

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020 AT 4:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, County Attorney Mary Jane Henneke, Finance Director Jodi Ligon, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Marc Turner, of the Cleveland Worship Center and the White County Ministerial Alliance, provided the invocation.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to adopt the minutes of the Work Session & Regular Meeting (including Executive Session) held January 6, 2020, the Called Meeting (including Executive Session) held January 21, 2020, and the Work Session & Called Meeting (including Executive Session) held January 27, 2020.

Upon presentation of proclamation, Monday, February 3, 2020 was designated “White County Youth Football Champions Day” in recognition of the White County Parks & Recreation teams who played in the 2019 Mountain Football League Super Bowl.

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the proposals for the Yonah Preserve playground equipment. Mr. Melton reviewed the various options being presented. He also advised the Board that he had been informed that the issues preventing the receipt of the grant funds previously awarded (\$50,000.00) for the project had been resolved. He indicated that the Board could move forward with a decision on the contractor for the project; however the contract did not need to be executed until the grant funds had been disbursed.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a vote to award the contract for the Yonah Preserve playground equipment and installation to Playworx – selecting option 2 as presented in the amount of \$152,453.98 and requesting additional information for shading options over the swing set area – with the project to be funded by the Department of Natural Resources – Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 and the remaining funding to be from Hotel / Motel Tourism Product Development Funds. Chairman Turner voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Holcomb and Commissioner Nix opposed the motion. The motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

Mr. Melton presented the updated White County Speed Zone Ordinance produced by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). He stated that this was an every three (3) year

update, this ordinance specifically includes Phase 2 of the Cleveland Bypass, and this ordinance reflects those roads which law enforcement will be allowed to utilize radar on.

The Board expressed their concerns with the current speed limit at the intersection of the bypass and Hwy 129 South (currently 55 mph) and the high volume of accidents which occur in that vicinity. It was noted that the Board had sent a request to GDOT in 2016 requesting this be lowered to 45 mph. Following discussion, the Board directed Mr. Melton to have accident data compiled and submit this request to GDOT again.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to adopt the updated White County Speed Zone Ordinance (#0311-01-2020).

Ms. Jodi Ligon, Finance Director, presented the monthly Financial Status Report (see attached).

Chairman Turner directed staff to work with the County Attorney to prepare a proclamation for the Board's consideration, expressing the Board's support of Second Amendment rights.

Mr. Melton provided an update to the Board on the progress of Dandy Lane – stating that the paving and construction of a DOT commercial entrance were still not complete. He advised the Board that the Department of Family & Children's Services (DFACS) had vacated the Mauney Building with their office relocation; however they had left behind all their furniture which is problematic for the renovation contractor who is working with a very short timeline for completion of the renovations. Mr. Melton stated that he is working with the state to have this furniture removed as soon as possible in order to prevent further delays.

Commissioner Nix expressed his appreciation to the Road Department for their work done on Kellum Valley Road.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public participation.

Mr. Ridley Kinsey, 284 Forked Leaf Road Cleveland, GA, expressed his appreciation for the paving of Old Blue Creek Road. He also asked the Board for information concerning the trends with residential and commercial construction permitting, as well as efforts in place for new business development. There was discussion regarding permits issued, current barriers to large commercial development (i.e. no access to interstate, very limited sewer service, etc.) and recent efforts to improve infrastructure (i.e. expansion of high speed internet by HEMC and completion of the Appalachian Parkway).

Mr. Bill Huff, Town Creek Road, spoke on behalf of the White County Historical Society, informed the Board of current repairs underway at the historic courthouse due to damage caused by termites.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss personnel.

-See The Following Closed Meeting Affidavit-

February 3, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes (continued)

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to exit Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

The minutes of the February 3, 2020 Regular Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 24th day of February, 2020.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger

Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb

Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix

Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant

Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy

Shanda Murphy, County Clerk