all state regulations for approved items and passing votes from last month's public Board of Commissioners meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the September 12, 2022 Regular Business Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins, Staten and Thomas in agreement.

Chairman Jensen recognized Douglas Brown as Employee of the Month for August 2022. Mr. Brown works in the Fire Department.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Jensen called a public hearing on the petition for closing a portion of Battle Ridge Drive to order.

John Davis spoke in favor of the road closing.

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

Chairman's Report: Chairman Jensen informed the audience about the recent announcement from Essentia Protien Solutions to build a plant at the Carbondale Business Park, the recent agreements of the Service Delivery Strategies (SDS) by Whitfield County and the Cities of Dalton, Tunnel Hill, Varnell and the Town of Cohutta for a 10 year term and the upcoming election on Nov. 8, with Whitfield County transit providing rides to the Courthouse on Saturday Oct. 22 & 29 for early voting.

Report from Commissioners:

Commissioner Jones, Robbins, Thomas and Staten did not have any reports.

County Administrator Report: County Administrator Robert Sivick updated the Board on the transition of the Senior Center from City of Dalton to Whitfield County and the recent Prater's Mill Fair.

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Agust 2022 Financial Statement: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the August Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: August collections of \$1,136,925 were 7% greater than budgeted collections of \$1,062,500. This was 6.25% less than July collections of \$1,213,548. YTD collections of \$9,449,155 were 12.25% greater than PY collections of \$8,425,602 for the same time frame. TAVT collections: August collections of \$447,944 were 20.25% greater than July collections of \$372,534. YTD collections of \$3,497,018 were 2.5% less than PY collections of \$3,583,420 for the same time frame. YTD actual revenues of \$24,356,895 were greater than projected revenues of \$23,082,284 by \$1,274,611 or 5.5%. YTD actual expenditures of \$33,797,189 were greater than projected expenditures of \$33,046,544 by \$750,646 or 2.25%. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

Petition to Close and abandon Battle Ridge Drive: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to close and abandon and issue a quit claim deed for a portion of Battle Ridge Drive located in Land Lot 68 of the 12th district and 3rd section of Whitfield County, Georgia. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Thomas, Robbins and Jones in agreement

Food Bank General Contractor Bid Award: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve Momon Construction Inc. as the general contractor for renovations and additions to the Chattanooga Food Bank located in Dalton. Carter Watkins Architects recommends the Board approve Momon Construction Inc. for the low bid of \$2,741,750 and verification of the contractors qualifications and bid specifications. The motion also approves the Chairman to sign the contract for this project. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas, Jones and Staten in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the rezoning request of RW Sales, LLC to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to High Density Residential (R-7) a tract of land totaling 2.62 acres located at Dawnville Road and Brooker Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-127-01-017). The Board approved the request with the condition that Gail Drive not be used for ingress/egress to the property. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the rezoning request of Whitfield County BOC to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 24.47 acres located at 1531 Beaverdale Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (10-254-01-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny the following rezoning request of Doyle Gazaway to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) a tract of land totaling 4.38 acres located at Stadium Way, Cohutta, Georgia. Parcel (11-119-01-054). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

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Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the following rezoning request of Elvia Zendejas to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 1+ acres located at 1012 Coogler Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-254-01-001). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

GA State Public Safety and Community Violence Reduction Grant: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the grant application resolution for the Public Safety and Community Violence Reduction Grant that is being funded by the State of Georgia's ARPA funds. The maximum award is \$1.5 million. The grant will fund the salary and benefits required to hire law enforcement employees for the same positions that existed on January 27, 2020 but were unfilled as of March 3, 2021 up to a maximum amount of \$1.5 million. This is not funding for newly created positions. If awarded, the funding would start sometime in 2023, depending on when the employees were hired, and would end October 31, 2026. At that time it would become the responsibility of the County to maintain the funding. No match is required or scored. The grant deadline is November 18, 2022 and grant announcements are scheduled for early 2023. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

BOC Budget Amendment: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve a budget amendment of \$5,000.00 to the BOC Administrations small equipment line account. The funds will be used to pay for the gun tube for the cannon replica at Rocky Face Ridge Park. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Budget Amendment Animal Shelter Fuel Costs: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve an increase of \$5,000.00 to the Animal Shelter for gasoline due to rising fuel costs nationwide. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

Service Delivery Strategies (SDS) Agreements & Extension of Existing SDS: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the updated Service Delivery Agreements and Extension for Existing SDS which will be submitted to DCA (Department of Community Affairs) simultaneously. As required by OCGA 36-70-20, Whitfield County and all municipalities located therein shall participate in the development of a Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) through which the County and municipalities shall create a service delivery system which is efficient, effective, and responsive to the Citizens and for purposes of avoiding overlapping and duplication of service delivery. Many of the existing SDS Agreements are over 20 years old and are out of date as to the existing service delivery practices. Additionally, the current service delivery extension expires on October 31, 2022, thus requiring a new extension. The following SDS Agreements have been updated: Airport Services, Animal Control, Building Inspection, Cemetery, Convention and Tourism Promotion, Court Services, E911, Elections, EMS (Ambulance Services), Fire Fighting and Prevention, First Responder, GIS, Inmate Housing, JDA, Law Enforcement, Northwest GA Trade and Convention Center, Public Health Services, Recreation, Senior Center, Sewer, Solid Waste Disposal, Tax Collection, and Water. The agreements are reviewed every 10 years and updated if necessary during that time. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

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Resolution for Board of Assessors Appointment – Bob Chiddister: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the resolution appointing Bob Chiddister to fill the unexpired term of Dixon White who resigned on November 1, 2021. Mr. Chiddisters term will be from October 6, 2022 to September 26, 2023. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Thomas, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Juvenile Court – 2023 Delinquency Prevention Program Grant Award: Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the FY 2023 Delinquency Prevention Grant in the amount of \$20,470. Juvenile Court applied for this grant in August and was notified of the award on September 30, 2022 there is no County match with this grant. The Delinquency Prevention Grants Program provides financial and technical assistance to implement the Strengthening Families Program 7-17 (SFP 7-17). This grant provides funding for the implementation of SFP 7-17 to youth who are first time offenders, diverted from the juvenile justice system, or charged with a CHINS offense and identified as at-risk. The award period is October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023. Awarded agencies will be eligible for continued funding through September 30, 2025. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Stacey Doran addressed the Board about her election concerns.

Vicky Alt addressed the Board about her concerns with development.

Roberta Curtin addressed the Board about her election concerns.

John Dashler noted to the Board that he appreciated them being receptive to their concerns regarding elections.

ADJOURN Unanimous



JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: 11/18/2022