

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY CALLED MEETING HELD**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners held An Emergency Called Meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was conducted by teleconference due to the COVID-19 health emergency. The meeting, agenda, and teleconference instructions were advertised to the public and the meeting was conducted within the guidelines provided by emergency order of Governor Brian Kemp. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order. He stated that the shelter in place order announced by Governor Brian Kemp over 24 hours ago had not yet been released; however the county governing authority felt strongly about putting additional measures in place to protect the citizens of White County.

Each County Commissioner voiced their support of the resolution; however stated this was a weighty decision that was not taken lightly – but was being done out of an abundance of caution.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution – *Commissioner Nix had technical difficulties, however expressed his support of the motion:*

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03(B)**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN ONGOING STATE OF EMERGENCY IN WHITE COUNTY, GEORGIA AND EXTENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03 AND ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDINANCE TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY CLOSING HOTELS, MOTELS, INNS, SHORT TERM VACATION RENTALS/CABINS, CAMPGROUNDS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS/RESORTS, ETC. AND BY ORDERING NON-RESIDENTS OF WHITE COUNTY TO VACATE SUCH RENTAL FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the Novel Coronavirus 2019 ("COVID-19") disease is a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national public health emergency in reference to this pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency for the purpose of easing restrictions that might otherwise hinder the ability of public health systems to respond appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic, through April 13, 2020, unless further extended; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly entered a 2020 Special Session ratifying Governor Brian Kemp's public health emergency declaration, and reserving the right to terminate the emergency declaration through future legislative action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Department of Public Health has confirmed that positive cases of COVID-19 in Georgia are increasing at a high rate; and

**WHEREAS**, Medical professionals have advised that if COVID-19 continues to spread at a rate comparable to that rate of spread in other affected areas, it may greatly strain the resources and capabilities of county and municipal governments that provide essential services for containing and mitigating the spread of contagious diseases, such as COVID-19, and the situation may become too large in scope to be handled in its entirety by the normal county and municipal operating services in some parts of this State, and this situation may spread to other parts of this State; and

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28, the White County Commission, as the governing authority of a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, is authorized to make, amend, and rescind orders, rules, and regulations as necessary for emergency purposes and to supplement carrying out the emergency management laws; and

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WHEREAS, under O.C.G.A. § 38-3-6, emergency powers created by the law are intended to be liberally construed so as to allow government officials to meet the demands of emergencies within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-28, all orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by counties under the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981 shall have the full force and effect of law when filed in the office of the county clerk; and

WHEREAS, inherent in the power to suspend ordinances is the power to take emergency affirmative actions, consistent with the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and consistent with state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people resulting from this pandemic, the White County Commission, find that certain actions are required to stop the spread of the virus.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of White County, Georgia, that

1.

White County is declared to be under a continuing state of emergency as April 2, 2020, this resolution shall continue until April 13, 2020 and shall be automatically extended so long as the Governor of Georgia declares that the emergency is ongoing within the State of Georgia or until the Board of Commissioners of White County, Georgia rescinds such declaration of emergency.

2.

Resolution 2020-03 is already in effect and shall be automatically extended so long as the Governor of Georgia declares that the emergency is ongoing within the State of Georgia or until the Board of Commissioners of White County, Georgia rescinds such declaration of emergency.

3.

No new reservations, business or occupants shall be allowed after noon on April 3, 2020 in the following tourist accommodations: hotels, motels, inns, short term vacation rentals/cabins, campgrounds, recreational vehicle parks/resorts, etc. Non-residents of White County must vacate such rental facilities by noon on April 4, 2020.

4.

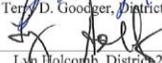
Nothing in this Order shall be construed as creating any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against White County, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

ADOPTED, this 2nd day of April, 2020.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

  
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

  
Lynn Holcomb, District 2

- Not in attendance -  
Edwin Nix, District 3

  
Craig Bryant, District 4

Attest:   
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk

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

The minutes of the April 2, 2020 Called Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 27th day of April, 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