

**MINUTES FOR THE MIRACLE FIELD CELEBRATION, WORK SESSION AND SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #2, 214 W. KING STREET**

**MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD CELEBRATION**

Chairman Babb opened the Miracle Field Celebration, and then Mr. George Page (Whitfield County Parks and Recreation Director), gave a presentation on The Miracle League. The Miracle League was started in the year 2000 in Conyers, Georgia with the mission of providing an opportunity for the youth of the United States to play baseball, regardless of ability or disability. Since the Miracle League started, it has expanded to 230 locations across the Country (including 25 States and Puerto Rico). Additionally the Miracle League now serves over 80,000 children and young adults with disabilities. During his presentation, Mr. Page established that while there are many fields in Whitfield County, there are not any that are accessibly suitable to children and adults with disabilities. The Miracle League seeks to resolve that issue. Whitfield County's Miracle League Field will be situated on a 98 acre parcel known as Westside Park.

Stephanie Davis, the National Miracle League Program Director was also present for the Celebration. She presented a short video about the Miracle League and showcased some of the fields around the country. Ms. Davis predicted that people will come from two-hours away to allow their children the opportunity to participate in Whitfield County's League. She also emphasized the role of community support in bringing the project to fruition. Design specifics of the Field include a smooth rubberized surface that is very durable, with painted lines. A playground will also be built at this site that children will be able to play on seven days a week because of the accessibility of the site. Ms. Davis also emphasized that the Miracle League was more than just a game, but that it also allowed children to build self-esteem and create lasting friendships that change the lives of participants.

Mr. Page then went back over the presentation and reiterated that this was just the start and the community would need a steering committee and a lead project coordinator. Mr. Page also welcomed the Hicks family to the podium. Mr. Hicks relayed how excited that he and his wife were that their daughter Payton would soon have a place to play.

Chairman Babb then forwarded the presentation by announcing that Westside resident, Fred Mayfield had actually begun the fundraiser to kick off the Miracle League Field in Whitfield County. Mr. Mayfield has been made aware that the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners was looking to place a park on the Westside of the County and offered to sale his land. Once Mr. Mayfield learned that Whitfield County intended to place a Miracle League Field on the land, he generously donated \$50,000.00 to begin the Field. Chairman Babb concluded with an official presentation to recognize Mr. Mayfield for kicking off this campaign fund.

**WORK SESSION**

1. THE WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN
2. Animal Control Ordinance Revision Recommendations – Major Gibson presented the revisions and explained the changes for review.
3. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance – Chris Hester gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance for review.
4. Adjourn

THE CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL TO DETERMINE QUORUM

**The following members were present:**

Mike Babb, Chairman  
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman  
Greg Jones, Member  
Randy Waskul, Member  
Mike Cowan, Member

**Others Present:**

Citizens  
Robert McLeod, County Administrator  
Robert Smalley, County Attorney  
Dept Heads  
Press

**A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Brooker with the amendment to postpone item #4 on Consent Agenda #2 for a second time. Approval of the agenda was unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve the minutes for the Special Called Meeting of March 1, 2010. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **Consideration of a Malt Beverage/Wine/Liquor License to the Kani House:** Chairman Babb declared the Board of Commissioners in a public hearing about Whitfield County's consideration to grant a Malt Beverage/Wine/Liquor License to the Kani House. Kani House is located at 1001 Market Street, #34-35, Dalton, Georgia. Nar Lai Park was the license applicant and the background investigation revealed no criminal history. Hearing no comments, Chairman Babb closed the public hearing.

**PROCLAMATION:**

1. **Relay for Life Week May 30 – June 6, 2010:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Relay for Life Week Proclamation. The Proclamation is in support of the mission of Relay for Life and the activities of the American Cancer Society. The Week of May 30 – June 6, 2010 was proclaimed to be Relay for Life Cancer Awareness Week in Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "A")**
2. **National Donate Life Month:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve the National Donate Life Month Proclamation. The Proclamation recognizes April 2010 as "Donate Life Month" in Whitfield County. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "B")**

**CONSENT AGENDA #1:**

1. **Consideration of Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Jones to table any decision on the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance. In discussion, Chairman Babb said that tabling this Ordinance would give the Commissioners time to confirm that Whitfield County was not doing any more than the State of Georgia required for this Ordinance. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.

