

**MINUTES FOR THE WORK SESSION OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD MONDAY JULY 24, 2017, AT 5:10 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING #1, 301 W.
CRAWFORD STREET**

WORK SESSION

The Chairman called the work session to order.

The following members were present:

R. Lynette Laughter, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Department Heads
Citizens
Press

Work Session:

Chairman Laughter called the work session to order.

Leo Whaley addressed the Board about the possibility of moving the World War 1 monument currently located in front of the Chamber of Commerce offices at 101 S. Hamilton Street, and moving it to the Courthouse lawn next to the Korean War and Vietnam War monuments. Whaley would also like to have a monument that shows all five of the armed forces on it. Whaley noted that there is a magnolia tree that has overgrown and covers the Flags. Buildings and Grounds Director Gary Brown noted that the magnolia tree was dedicated to La Leche League and he has spoken to them about removing. Brown noted that the La Leche League is okay with removing the overgrown magnolia tree, as long as its replaced with another smaller magnolia tree. Brown noted that he also spoke with the arborist of the City of Dalton. Brown also noted that he would need a drawing/blueprint from Mr. Whaley so that they could plan accordingly, if the American Legion decides to follow through with their intentions. Whaley noted that the American Legion would take care of any financial costs associated with moving the monument.

Chairman Laughter noted that the Animal Shelter is now adopting animals out to the public. Laughter noted that Animal Shelter staff will take the chosen animal to the veterinarian of their choice within Whitfield County after being provided with a pre-paid receipt of the state law mandated spay/neutering and rabies vaccine.

Fire Chief Edward O'Brien presented the Board with an automatic aid agreement with Catoosa County for Fire Protection that would help the residents of the Houston Valley area in Whitfield County. O'Brien noted that Catoosa County's ISO rating is a 5 and that the ISO rating of the Houston Valley area would also be a 5, currently this area of Whitfield County's ISO rating is a 10. O'Brien plans to present this agreement for approval at the August regular business meeting.

Whitfield County Engineer Kent Benson informed the Board of Norfolk Southern and GDOT's plan to close a railroad crossing located at Pleasant Valley Road in the Town of Cohutta. Benson has spoken with Mayor Ron Shinnick of Cohutta and noted that Mayor Shinnick would not like to have this railroad crossing closed. Shinnick noted that should a train be on the tracks at the other crossing on Wolfe Street the citizens can utilize the Pleasant Valley Road crossing.

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Chairman Laughter noted that the Board had planned on speaking about the Tax Digest, however the digest is not complete yet so they will not be discussing it at tonight's meeting. Laughter also noted that an 1800's law that Fulton County recently passed to freeze assessment rates at the 2016 levels only apply to Fulton County since it was local legislation only for Fulton County. Laughter also noted that there have been several amendments to the Georgia Constitution since that law was put into effect that could prevent them from doing what they did.

The work session was adjourned.

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /