

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024, 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

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:**

Dan Strain, County Attorney  
Robert Sivick, County Administrator  
Department Heads  
Citizens  
Press

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas 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 Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the February 12, 2024 Regular Business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

**Chairman Jensen recognized Patricia Sloan as Employee of the Month for January 2024. Ms. Sloan works in the Buildings and Grounds Department.**

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Jensen noted that ACCG awarded the Conasauga Addiction Recovery Center the Georgia County Excellence award. Previously, the Georgia City-County Association awarded our Recovery Center their Community Award with presentation later this week in Athens. Jensen noted that the BOC will appoint a representative to the state Regional Advisory Council for state Opioid funding. Jensen also gave an update on sewer projects around the county, 2 -Direct County Facility Projects (Fire Station 2 & Miracle Field sewer), 2 -County-funded community projects (West Side Crider & Carbondale).

**Report from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Jones noted that he did not receive any complaints during the recent replacement of a culvert on Houston Valley Road and thanked the Public Works Department on a job well done. Commissioners Robbins, Staten and Thomas did not have any updates to report for this month.

**County Administrator Report:**

County Administrator Robert Sivick informed the Board that National Parks Day will take place on April 6, 2024 at Rocky Face Ridge beginning at 10 a.m. and is sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust.

**January 2024 Finance Summary on Revenue:** Chairman Jensen gave a summary of January 2024 revenues: LOST (Sales Tax) = \$1.23 Million YTD, TAVT (Vehicle Tax) = \$431,000 YTD, SPLOST Revenue = \$2.03 Million YTD. Both January 2024 and February 2024 Financial Statements will be presented during April's regular BOC meeting.

**Public Comment:**

No Comments.

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**Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Uriel Sollis to rezone from General Commercial (C-2) to Low Density Single Family (R-2) a tract of land totaling 0.23 acres located at 200 Quillian Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-103-02-081). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Glen Voyles to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Agricultural (GA) a tract of land totaling 5.0 acres located at 233 Quinn Drive, Rocky Face, Georgia. Parcel (13-034-03-000). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Bryan Spence to rezone from Low-Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 1.97 acres located at Cleo Way, Dalton, Georgia. Parcels (12-161-01-014 and 12-161-01-062). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**Rezoning Recommendation:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the recommendation of the planning commission approving the request of Luis de Santiago Vasquez to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling .57 acres located at Cleo Way, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-161-01-013). The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**City of Dalton De-Annexation – parcel 12-352-10-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to de-annex parcel No. 12-352-10-000 from Dalton City limits to unincorporated Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**City of Dalton Annexation – parcel 13-048-01-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 13-048-01-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**City of Dalton Annexation – parcel 12-216-03-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Robbins for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 12-216-03-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**Town of Cohutta Annexation – parcel 11-101-01-001:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 11-101-01-001. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

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**City of Tunnel Hill Annexation – Parcel 27-018-04-000:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins for no land use classification objection to tax parcel number 27-018-04-000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

**Appointment of Voting Delegate for Opioid Settlement Committees:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Staten to appoint Commissioner John Thomas as Whitfield County's Voting Delegate for the Opioid Settlement Committees. Whitfield County is a Participating Local Government (PLG) with the State in the National Opioid Settlement. The BOC must appoint a voting delegate to represent the County and cast the County's vote for the GOSAC members and our Region 1 RAC members. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones, Thomas and Staten in agreement.

**ARPA – Funding for 911 Duct Work:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve \$20,170 to fund ductwork at the E911 building. Our current ARPA spending plan has set aside some restricted funding for County building air filtration projects. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**ARPA – Funding for Domestic Violence Court:** Motion was made by Commissioner Staten and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve \$100,000 of ARPA funds to support the Domestic Violence (DV) Court whose 2024 grant state funding was cut from \$179,000 to \$79,000. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**ARPA – Funding for Sewer Connection for FD Station #2:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve \$24,009.51 of ARPA funds to be used to connect existing eligible fire stations to the sewer system operated by Dalton Utilities. A Dalton Utilities approved contractor will provide material and labor to complete project at negotiated locations. Completing this project provides improved sanitary conditions for the firefighter crews occupying these facilities. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**Fire Department – Automatic Aid Agreement w/Walker County:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the Automatic Aid agreement with Walker County. WCFD Would like to renew the Automatic (Mutual) Aid Agreement with Walker County Fire Department with the noted changes: Section 7: Agreement Terms and Fees, has been re-worded but does not lead to any service delivery charges. No fees are to be paid by either County. Section 8: Out Clause has changed from 180 notice to 90-day notice. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Staten, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

**Finance – Budget Amendment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Staten to approve the budget amendment as presented by Chief Financial Officer Debbie Godfrey. A vehicle used by Building Inspections was damaged on a jobsite by a contractor. Instead of the contractor turning this accident into his insurance company, he agreed to pay the county for the repairs. The vehicle has been repaired and will be paid for through the Inspections budget. We need to increase the budget amount of this line item to account for the expenditure. The reimbursement from the contractor will be in an offsetting revenue account, so there will not be a cost to the county. Cost of repair \$11,197.65. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Staten, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

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**Update Agreements for Stormwater & Fire Services:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to update the Stormwater and Fire Services agreements for Kobayashi Healthcare International, Inc. During the November 2023 BOC regular meeting Kobayashi requested to de-annex their real property out of the corporate limits of the City of Dalton and become part of Unincorporated Whitfield County, therefore new Fire Services and Stormwater agreements were necessary. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

**Quit Claim Deed – Joint Development Authority:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the quit claim deed to the Joint Development Authority from Whitfield County related to land on the south end of Carbondale Park that was previously filed incorrectly. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Staten, Thomas, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

**Public Works – Crushed Stone Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve the bid from Vulcan Materials for Gravel/Crushed Stone as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Jones, Staten, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No comments.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

  
JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: 4/8/2024