2. **Reappointment to the Dalton-Whitfield Library Board of Trustees – Elizabeth Chadwick:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to reappoint Ms. Elizabeth Chadwick to the Dalton-Whitfield Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Chadwick's new term will be for three years, beginning in July of 2010 and ending in July of 2013. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.
3. **City of Varnell Annexation Requests (5 Parcels):** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Waskul to approve the issuance of a letter of no objection to the City of Varnell to annex five parcels. The first request was tax parcel 11-263-01-021, with a proposed change from County R-2 to Varnell R-1. The second request was tax parcel 11-191-02-028, also with a proposed change from County R-2 to Varnell R-1. The third, fourth, and fifth requests were for tax parcels 11-277-01-038, 11-277-01-004, and 11-277-01-003; all with a proposed change from County C-2 to Varnell C-2. In discussion, it was confirmed that all of the properties are contiguous to Varnell city limits. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.
4. **Purchase of a Sewage Grinder for the Jail's Main Sewer Line:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve the purchase of a sewage grinder for the Jail's main sewer line for \$11,986.65 from JWC Environmental. This grinder will serve as a critical spare unit to the current grinder in place, that normally requires repair work approximately twice each year. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.
5. **Approval of a Mowing Contract for BZD, Meals on Wheels, 911, and 10 Fire Stations:** Motion was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the bid from Outdoor Worx of Rocky Face, Georgia in the amount of \$17,440.00 for the mowing of the Building and Zoning Department Annex, Meals on Wheels, the 911 Center, and 10 Fire Stations. Five other annual bids were received for this work, however Gary Brown, (Whitfield County Building and Grounds Director) recommended Outdoor Worx because they have done the mowing since 2003 and have proven to be reliable. Outdoor Worx was the second lowest bid. Mr. Brown expressed his concern that he thought it would be a better choice to go with the next low bid offer because he thought the company with the low bid couldn't provide staff to cover the mowing schedule should an emergency arise. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.

## **CONSENT AGENDA #2:**

1. **Malt Beverage/Wine/Liquor License – Kani House:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Brooker to approve the Malt Beverage/Wine/Liquor License for Kani House as presented. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement.
2. **Approval of February 2010 Financial Statements:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brooker and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve the February 2010 Financial Statements as presented. In discussion, Financial Director, Ron Hale commented that our statements showed a second month of good sales tax returns and that compared to last year the sales taxes are up about \$300,000.00. The only department that is over budget is the Public Works Department. Mr. Hale relayed that this is due to annual contracts and gravel that had to be bought at the beginning of the year. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT "C")**

3. **Plateau Excavation Contract: Change Order – IVC Site:** Motion was made by Commissioner Waskul and seconded by Commissioner Cowan to approve the change orders in the amounting to \$15,680.00, bringing the new Plateau Excavation Contract total to \$1,161,290.46. This change order is for undercutting the remaining 121,500 square feet of building pad area at the IVC, U.S. site. Inclement weather during the months of December – March put grading behind schedule. In order to stay ahead of the building crews, this area had to be undercut 6 inches and filled with stone. The stone was paid for by IVC. This change order also covers procedures for drying the wet soil that was removed along with the placing and grading work involved to prepare that soil elsewhere on site. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioners Brooker, Cowan, Jones and Waskul in agreement. **(SEE EXHIBIT “D”)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Once Chairman Babb opened the meeting for public comment, Whitfield County Administrator, Robert McLeod, asked that two more topics be mentioned. He first brought up the Carbondale Business Park Covenants and asked for permission to forward them to the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority for review. Commissioner Jones offered a question or concern related to the signage qualifications. Mr. McLeod confirmed that we can pass these Covenants to the Joint Development Authority and they can review them and then the Commissioners can take action. Mr. McLeod also pointed out that the Covenants can be amended after they are approved. There was additional discussion concerning the entrance sign to the location. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that the Covenants should be forwarded to the Joint Development Authority for review.

Mr. McLeod's second topic concerned the Census database problems that Whitfield County has experienced. Mr. McLeod referred to an article that was printed in numerous publications on April 7-8, 2010, including *The Washington Examiner* on April 8, 2010, titled "Confessions from Census Workers" by Michelle Malkin. The article includes quotes from United States Census workers admitting to wasting valuable time during the address canvassing part of the Census preparations. Mr. McLeod pointed out that those discrepancies are part of the reason that there have been many Whitfield County addresses that were rejected after a Field Team from the Census Bureau came to Whitfield County and tried to do error checks on the addresses. Mr. McLeod also stated that it has taken a lot of effort on behalf of the Whitfield County staff to get Census surveys out to the residents of addresses that were inaccurately left off of the Census list or wrongly addressed.

There were no other public comments.

**ADJOURN:** Unanimous

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MIKE BABB, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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SAMANTHA BEARDEN, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /