

**WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD**

**MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016 AT 4:30 P.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Dean Dyer 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 February 1, 2016 Regular Meeting, the February 10, 2016 Called Meeting, and the February 29, 2016 Work Session.

Chairman Turner noted that Mr. Matt Needham, GDOT Area Engineer, had followed up with him regarding the discussion at the February 29, 2016 meeting regarding litter along Highway 129. Chairman Turner stated that the DOT is in the process of scheduling an inmate detail to work on the roadway cleanup.

Upon presentation of proclamation to several Special Olympic athletes, March 25, 2016 was declared "Special Olympics Come Be Inspired Day in White County".

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Nix, seconded by Commissioner Bryant there was a unanimous vote to approve the following consent agenda:

- Approval of a four-year Emergency Management Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement; and
- Approval of the purchase of two (2) drop in spreader units for the White County Road Department from O.G. Hughes in the amount of \$7,767.00 each - \$15,534.00 total – to be funded from disaster recovery funds.

Chairman Turner stated that the issue being considered was a request made by Mr. Craig McDonald for the abandonment of a portion of county right of way (0.412 acres) along a previously abandoned section of Old Blue Creek Road.

Commissioner Holcomb stated that this request had been discussed for months with the Board hearing from Mr. McDonald and from the Shelnut's who opposed the abandonment based on the original developer not having constructed the access on the Hwy 255 side of the Laceola development. Commissioner Holcomb stated that he believe this was the best way to make sure the access was created and that he trusted it would be because it is in the current developer's best interest.

March 11, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes (continued)

Commissioner Holcomb made a motion to approve the abandonment of a portion of county right of way (0.412 acres) along a previously abandoned section of Old Blue Creek Road, as requested by Mr. Craig McDonald. Commissioner Nix seconded the motion.

The Board entered into discussion regarding the motion made and seconded. Chairman Turner stated that Mr. McDonald had provided executed documentation showing that the prior developer, Mr. Barry Blalock, was not a partner in the LLC now developing the property. Ms. Lola Shelnut asked for clarification as to the location of the gate. Mr. McDonald stated that the gate would be at the road entrance where the current post and cable is located. Commissioner Nix stated that he agreed that this was the best opportunity to have the second access constructed as this portion of the development moved forward. Ms. Lola Shelnut stated she still objected to the abandonment. Commissioner Nix stated that he believed that Mr. Blalock would work with the developers in order to connect the phases of development.

With the motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to approve the abandonment of a portion of county right of way (0.412 acres) along a previously abandoned section of Old Blue Creek Road, as requested by Mr. Craig McDonald – thereby issuing a quitclaim deed reflecting this action.

Chairman Turner asked that Mr. McDonald stay in contact with the Shelnut's in order for them to know the status of the construction of the additional access.

Mr. Melton stated that the low bidder for the Yonah Preserve / Tesnatee Creek Bridge Project was Square Deal Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$595,267.91. He stated that the recommended funding source was the 2008 SPLOST.

Chairman Turner stated that the purpose of this project was to connect the existing Asbestos Road Park to Yonah Preserve in order for future development of the site to occur for additional recreational facilities to be constructed.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Holcomb there was a unanimous vote to award the Yonah Preserve / Tesnatee Creek Bridge Project to Square Deal Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$595,267.91 with the project to be funded by the 2008 SPLOST. The motion also included that Mr. Kevin Hamby, SPLOST Manager with CHA, be engaged on an as needed basis in order to oversee this project as well as the other SPLOST projects.

Mr. Melton stated that the low bidder on the project for the relocation of the Veteran's Monument from the front of the White County Courthouse to Freedom Park was E&P General Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$93,729.07. He stated that the recommended funding source was Hotel Motel Tax for the monument relocation and SPLOST funds for the portion of the project related to the construction of a handicap ramp in front of the Courthouse.

March 11, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes (continued)

Commissioner Goodger explained that this project would provide a much better venue for events which are currently held at the monument location in front of the Courthouse, as the present location is very small and noisy. He also stated that the new handicap ramp at the Courthouse would provide better access to the handicap parking area.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Goodger, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to award the project for the relocation of the Veteran’s Monument from the front of the White County Courthouse to Freedom Park was E&P General Contractors, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$93,729.07 to be divided, based on project breakdown, between Hotel Motel Tourism Product Development Funds and SPLOST Funds.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Goodger there was a unanimous vote to approve an amendment (#1) to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the County’s use of State property related to an additional 27 acres (off Mauldin Road) being added to said agreement and permitted use of the additional property being expanded from the original IGA to include placement of a future fire station.

Ms. Vicki Mays, Director of Finance, presented the monthly Financial Status Report (see attached).

County Manager had no comments.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for citizen participation.

Mr. Morris Biggers, E.J. Biggers Road Cleveland, GA – Mr. Biggers expressed his frustration in all the trash along state roads. Mr. Melton explained that the County was working with GDOT on this issue. Mr. Biggers suggested that the Board of Commissioners provide a reduction in taxes to those who pick up trash along roads in the County. Mr. Biggers also suggested that the YMCA keep the public pool open until 8 p.m. instead of closing at 5:00 p.m. He also stated that he does not agree with spending the money to relocate the Veteran’s monument or with the money spent to construct Freedom Park.

Ms. Lola Shelnut expressed her thoughts on moving the Veteran’s monument from the front of the Courthouse to Freedom Park. She stated that her concern was that the monument would be less visible at Freedom Park.

Ms. Cindy Bailey, President of the White County Chamber of Commerce, spoke about an award received by the White County branding campaign, the recent designation of White County as “Georgia’s Adventure Destination”, the upcoming Career Expo, and the fast approaching Easter Eggstravaganza.

Following announcements, and upon a motion made by Commissioner Holcomb, seconded by Commissioner Nix there was a unanimous vote to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss potential litigation (see attached Closed Meeting Affidavit).

March 11, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes (continued)

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

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

The minutes of the March 7, 2016 Regular Meeting are hereby approved as stated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

**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