

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023, AT 6:00 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 led by Southeast High School Ambassador Valeria Vargas

Roll call to determine quorum

The following members were present:

Jevin Jensen, Chairman
Barry W. Robbins, Vice-Chair
Robby Staten, Member (ABSENT)
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 Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to amend the agenda to add four additional items as presented: 1. Juvenile Court – Delinquency Prevention Grant Acceptance, 2. Agreement with JFP Properties Group/Coahulla Creek Villages, 3. Sheriff’s Office – Van Purchase, 4. Fire Department – Burn Ban. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the October 9, 2023 Regular Business Meeting Minutes and October 16, 2023 and October 23, 2023, Special Called Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

Chairman Jensen recognized Vicki Davis as Employee of the Month for August 2023. Ms. Davis works in the Transit Department. Chairman Jensen also recognized Wendy Hurtado-Marin as Employee of the Month for September 2023. Ms. Hurtado-Marin works in the Sheriff’s Office.

Chairman Jensen also recognized Battalion 1 Captain Josh Key, Station 8 crew, Lt. Doug Brown, Engineer Josh Robinson, and Firefighter Carter Gee for their lifesaving efforts.

Chairman’s Report: Chairman Jensen thanked the 2024 SPLOST Advisory Committee for their hard work on preparing their recommendation for the upcoming SPLOST referendum. Jensen also updated the citizens on the 2024 Budget noting that both Commissioners and department heads have had multiple meetings and the BOC should be ready to adopt the budget soon.

Report from Commissioners:

Commissioner Jones noted that he has received several calls from his district regarding pot holes in the road and thanked Public Works for their help to take care of them. Chairman Robbins thanked the Southeast High School Ambassador Class for inviting him to speak to their class. Chairman Thomas did not have any updates to report for this month.

County Administrator Report:

County Administrator addressed the Board on the following: Touch a Truck Event, Thrive Tri-State Summit and Gratefull Dalton.

September 2023 Financial Statement: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the September Financial Statement as presented by Chief Financial Officer Debbie Godfrey. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: September collections of

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\$1,268,476 were 14.60% greater than budgeted collections of \$1,106,858. This was 4.00% more than August collections of \$1,219,665. YTD collections of \$11,429,509 were 7.08% greater than PY collections of \$10,673,764 for the same time frame. TAVT collections: September collections of \$432,041 were (19.86%) less than August collections of \$539,081. YTD collections of \$4,170,816 were 7.06% greater than PY collections of \$3,895,661 for the same time frame. YTD actual revenues of \$30,289,748 were greater than projected revenues of \$26,427,924 by \$3,861,824 or 14.61%. YTD actual expenditures of \$40,186,197 were greater than projected expenditures of \$39,823,581 by \$362,617 or 0.91 %. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

Public Comment:

No comments.

City of Dalton De-Annexation – parcel 13-025-11-000: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to de-annex parcel No. 13-025-11-000 from Dalton City limits to unincorporated Whitfield County. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

City of Dalton Annexation – parcel 12-160-25-000: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-160-25-000. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

City of Dalton Annexation – Multiple Parcels owned by Hamilton Medical Center, Inc.: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas for no land use classification objection to tax parcel numbers: 12-145-01-001, 12-145-01-002, 12-145-01-003, 12-145-01-004, 12-145-03-000, 12-159-01-021, 12-160-19-000, 12-160-34-000, 12-160-09-000, 12-160-37-000, 12-160-58-000, 12-160-59-000. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the rezoning request of; BGR03, LLC to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) a tract of land totaling 3.90 acres located at Old Grade Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-244-03-048). The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the following recommendation of the planning commission approving the rezoning request of; Robert Brooks to rezone from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 2.45 acres located at 1331 Tunnel Hill Varnell Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (11-261-15-000). The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the following recommendation of the planning commission approving the rezoning request of; Matrix Entertainment Group to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to General Commercial (C-2) a tract of land totaling 1.1 acres located at 2113 Cleveland Highway, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-126-17-000). The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

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Rezoning Recommendation: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the following recommendation of the planning commission approving the rezoning request of; **Bryan Spence to rezone from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 2.02 acres located at 158 Callahan Cavender Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (13-024-03-000).** The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

Prater's Mill – Engineering Contract: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to enter into contract with Gresham Smith for Engineering Services for Prater's Mill in the amount of \$159,000.00. In June, the BOC accepted a State grant funded by the State's ARPA allocation for improvements to the Prater's Mill Historic Site. In October, the BOC accepted the engineering proposal submitted by Gresham Smith. They were the only firm to respond to the RFP. County Administration now requests the BOC's approval of the contract with Gresham Smith. The contract has been reviewed by the County attorney. The fixed fee is \$159,000 and will be covered by the grant. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

Sheriff's Office – Mass Spectrometer Bid Acceptance: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the bid of \$87,283.35 from 908devices for a MX908 handheld mass spectrometer and related accessories that includes a three year warranty. The COPS grant will cover \$75,000 of this and the remaining \$12,283.35 will be covered by the Sheriff's Forfeiture Fund. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

2024 NWGRC Congregate Meal Grant Application: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to submit a proposal for the NW Georgia Regional Commission's 2024 Congregate Meal Grant which has a due date of December 4, 2023. This is a federal grant and, if awarded, would reimburse the County a contracted per meal price (not yet determined) for each qualified meal. The grant performance period begins July 1, 2024 and runs for a 4-year planning cycle. Annual renewals for years 2-4 are contingent upon availability of funds and past performance. The current meals grant from the NWGRC expires June 30, 2024. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

Juvenile Court – 2024 Grant Acceptance: Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to accept the FY 2024 Delinquency Prevention Grant in the amount of \$41,960.00. This grant provides continued 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 Juvenile Court has been awarded \$41,960, with no County match required. The award period is October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. Awarded agencies will be eligible for continued funding through September 30, 2025. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

Agreement with JFP Properties Group/Coahulla Creek Villages: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to enter into an agreement with JFP Properties Group, LLC, to dissolve the Special Tax District composed of the Properties of Coahulla Creek Villages subdivision in exchange for full payment owed county of \$160,060. This was monies used to get subdivision roads to county standards. The county will accept and maintain roads in the future after payment is received. Payment is due by December 29, 2023. The county does not accept ownership of streetlights or agree to any landscaping work or maintenance. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioner Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

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Sheriff's Office – Van Purchase: Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the purchase of a new transit van for the Sheriff's Office for \$50,025 from Ford of Dalton. This van will replace the aging prisoner transit van with a new one in stock locally and will be purchased with capital funds. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioner Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.


Fire Department – Outdoor Burn Ban: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to issue a temporary emergency outdoor burn ban in Whitfield County beginning November 13, 2023. The burn ban will remain in effect for thirty (30) days. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioner Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
No comments.

Executive Session – Real Estate: Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to go into executive session for the purpose of Real Estate. Present for the meeting were Chairman Jevin Jensen, Commissioners Robbins, Jones, and Thomas, County Attorney Robert Smalley, County Administrator Bob Sivick, County Engineer Kent Benson, Chief Finance Officer Debbie Godfrey and County Clerk Blanca Cardona. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

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

ADJOURN Unanimous



JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: *12/11/2023*